Federal Initiatives and the Foundation for Health Equity

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Office of the Director
Office of Minority Health & Health Equity

CDC's Vision for the 21st Century

"Health Protection…Health Equity"

CDC Mission

Collaborating to create the expertise, information, and tools that people and communities need to protect their health – through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats.

Office of Minority Health and Health Equity

Mission

To accelerate the work of CDC and its partners in improving health by eliminating health disparities; promoting social and environmental conditions conducive to health; and achieving health equity.

Presentation Outline

- ❑ **Define health equity**

- ❑ **Describe 3 federal initiatives with a focus on the determinants of health**

- ❑ **Suggest how these initiatives might inform and inspire action to achieve health equity**

- ❑ **Suggest challenges awaiting the next generation of public health workers in reconstructing the foundation for health equity**

What is "Health Equity"?

Health Equity is attainment of the highest level of health for all people.

Achieving health equity

requires valuing everyone equally

with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities.

Guide to Community Preventive Services

Equity in health is widespread, achievable, equality in health AND in the major social determinants of health among all principal social divisions of a population.

While equity in health is the ultimate objective of the Community Guide health equity reviews, the intermediate goal is the improvement of the health of economically-challenged and minority populations.

The National Partnership for Action (NPA)

Purpose: To mobilize a nationwide, comprehensive, and community-driven approach to combating health disparities.

Five Goals of the NPA:

- Awareness
- Leadership
- Health System and Life Experience
- Cultural and Linguistic Competency
- Data, Research, and Evaluation
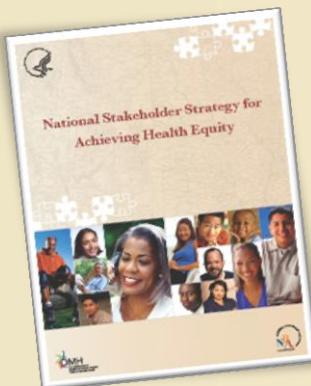
National Stakeholder Strategy (NSS):
A product of the NPA that offers 20 specific strategies for reaching NPA goals and assists federal, regional, tribal, state, and local stakeholders in adopting effective strategies for their communities.

http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/

Operational Paradigm

- Approach health disparities through the Social Determinants of Health (SDH) lens.

- Increase leadership on health disparities and public demand for health equity.

- Institutionalize health equity considerations in partner programs by changing policies, procedures and practices.

Regional Health Equity Councils

Ten Regional Health Equity Councils (RHECs) have been established to:

- Mobilize regional action around common issues

- Leverage federal, regional, state, and local resources

- Infuse NPA goals and strategies into regional policies and practices

- Support and enhance state and community efforts

- Share stories and successes across the country

Region 4 RHEC

- Alabama

- Florida

- Georgia

- Kentucky

- Mississippi

- North Carolina

- South Carolina

- Tennessee

RHEC 4 – A Sample of Sector Representation/Council Assets

- Membership of the council borrows from several sectors:
  - Academia
  - Government e.g. state health departments, State offices of minority health
  - Community organizations
  - Minority health interest groups
  - Health Insurance sector

Key 2013 Priority Areas for RHEC 4

1. Identify food deserts and increase funding for food financing initiatives in the region.

2. Review current state public health programs for compliance with Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Standards (CLAS) and develop guidelines for closing gaps.

