

Committee on Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Youth Through Health Care System Transformation

Discussant Remarks, Public Information Gathering Session
February 27, 2023

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Vice President, Chief Health Equity Officer
Nemours Children's Health

Nemours: America's Leading Voice for Children

Primary, Specialty, Hospital & Urgent Care

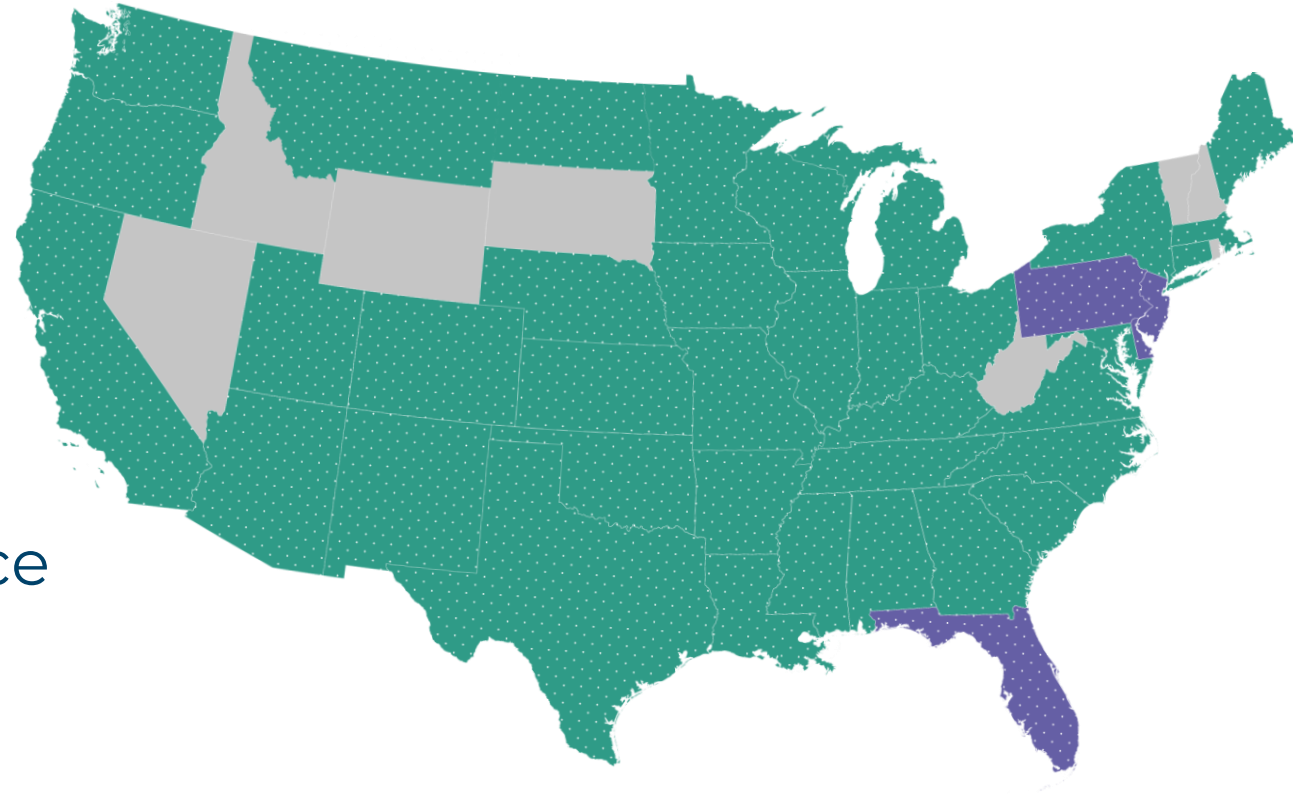
- 1.9 million patient encounters
- 72 care locations in 4 states
- 8,600 associates / 1,130 physicians
- 50,000 SDoH Screenings
- 3,900 trainees

National Office

- Full-time advocacy policy presence
- Children's programs in 30 states

Nemours KidsHealth.org

- 171 million annual visitors
- 300 million page views



Nemours Children's Health

One premise:

Investing in children's health is the single most powerful means to insure a healthy generation of Americans and a robust economy.

One action:

We must transform our definition of child health and the way we pay for it to leverage this power.



