

Health equity: what's power got to do with that?

MIHP Provider Annual Training

May 17th, 2022



CENTER FOR
HEALTH EQUITY
PRACTICE



**Servant
Leadership**



**Authentic
Relationships**



**Quality and
Excellence**

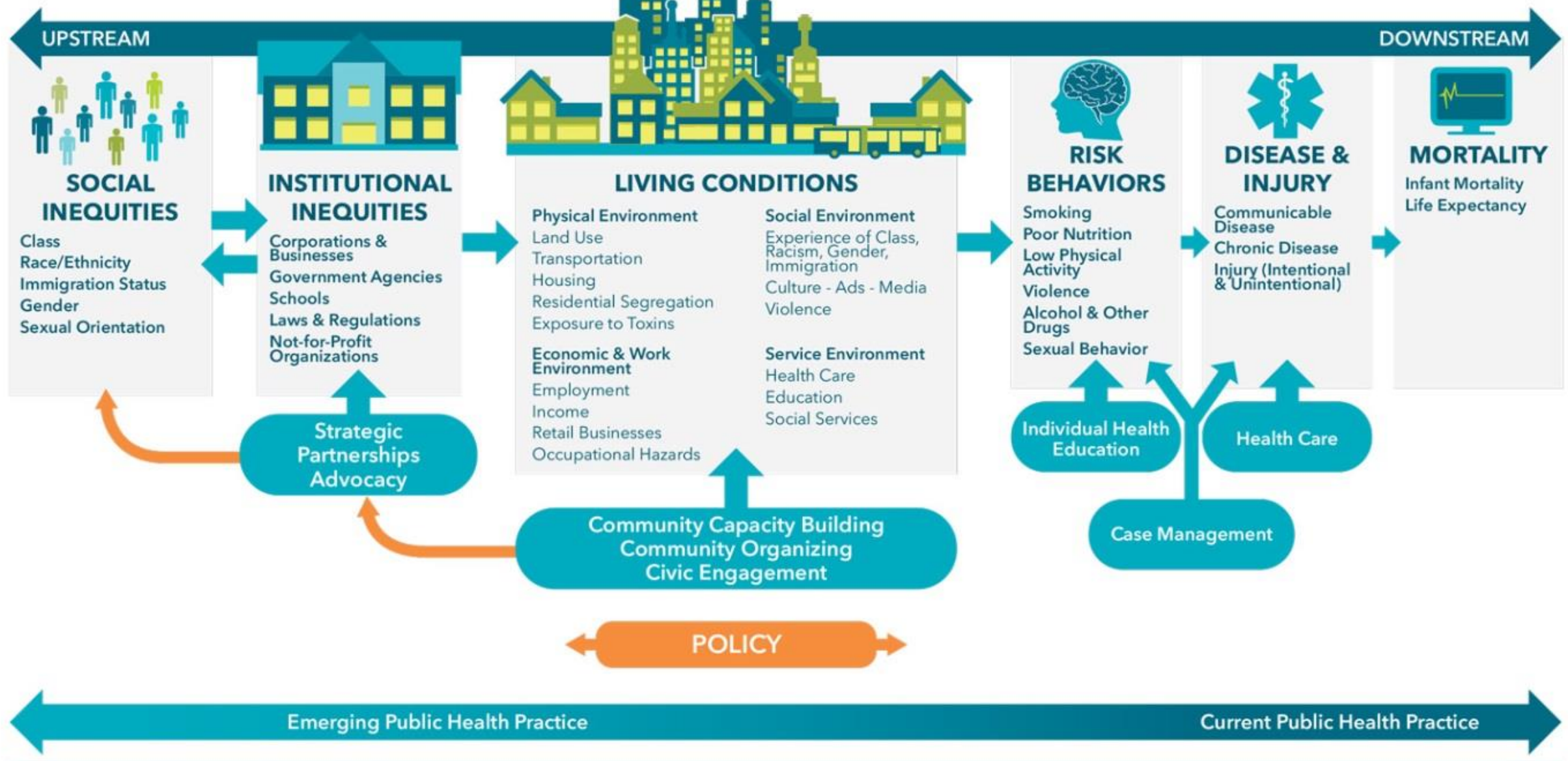


**Health Equity
and Social Justice**



WHAT IS HEALTH?

A PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES
 BAY AREA REGIONAL HEALTH INEQUITIES INITIATIVE

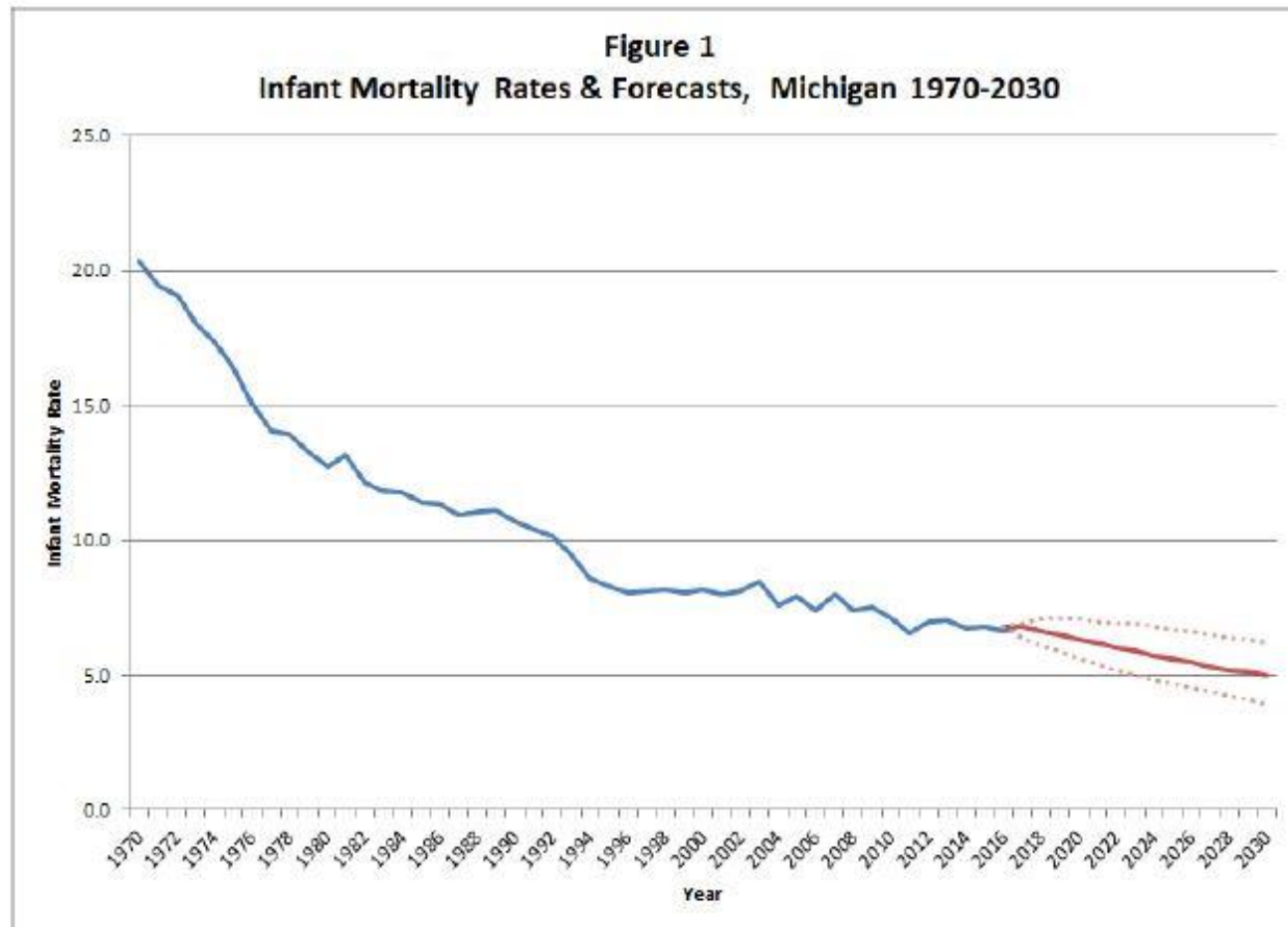


HEALTH DISPARITY



A disproportionate difference in health between groups of people; **observable and measurable**