3. Raise awareness about the Affordable Care Act and RHEC 4.

National Prevention Strategy
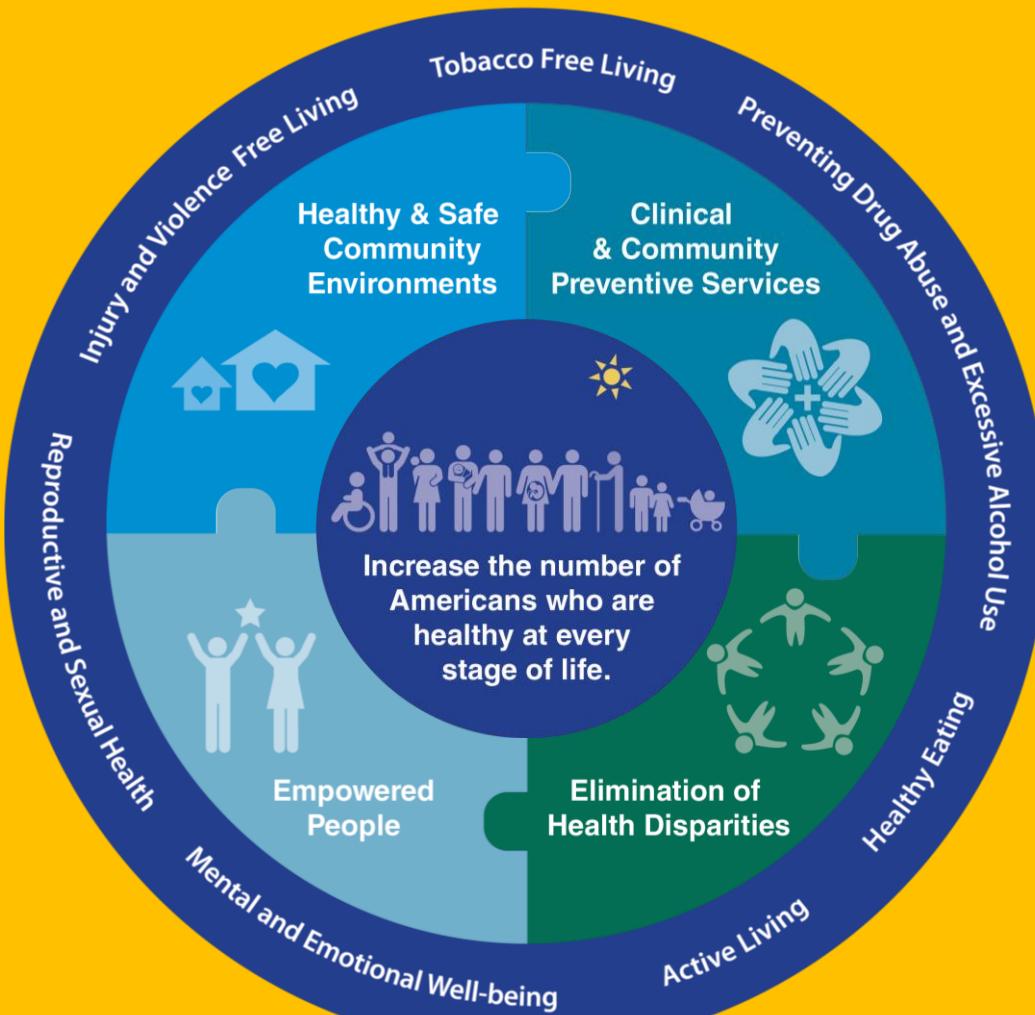
Priorities

- Tobacco Free Living

- Preventing Drug Abuse and Excessive Alcohol Use

- Healthy Eating

- Active Living

- Mental and Emotional Well-being

- Reproductive and Sexual Health

- Injury and Violence Free Living

Five Causes Account For 66% of All Deaths

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- Stroke
- Unintentional Injuries

All Other Causes 34% — 27% — 23% — 6% — 5% — 5%
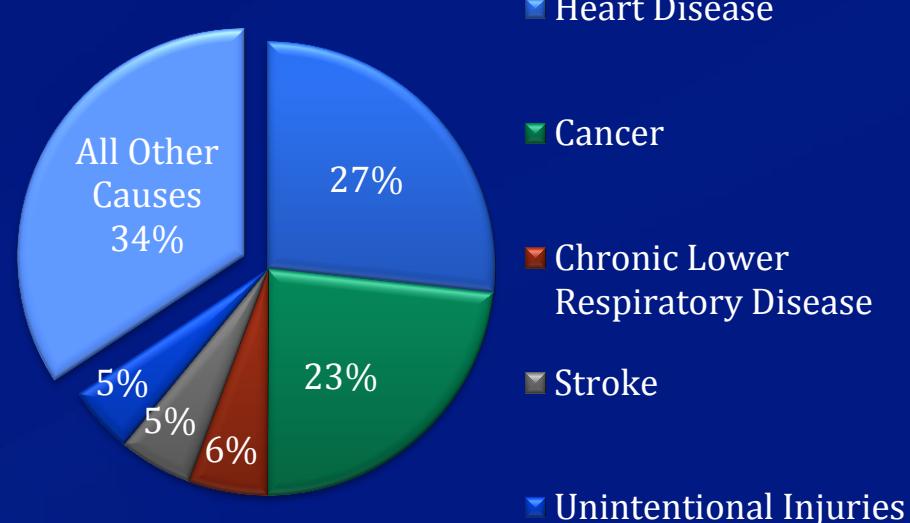
Source: National Vital Statistics Report, CDC, 2008

