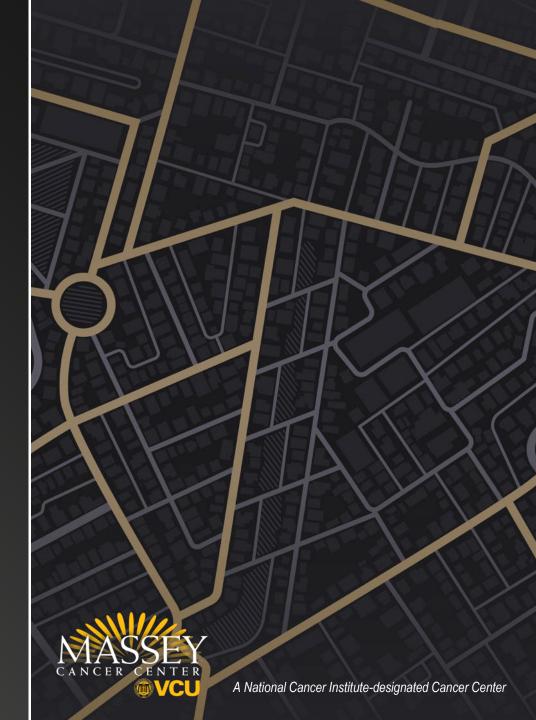
# The Role of CHC in Reducing Cancer Health Disparities

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Senior Associate Dean for Cancer Innovation, VCU School of Medicine,

Professor of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, VCU Department of Internal Medicine



When values are strong, rules are unnecessary. When values are weak, rules are insufficient."

Donald Berwick, M.D., Former Director of CMS

## Community Health Centers: War on Poverty

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LBJ Seeks \$962.5 Million To Fight Poverty In U.S.



#### Five-Point Plan Aimed To Help Nation's Youth

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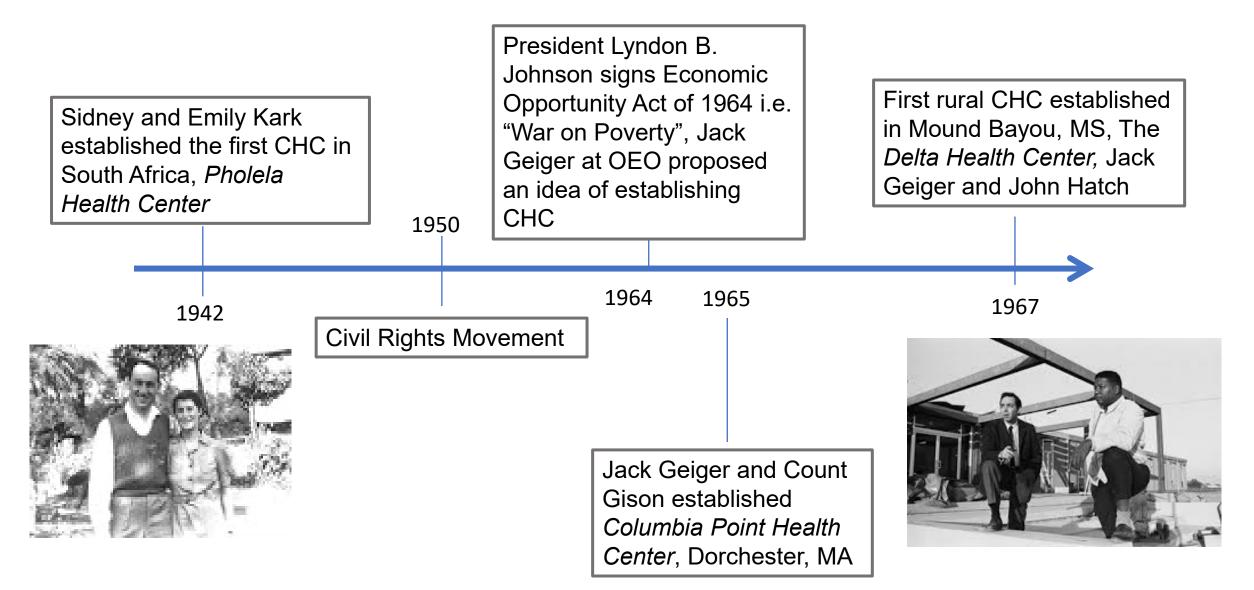
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## How many Americans use Community Health Centers

- 7 *million* people were cared for at nearly 2000 CHC sites in 1993
- HRSA funds nearly 1,400 health centers and approximately 100 Health Center Program look-alike organizations, collectively operating more than 14,000 service delivery sites in communities across the country. In 2021, health centers achieved a historic milestone of serving more than 30 *million* people.

