

“Place Matters” Social Determinants of Infant Mortality

Michigan Call to Action to Reduce and Prevent Infant Mortality Summit
October 17, 2011



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Department of Health and Human Services
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

50 Healthiest Cities



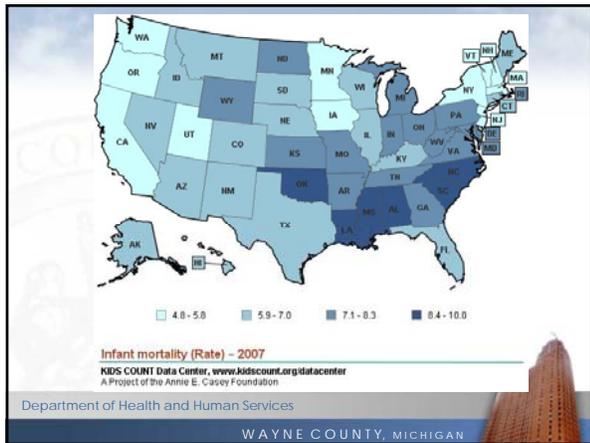
#1
San Jose, CA



#44
Detroit, MI

Source: The Sperling report card, *Centrum® Healthiest Cities Study 2009*

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Place Matters

- Nationwide initiative - Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Health Policy Institute
- Eliminating Health Disparities by Addressing the Social Determinants of Health
- Identifying complex root causes of health disparities and defining strategies to address them
- Addressing upstream causes of health

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Social Determinants of Health

“Conditions in which people are born, **grow, live, work and age**, ... shaped by the distribution of **money, power and resources** at global, national and local levels, which are themselves influenced by policy choices.

The social determinants of health are mostly **responsible for health inequities** - the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries ...”

WHO 2008

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Why treat people...

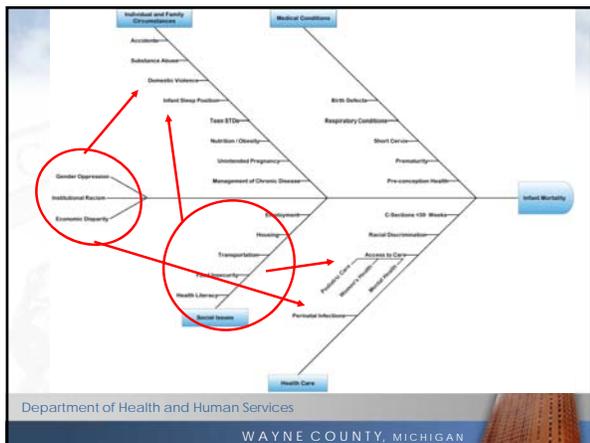
 ...without changing what makes them sick?

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Upstream Causes of Health



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“... a mother’s “life course” – from the moment an egg is fertilized in her mother’s womb – is influenced by factors that either strengthen or damage her reproductive system, as well as other organ systems ...”

Dr. Michael Lu, 2003
 Assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California at Los Angeles
 “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Birth Outcomes: A Life-Course Perspective,”

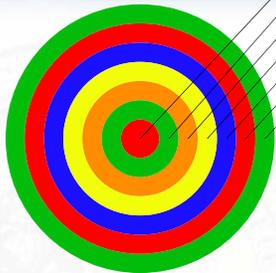
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Education

“The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.”
 C. S. Lewis



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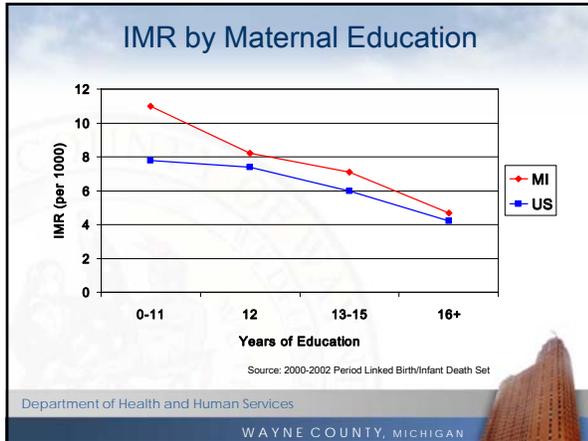


Healthier Babies

- Access to Healthy Living
- Access to Healthy Food
- Safer Neighborhoods
- Better Quality of life
- Better Jobs
- Better Education/Higher Education

Educated mothers are markedly less likely to smoke.
 The 2008 National Health Interview Survey showed that **41.3%** of adults with a GED smoked, compared to less than **6%** of adults with graduate degrees!

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Place Matters!

- National average high school graduation rate is 70%.
- In Wayne County high school graduation rate is 78%.
- Only 37% of Detroit students graduate from high school.
- Detroit students score well below average on state standardized tests in reading and math.
- College graduation rate (bachelor's degree or higher) is 17.2 % for Wayne County as a whole, but only 11% for the city of Detroit.