We Can Fix Health Care



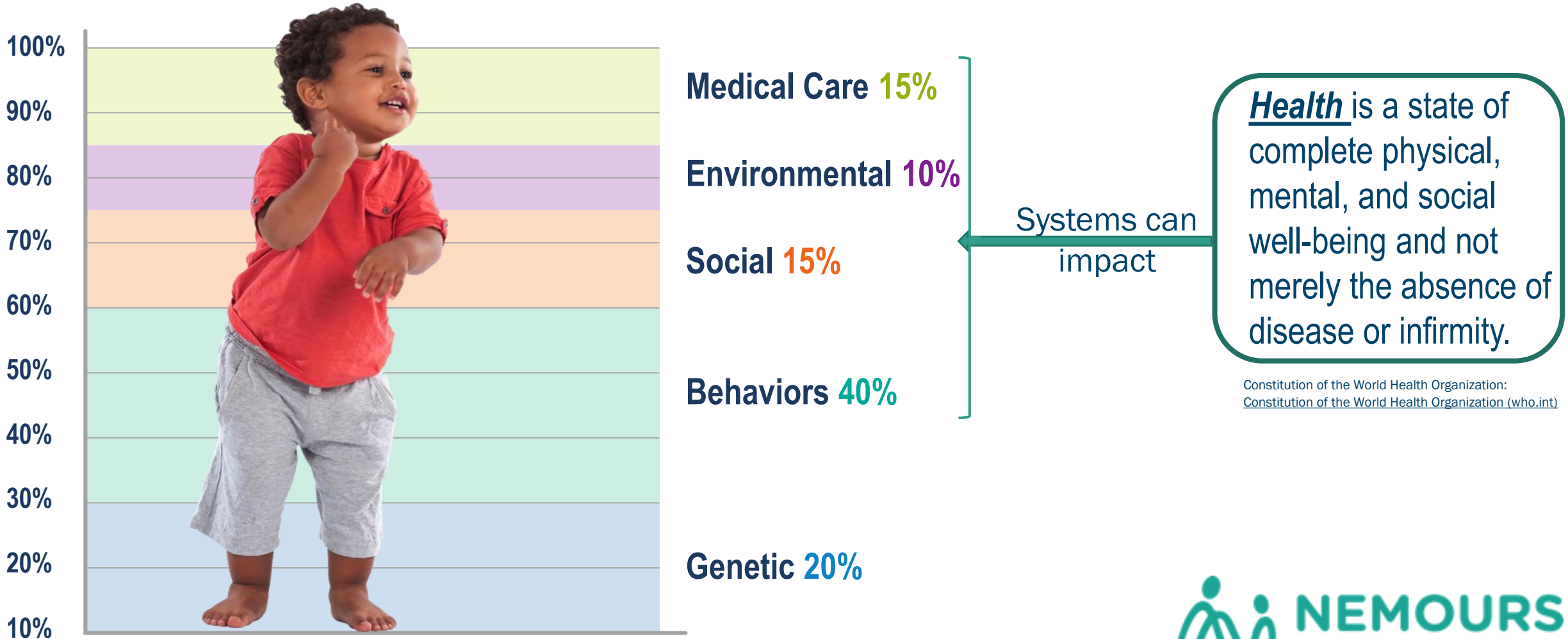
1. UNDERSTAND WHAT HEALTH IS

2. PAY FOR HEALTH

3. START WITH CHILDREN

How We Define Health

Degree of Influence in Shaping the Health of Populations



The Case For More Active Policy Attention To Health Promotion:
[J. Michael McGinnis](#); [Pamela Williams-Russo](#) and [James R. Knickman](#)

- We spend **\$3.5 trillion annually** (18% of America's GDP) on healthcare.
- Almost every penny goes toward paying for the opposite of what we want — **HEALTH.**
- Instead of health, we pay for **volume and complexity.**
- We are getting **exactly** what we are paying for.