#### **1942-1967: The History of Community Health Centers**



# Pillars of the CHC

1. The organization of poor communities and the management and control of their own health services is the first step

2. The development of the next generation of physician and nurses from the poor communities to serve those communities

3. The merger of frontline clinical medicine with a public health focus

## Lay Health Advisor



Dr. Jo Anne Earp

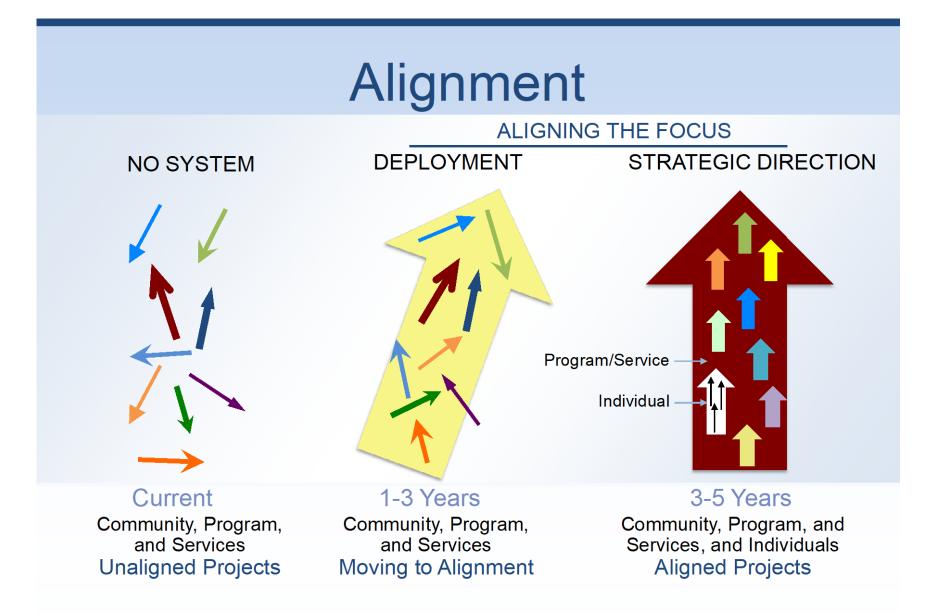
co-founded the N.C. Breast Cancer Screening Program in the late 1980s, one of the first large-scale interventions testing the "lay health advisor" approach to promoting and protecting health.

## **Patient Navigation**



Dr. Harold P. Freeman

This discovery to delivery "disconnect" is a key determinant of the unequal burden of cancer.



## **Social Drivers of Health and Structure**

Upstream factors

Downstream factors

Social Conditions & Policies: Culture, norms, racism, sexism, discrimination, public policies, poverty

**Institutions:** Health care system, families, churches, community-based orgs, legal system, media, political system

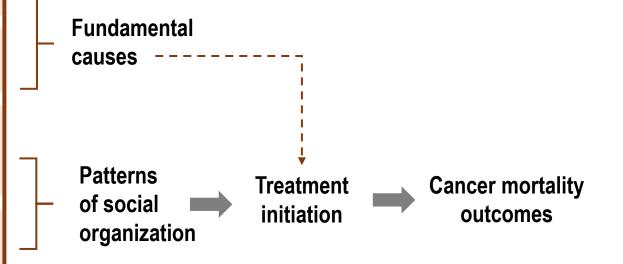
**Neighborhoods:** Collective efficacy, social capital, access to resources, social cohesion, segregation, neighborhood disadvantage, neighborhood stability

**Social Relationships:** Social networks, social support, social influences, social engagement

Individual Risk Factors: SES, education, ancestry, acculturation, obesity, tobacco use, diet, PA

