

2010 COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

(12:00-1:30 pm, lunch provided)

- March 9th
- May 11th
- September 14th
- November 19th

All meetings held at the Ellen Thompson's
Women's Center, SJMHS



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WHICH FACTOR MOST STRONGLY PREDICTS HEALTH?

Age

Income

Race/ethnicity

Employment

Access to care

Housing

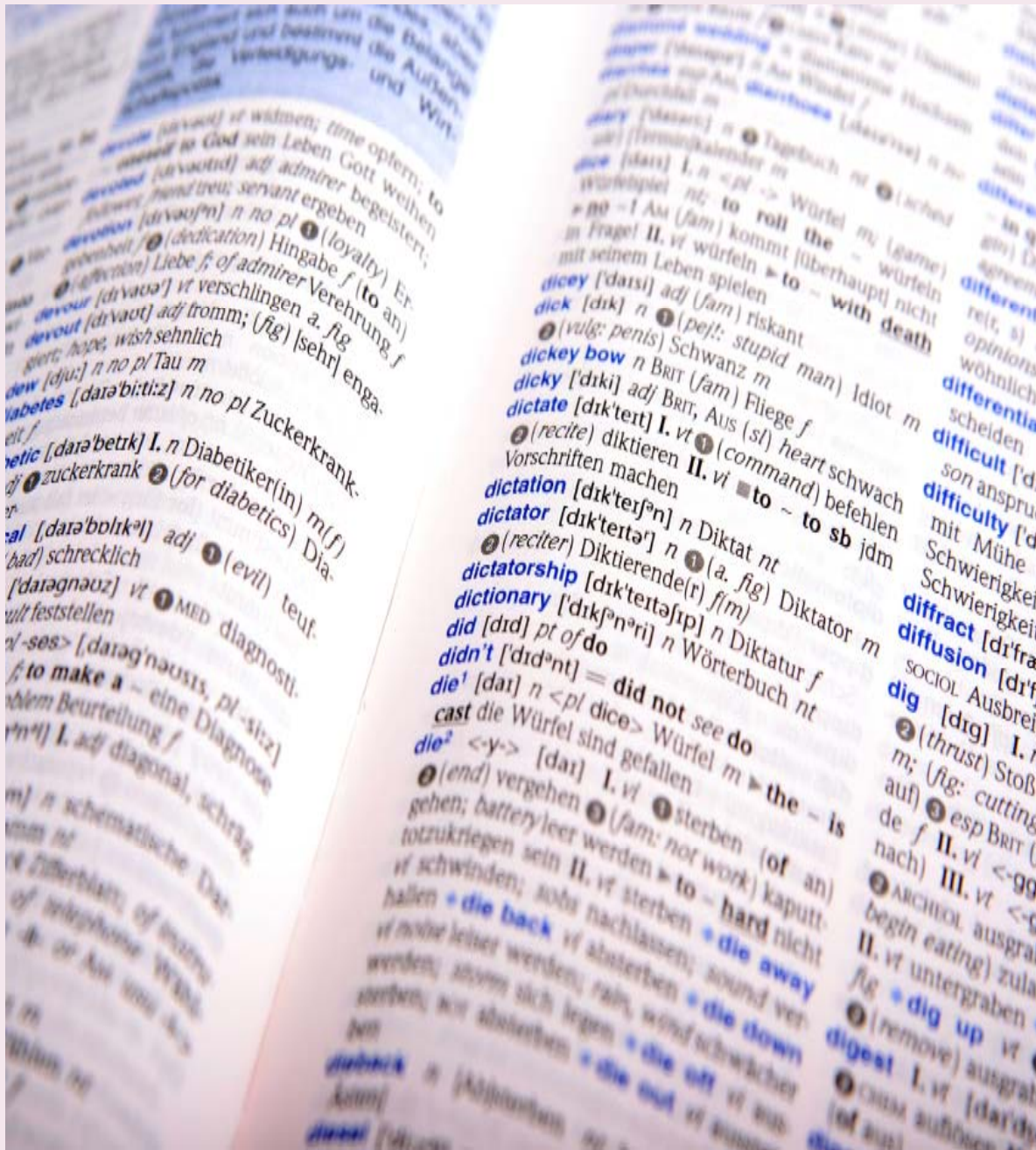
Education



None!