US Healthcare System: Missing the Mark

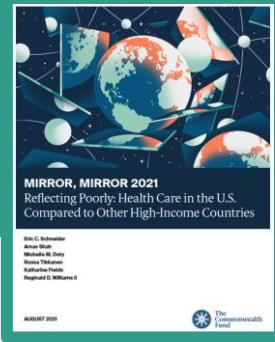


Exhibit 3. Health Care Spending as a Percentage of GDP, 1980–2019

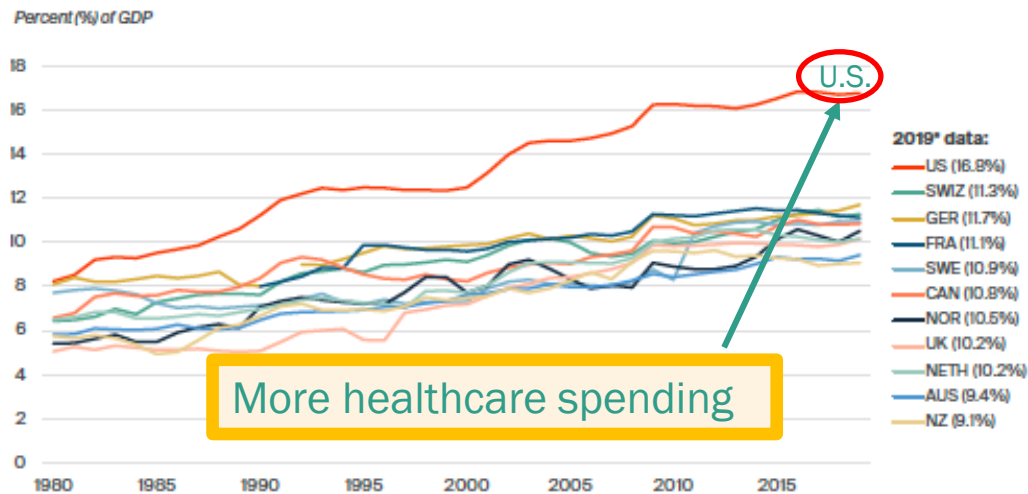
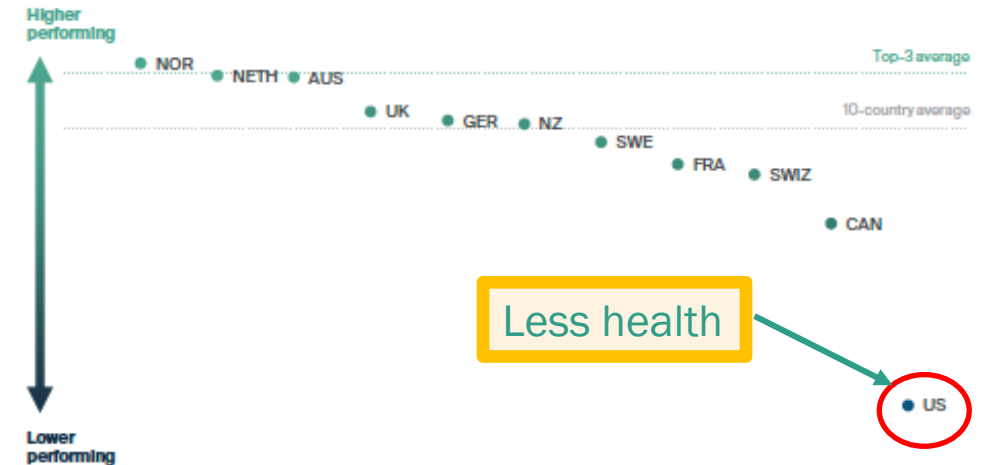


Exhibit 2. Comparative Health Care System Performance Scores



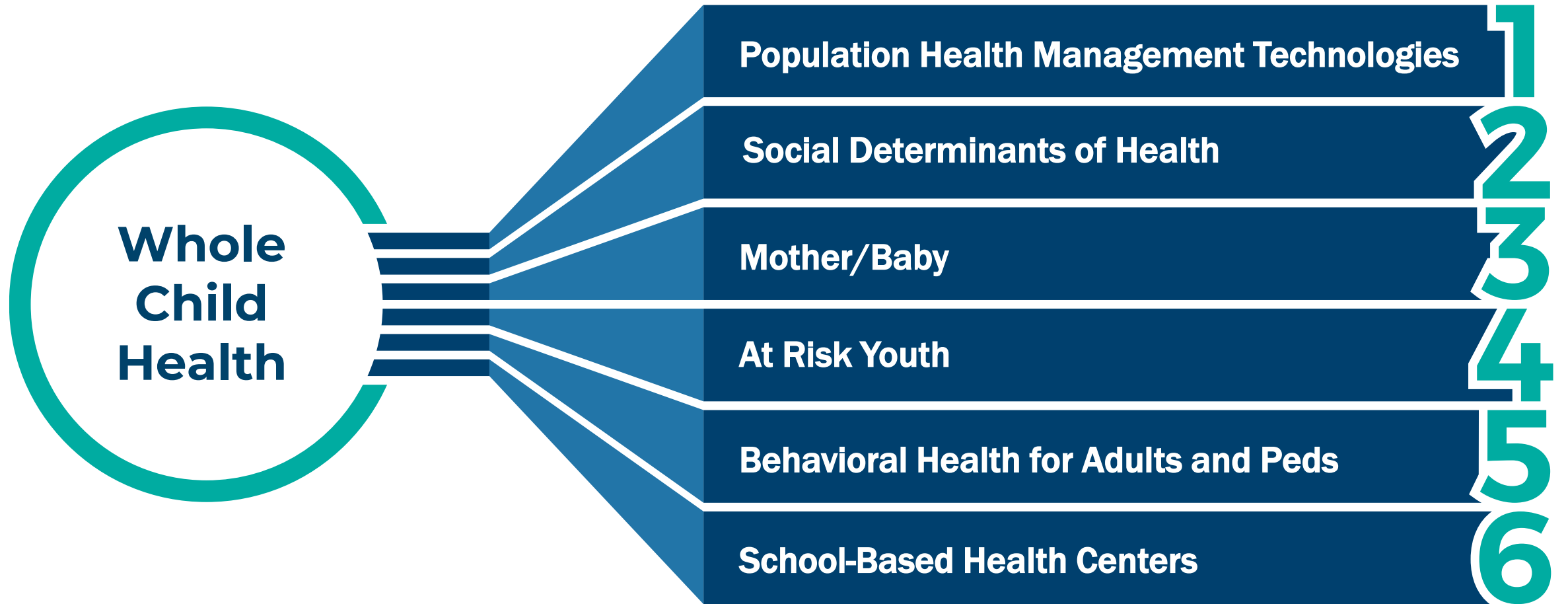
Source: from Commonwealth Fund “Mirror Mirror” report, 2021.