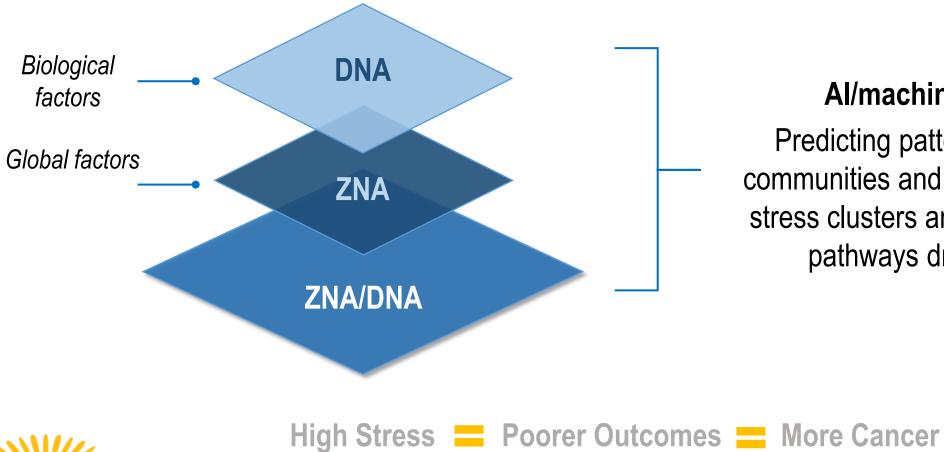
**Biologic/Genetic Pathways:** Allostatic load, metabolic processes, physiological pathways, genetic mechanisms

#### Model for Analysis of Population Health and Health Disparities



Traditionally, Academic Cancer Centers have focused more on fundamental research around downstream factors

## **Multi-Level Stress Clusters & Cancer**



#### **Al/machine learning**

Predicting patterns in different communities and better understand stress clusters and their impact on pathways driving cancer





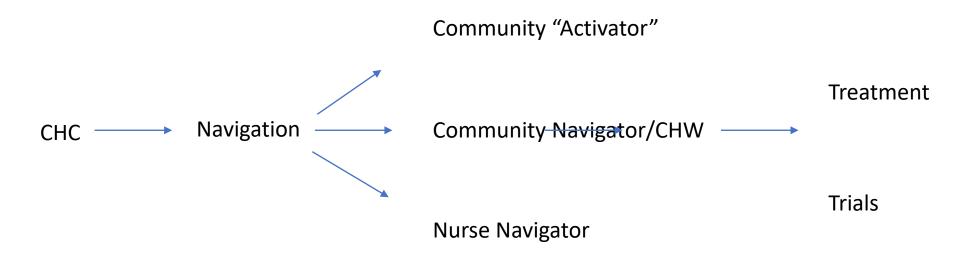






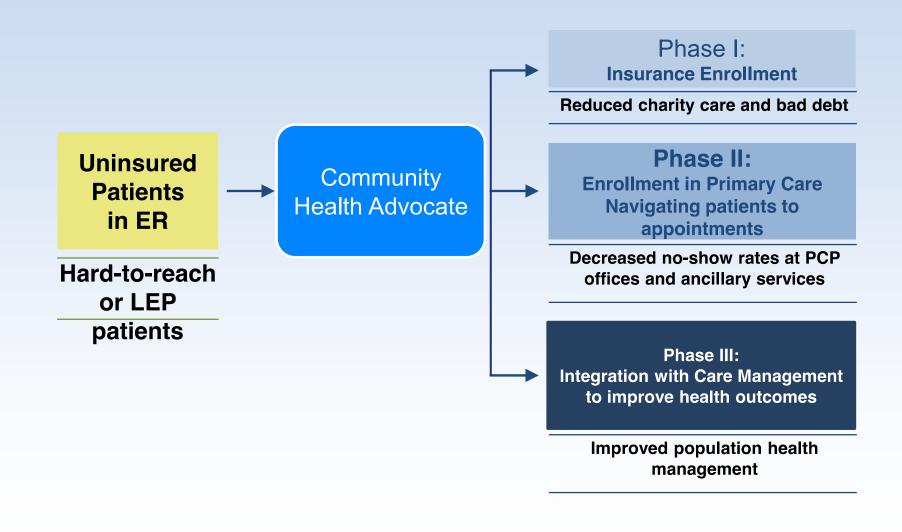
# **CHC** Opportunity

Screening



Survivorship

#### Community Health Advocate Program









A National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center