WHILE THEY ARE ALL PREDICTIVE,





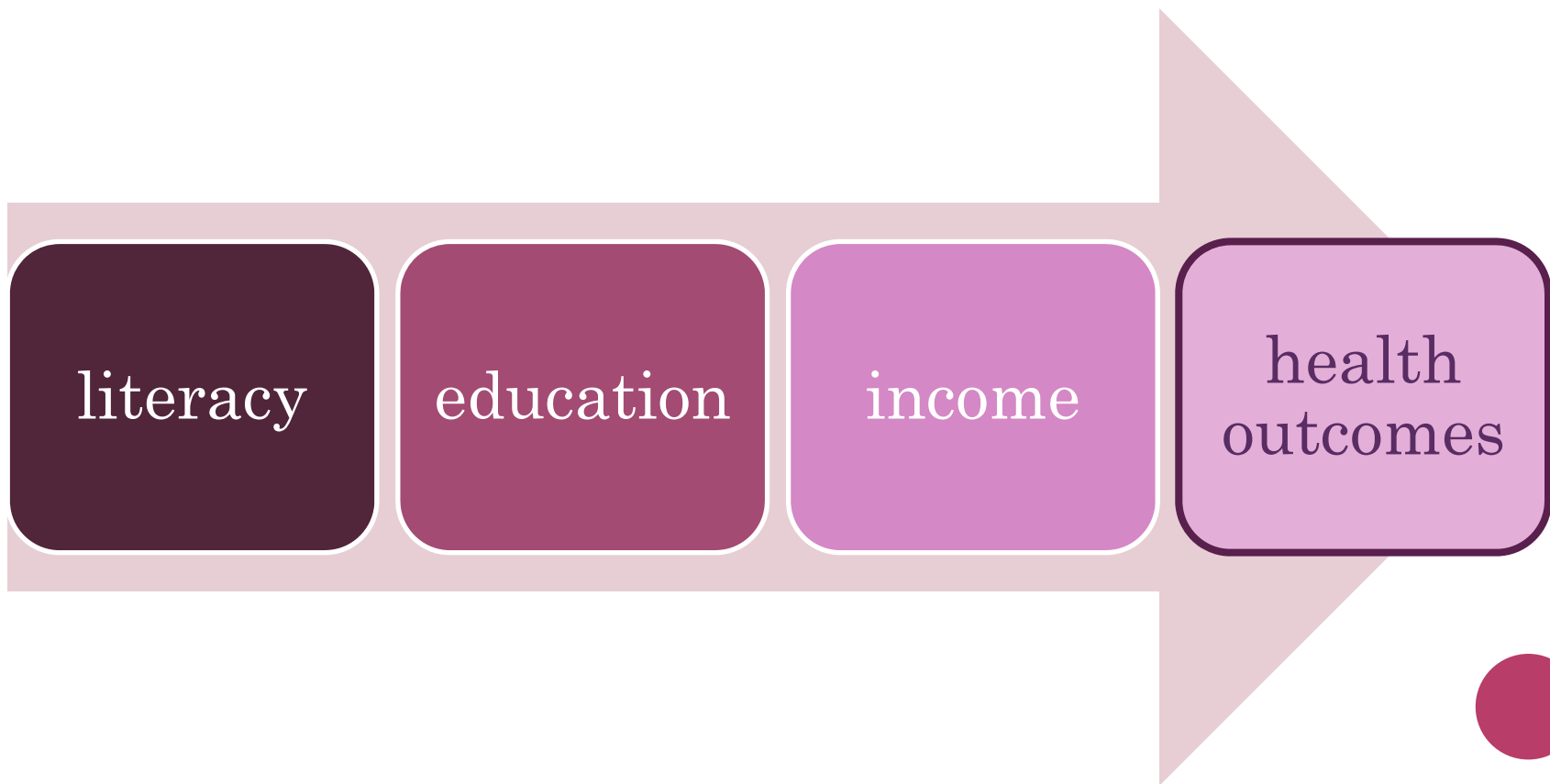
...Literacy skills more strongly predict health than the others.

- JAMA, Feb 10, 1999.



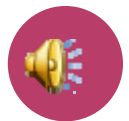
THE LITERACY VACCINE:

in defense of a healthy and productive life



ILL-ITERACY IS INFECTIOUS

50% of children with illiterate parents
grow up to be illiterate adults



IS ILLITERACY MAKING US SICK?

- Low literacy corresponds to higher rates of:
 - Chronic disease
 - Early mortality
 - Health complications
 - Identifying oneself as unhealthy
 - Hospitalization and emergency room use

Illiteracy adds 230 billion/year
to the cost of health care



The health care costs attributable to illiteracy is about 2.5 times greater than the health care costs attributable to obesity

-AHRQ

-Kaiser Family Foundation



THE MOST VULNERABLE:

- Over age 65
- Minority populations
- Immigrant populations
- Low income

-JAMA, 2005



LITERACY AS A HEALTH OBJECTIVE?

- Healthy People 2010: **“Improve consumer health literacy”**
- Healthy People 2020: **“Improve health literacy”**
- Health Improvement Plan of Washtenaw County 2020 Objectives: **Not at this time**



“There are all kinds of things you can do to marry literacy and health.”

-C. Everett Coop



LITERACY POWERS HEALTH

Community Health Committee Meeting

January 12th, 2010