Systems that Create and Support Health

- Universal **coverage** and removal of cost barriers to healthcare
- Investment in **primary care systems** to ensure locally available high-value services
- Reduced **administrative burdens**, especially for marginalized groups
- Investment in robust and equitable **social services** outside of healthcare

Source: from Commonwealth Fund “Mirror Mirror” report, 2021.

Nemours Whole Child Health Model



Whole Child Health Models

Implement approaches explicitly designed to **address health disparities** and **advance health equity**

Invest in clinical workforce training focused on promoting access to equitable care

Structure financial models to **explicitly invest in and measure equity**

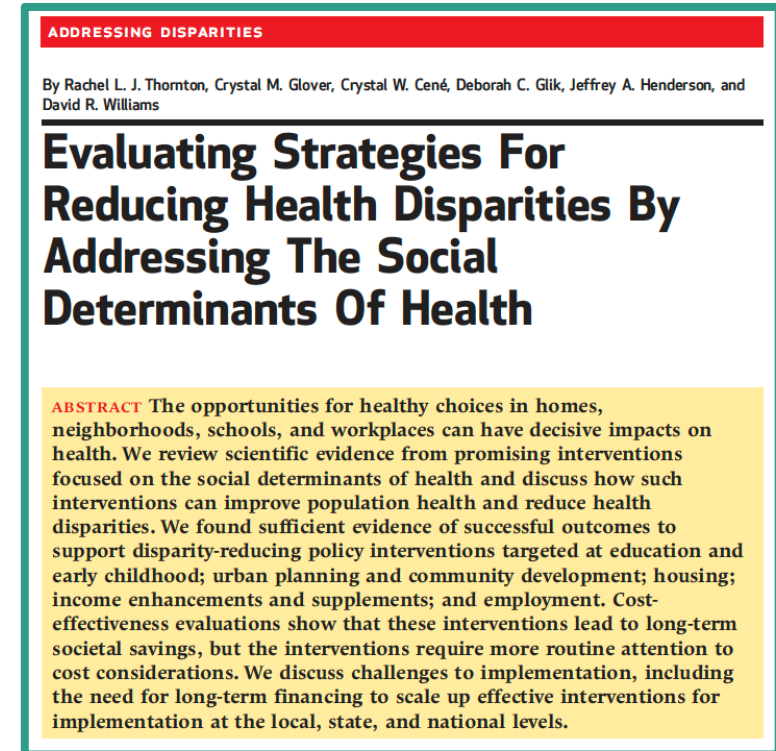
Include a role for families and the community in decision-making

Require **data to be collected** in a way that support identifying & addressing disparities

Require rigorous **assessment across sociodemographic characteristics**

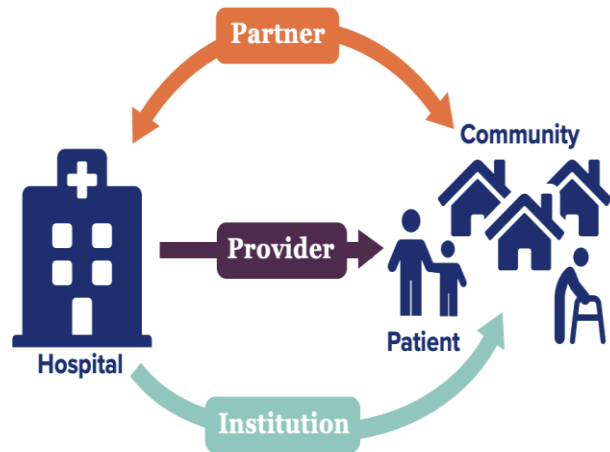
Promising Policies Address SDoH & Advance Equity

