Rethinking How to Achieve Individual and Population Health

David Satcher, MD, PhD
Mary Woolley
Susan Dentzer
Overcoming Obstacles to Health

Report From the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the Commission to Build a Healthier America
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More Education, Longer Life

Years of School Completed
- 0-11 years
- 12 years
- 13-15 years
- 16 or more years

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT AGE 25

MEN
- 0-11 years: 47.9
- 12 years: 50.6
- 13-15 years: 54.7
- 16 or more years: 58.5

WOMEN
- 0-11 years: 53.4
- 12 years: 56.4
- 13-15 years: 57.4
- 16 or more years: 58.5
Higher Income, Longer Life

Family Income
(Percents of Federal Poverty Level)
- ≤ 100%
- 101-200%
- 201-400%
- >400%

Life expectancy at age 25

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<th>Income Range</th>
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<th>Women</th>
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A Mom’s Education, A Baby’s Chances of Survival

Years of School Completed by Mother, All Ages

- 0-11 years
- 12 years
- 13-15 years
- 16 or more years

Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 live births)
Parents’ Income, A Child’s Chances for Health

Family Income
(Percent of Federal Poverty Level)

- < 100%
- 100-199%
- 200-299%
- 300-399%
- ≥400%

PERCENT OF CHILDREN, AGES ≤17 YEARS, WITH POOR/FAIR HEALTH

PERCENT OF FAMILY INCOME

- < 100%: 4.3%
- 100-199%: 2.4%
- 200-299%: 1.4%
- 300-399%: 1.0%
- ≥400%: 0.6%
The U.S. Has a Higher Proportion of its Population – and Particularly of its Children – Living in Poverty Than Most Other Affluent Countries

More Child Poverty in America

- Denmark 2.4%
- Finland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Czech Republic
- Germany
- Hungary
- Austria
- Canada
- Japan
- Poland
- Portugal
- Italy
- Ireland
- United Kingdom
- Turkey
- U.S. 21.7%
- Mexico
Income Is Linked With Health Regardless of Racial or Ethnic Group

**Family Income**
(Percent of Federal Poverty Level)
- < 100%
- 100-199%
- 200-299%
- 300-399%
- ≥400%

**PERCENT OF ADULTS, AGES ≥25 YEARS, WITH POOR/FAIR HEALTH**

- **BLACK, NON-HISPANIC**
  - < 100%: 36.1%
  - 100-199%: 26.3%
  - 200-299%: 18.0%
  - 300-399%: 14.4%
  - ≥400%: 9.8%

- **HISPANIC**
  - < 100%: 29.6%
  - 100-199%: 22.6%
  - 200-299%: 16.7%
  - 300-399%: 13.2%
  - ≥400%: 9.7%

- **WHITE, NON-HISPANIC**
  - < 100%: 30.8%
  - 100-199%: 20.7%
  - 200-299%: 13.5%
  - 300-399%: 9.5%
  - ≥400%: 6.2%
Racial or Ethnic Differences in Health Regardless of Income

![Bar chart showing the percentage of adults, ages 25 years and older, with poor or fair health by racial or ethnic group and family income level.](chart)

**Racial or Ethnic Group**
- Black, Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- White, Non-Hispanic

**Legend**
- Black, Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- White, Non-Hispanic

**Familial Income (Percent of Federal Poverty Level)**
- <100% FPL
- 100-199% FPL
- 200-299% FPL
- 300-399% FPL
- ≥400% FPL
Reducing Health Disparities: Broadening the Focus

Policies to promote child and youth development & education, infancy through college

Policies to promote healthier homes, neighborhoods, schools and workplaces

- Economic & Social Opportunities and Resources
- Living & Working Conditions in Homes and Communities
- Medical Care
- Personal Behavior

HEALTH
A nation’s health is one of its most precious assets. And while America has seen great gains in improving health overall, some Americans face much poorer prospects for good health and long life than others.