Healthy and Safe Community Environments

Healthy & Safe Community Environments

- Clean air and water

- Affordable and secure housing

- Sustainable and economically vital neighborhoods

- Make healthy choices easy and affordable

Clinical and Community Preventive Services

- Evidence-based preventive services are effective

- Preventive services can be delivered in communities

- Preventive services can be reinforced by community-based prevention, policies, and programs

- Community programs can promote the use of clinical preventive service (e.g., transportation, child care, patient navigation issues)

Clinical & Community Preventive Services
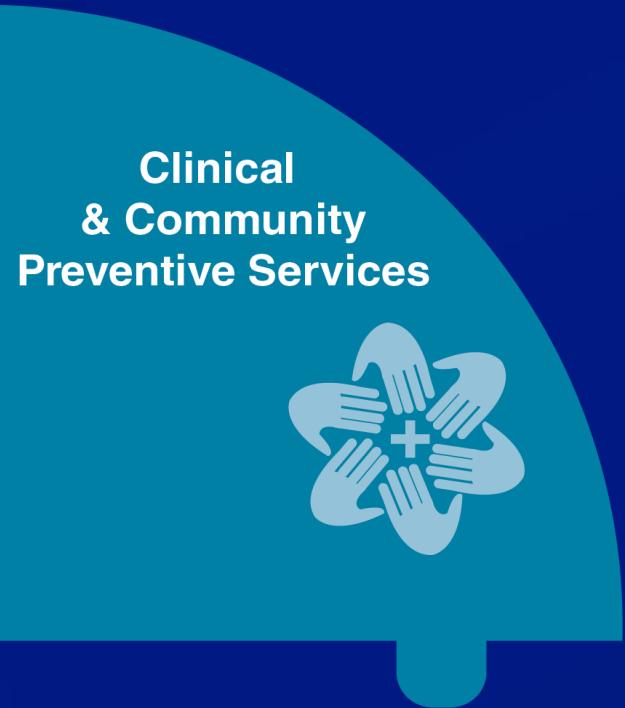
Empowered People
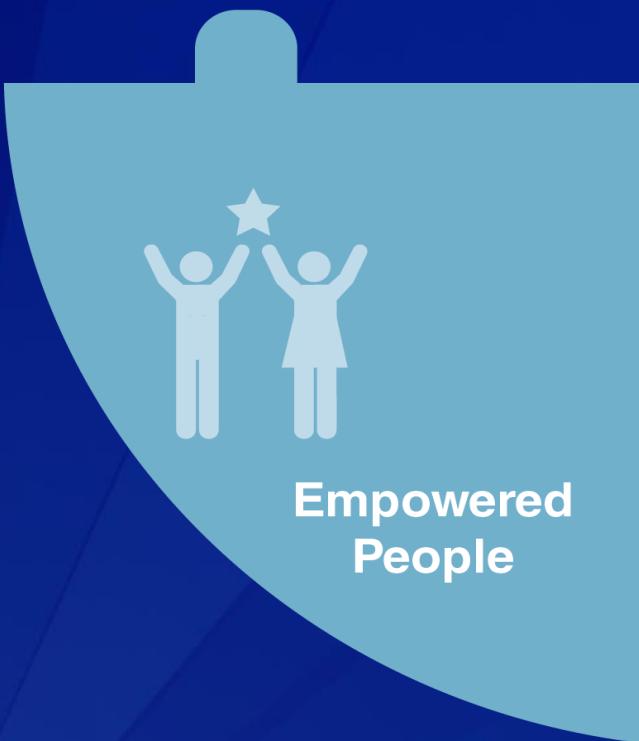
Empowered People