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Employment

"Detroit is America's second worst big city for jobs"
Forbes magazine, 2009

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Healthier Babies

- Better Health
- Access to Preventive Healthcare
- Affordable Health Insurance
- Healthier Living Environment
- Better Quality of life
- Good Stable Employment

People who lose their jobs are twice as likely to develop a new ailment such as high blood pressure, diabetes or heart disease, poor nutrition, lack of exercise and obesity. Unemployed are more likely to smoke, drink, be depressed, become isolated, and get sick. Greater risk of: exposure to second-hand smoke; the stress of chaotic, crime-ridden neighborhoods; disrespectful treatment; and challenged schools
Harvard School of Public Health, 2009

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Higher Income = Lower Mortality

People with annual incomes (< \$15,000) had a premature mortality rate 3.9 times higher than the group in the high-income level (>\$70,000).

The U.S. Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 2002

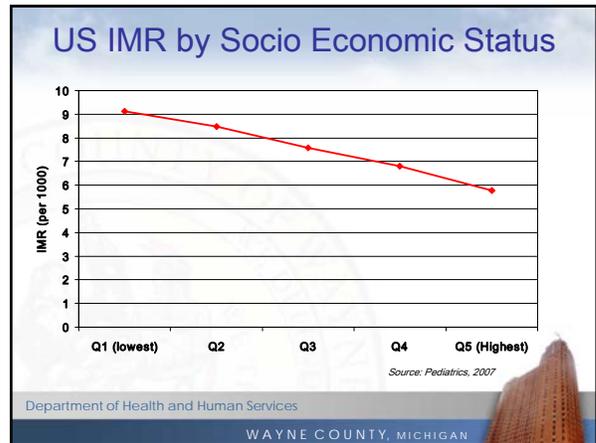
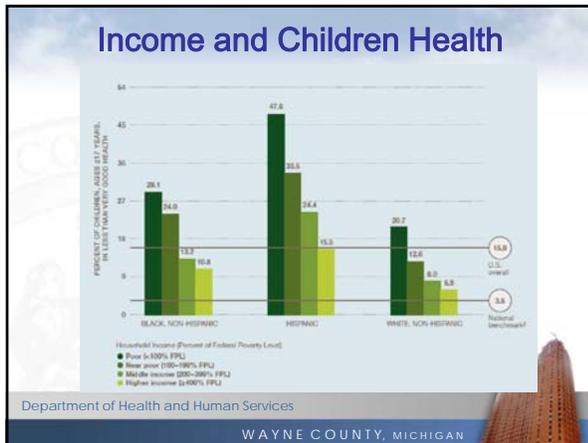
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Morbidity Prevalence of Women by Employment Grade Category

	Grade 1 (High status jobs)	Grade 6 (Low status jobs)
Any health problem	69.8%	75.6%
Self-rated health as average or worse	26.2%	42.1%
Possible ischemia or angina	4.5%	11.1%
Diabetes	0.9%	1.4%
Drug therapy for hypertension	3.7%	4.3%
Smokers	18.3%	27.5%
Obese	7.4%	13.2%
Lack of exercise	12%	31.1%
Less than daily consumption of fresh fruits or vegetables	17.7%	43.6%

"Health inequalities among British civil servants: the Whitehall II study," Marmot, 1991

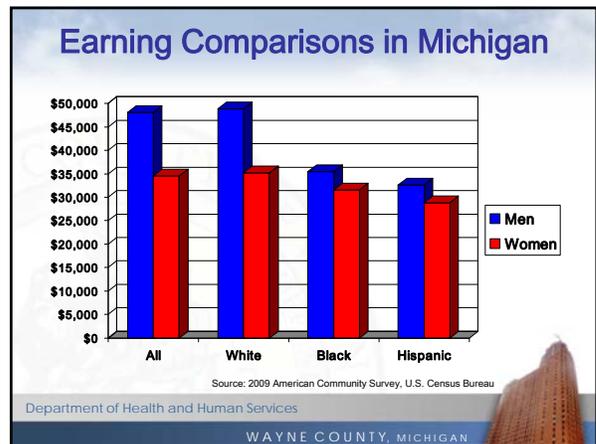
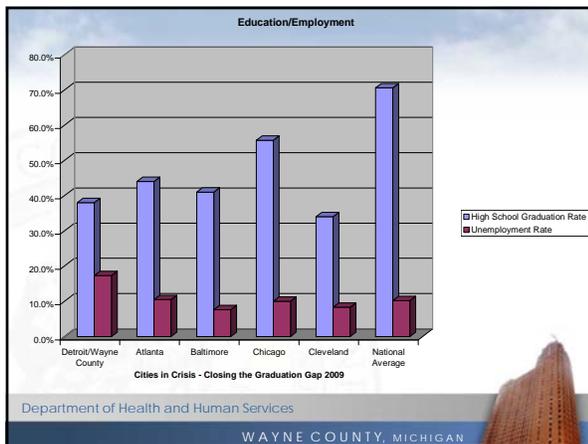
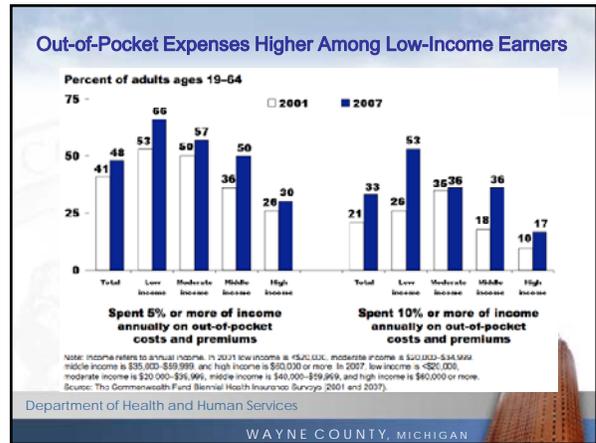
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Pay Equity