- Education and early childhood
- Housing
- Employment
- Income supplements
- Urban planning and Community Development

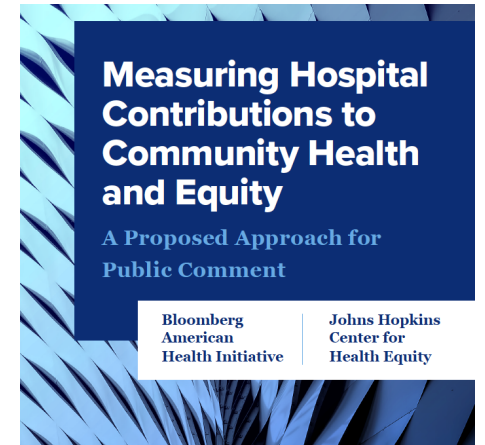


Source: Thornton RLJ et al. *Health Affairs*. August 2016;25(8):1416-1423.

Hospital Contributions to Community Health: Applying a “Systems” Lens



- Population-Level Outcomes
- Hospital as a Healthcare Provider
- Hospital as a Community Partner
- Hospital as an Anchor Institution



Source: Plott CF et al. “The development and implementation of a new hospital performance measure to assess hospital contributions to community health and equity.” *HSR*. Published online July 7, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.14018>

Health Anchors & System Transformation



Anchor institutions are public or nonprofit institutions tied, or “anchored,” to a place or community



Health anchors are health systems committed to steering spending to **local hiring, purchasing, and investing** to address upstream inequities contributing to health disparities

Healthcare System Transformation: Aligning with Social Services Investments

ADDRESSING DISPARITIES

By Rachel L. J. Thornton, Crystal M. Glover, Crystal W. Cené, Deborah C. Glik, Jeffrey A. Henderson, and David R. Williams

Evaluating Strategies For Reducing Health Disparities By Addressing The Social Determinants Of Health

ABSTRACT The opportunities for healthy choices in homes, neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces can have decisive impacts on health. We review scientific evidence from promising interventions focused on the social determinants of health and discuss how such interventions can improve population health and reduce health disparities. We found sufficient evidence of successful outcomes to support disparity-reducing policy interventions targeted at education in early childhood; urban planning and community development; housing income enhancements and supplements; and employment. Cost-effectiveness evaluations show that these interventions lead to long-term societal cost savings that far exceed the need to implement them.

COMMENTARY • HEALTH

Hospitals want to reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities in health. Let's start measuring their progress

BY KYU RHEE, JOSHUA SHARFSTEIN, AND RACHEL THORNTON
August 13, 2020 11:00 AM EDT



JAMA Health Forum..

JAMA Forum

What the American Rescue Plan Means for Health Equity

Lisa A. Cooper, MD, MPH; Joshua M. Sharfstein, MD; Rachel L. J. Thornton, MD, PhD

The primary goal of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is to help the nation recover from economic, health, and social devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the law will accomplish much more than that. It will have important implications for health equity among disadvantaged groups. The Foundation has defined health equity as when "everyone has a fair chance of attaining the highest level of health as possible." The pandemic has exposed the vast distance between the current state of health equity and the goal. Race and ethnicity, as well as by social class, exist not only in outcomes but also in underlying conditions—such as poor access to affordable and quality health care—that undermine health. A disproportionate share of the challenges are families with children. The law will advance health equity in 4 major ways: by reducing poverty, by closing gaps in access to medical care, by investing in community health workforce, and by supporting social determinants of health.

poor health outcomes, particularly for children.¹ The new law addresses poverty among children and families. The Center on Budget and Priorities has estimated that unemployment, housing, and combined with a new tax credit for families with children—will lift the poverty rate from 13.5% to 5.9% of US children. The legislation will lift

Measuring Hospital Contributions to Community Health and Equity

A Proposed Approach for Public Comment

Bloomberg
American
Health Initiative

Johns Hopkins
Center for
Health Equity

Healthcare Anchor Network

Join a growing national collaboration of 65+ leading healthcare systems building more inclusive and sustainable local economies