- People are empowered when they have the knowledge, resources ability, and motivation to identify and make healthy choices

- When people are empowered, they are able to take an active role in improving their health, supporting their families and friends in making healthy choices, and leading community change

Elimination of Health Disparities

- Health outcomes vary widely based on race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and other social factors

- Disparities are often linked to social, economic or environmental disadvantage

- Health disparities are not intractable and can be reduced or eliminated with focused commitment and effort

Elimination of Health Disparities

Healthy People 2020
Social Determinants of Health

"Place-Based" Approach Used to Develop HP 2020 SDOH Organizational Framework

"Place" – where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age

Social, economic, and physical conditions of "place"	Patterns of social engagement, sense of security and well-being	Availability and quality of life-enhancing resources
		e.g. safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, healthy foods, environments free of toxins

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

Neighborhood/Built Environment

- **Quality of Housing**

- **Crime and Violence**

- **Environmental Conditions**

- **Access to Healthy Foods**

Education

- **High School Graduation Rates**

- **School Policies that Support Health Promotion**

- **School Environment that is Safe and Conducive to Learning**

- **Enrollment in Higher Education**

Healthy People 2020

Economic Stability

- **Poverty**

- **Employment Status**

- **Access to Employment**

- **Housing Stability (e.g., homelessness, foreclosure)**

Health and Health Care

- **Access to Health Services – including clinical and preventive care**

- **Access to Primary Care – including community-based health promotion and wellness programs**

- **Health Technology**

Social and Community Context

- **Incarceration/Institutionalization**

- **Family Structure**

- **Social Cohesion**

- **Perceptions of Discrimination and Equity**

- **Civic Participation**

<u>Examples</u>

- **IVP–29:**   Reduce homicides

- **NWS-12:** Eliminate very low food security among children

- **AH-5.1:**   Increase the proportion of students who graduate with a regular diploma 4 years after starting 9th grade.

- **AH-6:**   Increase the proportion of schools with a school breakfast program

HP 2020 Social Determinants of Health
New Objectives

Economic Stability

- **SDOH-1**: Proportion of children ages 0-17 living with at least one parent employed year round, full time

- **SDOH-3.1**: Proportion of persons living in poverty

- **SDOH-3.2**: Proportion of children aged 0-17 living in poverty

Education

- **SDOH-2:** Proportion of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school

HP 2020 Social Determinants of Health
Next Steps: Development of Objectives

2012-2013

- New SDOH objectives will be included in HP 2020 Public Comment Process – Fall 2012

- Workgroup will develop operational definition for objectives

- New objectives will go through Department clearance process

- New objectives posted to the HP website

Throughout the Decade

- SDOH workgroup continue to identify and develop new topic area objectives

Tips for Staying Healthy:
A Lifestyle Approach

1. Don't smoke. If you do stop.

2. Eat a balanced diet, include fruits/vegetables.

3. Keep physically active.

4. If you drink, do so in moderation.

5. Cover up in the sun and protect your children.

6. Practice safe sex.

7. Participate in appropriate health screening.

8. Drive defensively; don't drink and drive.

9. Manage your stress.

10. Maintain social ties.

Tips for Staying Healthy:
A Social Determinants Approach

1. Don't be poor. If you can, stop.
   If you can't, try not to be poor for too long.

2. Don't have poor parents.

3. Don't live in a poor neighborhood.

4. Own a car – but use only for weekend outings.
   Walk to work.

5. Practice not losing your job and don't become unemployed.

6. Don't be illiterate.

7. Avoid social isolation.

Passing the baton…

❑ Foster a culture that seeks to understand difference

❑ Build alliances across sectors

❑ Spend time working in the community

❑ Understand how the "P's" operate to influence public health

❑ Pioneer new methods of evaluation

❑ Stay the course