- Women's median incomes in the U.S. are just 78.2% of men's median incomes (2009 census)
- Women in Michigan, earn only 71.9% of what men earn
- Michigan has the 43rd worst earnings ratio between men and women in the United States (AAUW, 2010)

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Social Isolation

"Friendships are good for your health."
The Mayo Clinic



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"Social isolation is as bad for one's health as smoking ..."

James S. House, PhD
University of Michigan
"Social Isolation Kills, But How and Why"



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The Importance of Being Connected

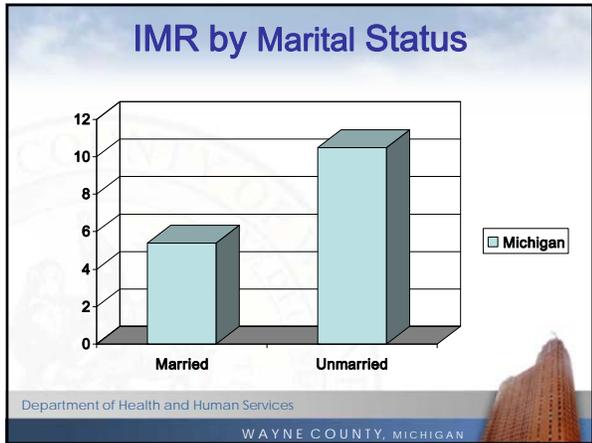
- If girls and women feel connected to teachers, counselors and positive peers, they not only have someone to talk to, they also learn about good nutrition, the importance of exercise, ways to reduce stress, and how to set high standards for their bodies and their futures.
- Being socially connected with people who have high expectations may inspire girls and women to excel in education, careers and personal pursuits.

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Social Isolation of Women - *why*

- Dropping out of school
- Lacking reliable family members due to drug use, incarceration and homelessness
- Avoiding interaction with neighbors in unsafe neighborhoods
- Lacking employment and interaction with coworkers;
- Being in abusive relationships with men who isolate her from friends and family.
- Being a single mother at home with infants, small children and no transportation

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Social Perception of Girls and Women

"I've been fortunate. I haven't had too many auditions. I slept with all the right people."
Pamela Anderson, Actor, People Magazine.



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Social Perception

- Defined as the perceiving of attributes, characteristics, and behaviors of one's associates or social groups.
- The theory of the perception-behavior link argues that the human tendency is to act in the same way as we see others act.

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Media Portrayal of Women

- Advertising tends to promote a set of false ideals that women should strive to achieve.
- The portrayal of women's bodies as marketing objects further contributes to the continuing gender biased stereotypes of women's subjugated roles in society
- Media tend to undervalue women as a whole and are detrimental for women and young girls

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Structural Racism

"Lukewarm acceptance is more bewildering than outright rejection."
Martin Luther King, Jr.



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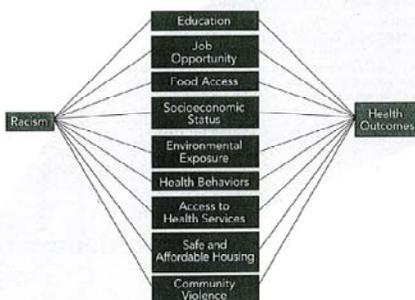
The Boston Model

- Racism and discrimination are root causes of inequities in health.
- Structural Racism impacts the Social Determinants of Health thereby impacting health outcomes including infant mortality

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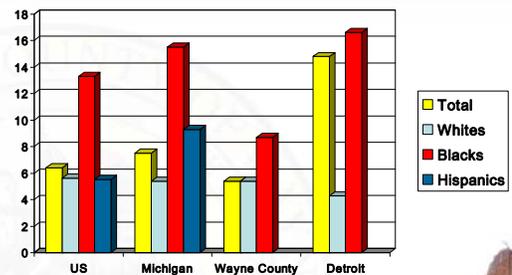
A Health Equity Framework



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IMR by Ethnicity/Race



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Conclusion

- *It takes a village* to save an infant
- Strategies for better and equitable education are extremely important to overall health and the ability to eventually have a healthy baby.
- Better employment opportunities and equal pay for women is as important as prenatal screening in battling infant mortality.
- Women and girls need supportive networks and social structures before they become pregnant.
- Males should be engaged in the understanding and appreciation of their roles in nurturing healthy, confident girls and women.
- Society needs to develop, establish and maintain efforts to promote positive images of girls and women, through mentoring and multi-media campaigns.

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