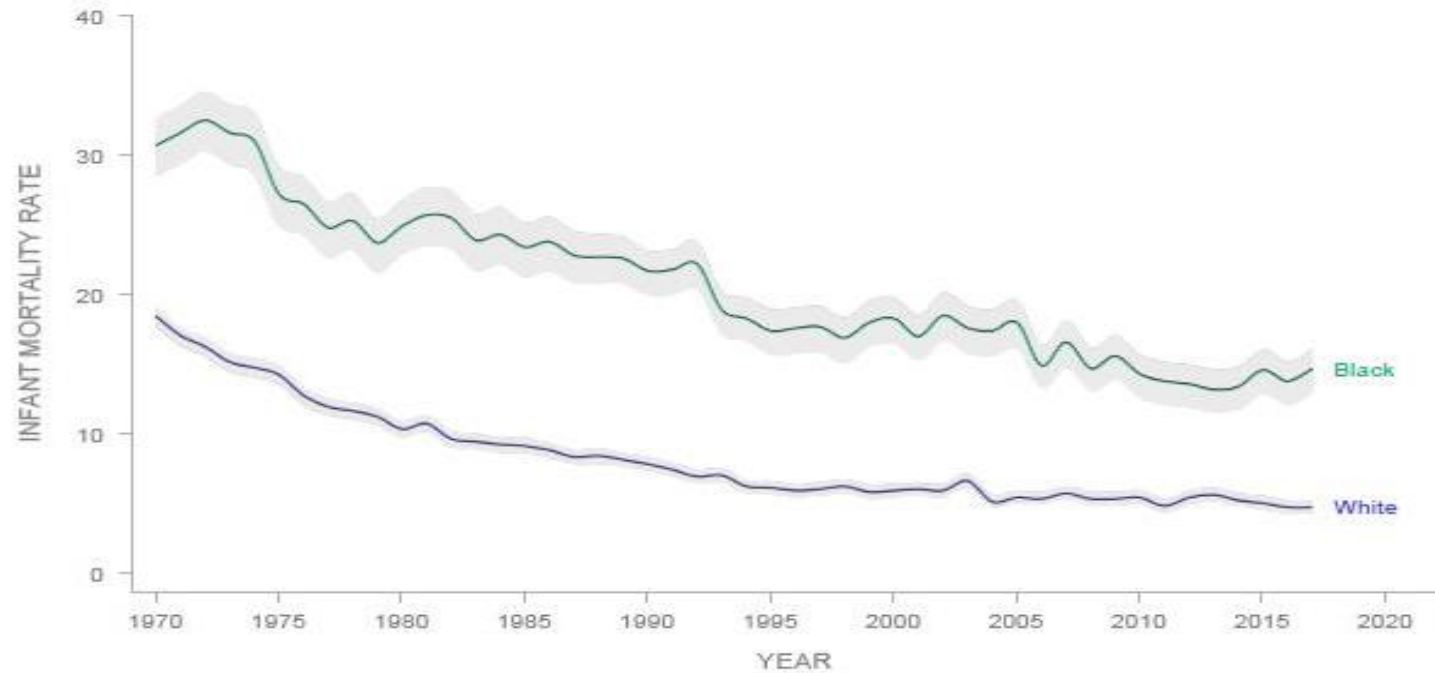
By itself, disparity does not address the chain of events that produces it...the *"why?"*



Note: Rates are per 1,000 live births. Rates after 2017 are forecasted within an 80% prediction interval indicated by the dotted lines; this means that the future rates fall between the lower and upper bounds of the interval with 80% probability.

Source: 1970- 2017 Michigan Resident Birth and Death Files, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Figure 2
Comparison of White and Black Infant Death Rates for Michigan Residents, 1970-2017



Rates are per 1,000 live births. The range indicated by the grey band represents a 95% confidence interval; this means that the true rate lies between the lower and upper bounds of the interval with 9 statistical confidence.

1970-2017 Michigan Resident Birth and Death Files, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

HEALTH INEQUITY



Differences in population health status and mortality rates that are *systemic*, patterned, *unjust*, and *actionable*, as opposed to random or caused by those who become ill

Margaret Whitehead, The Concepts and Principles of Equity in Health. Health Promotion International 6(3): 217- 28. 1992



DEFINING HEALTH EQUITY

Health equity can be viewed as both a **process** – removing economic and social obstacles to health such as poverty and discrimination and an **outcome** – everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy*

** Braveman P, Arkin E, Orleans T, Proctor D, and Plough A. What Is Health Equity? And What Difference Does a Definition Make? Princeton, NJ: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2017*

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

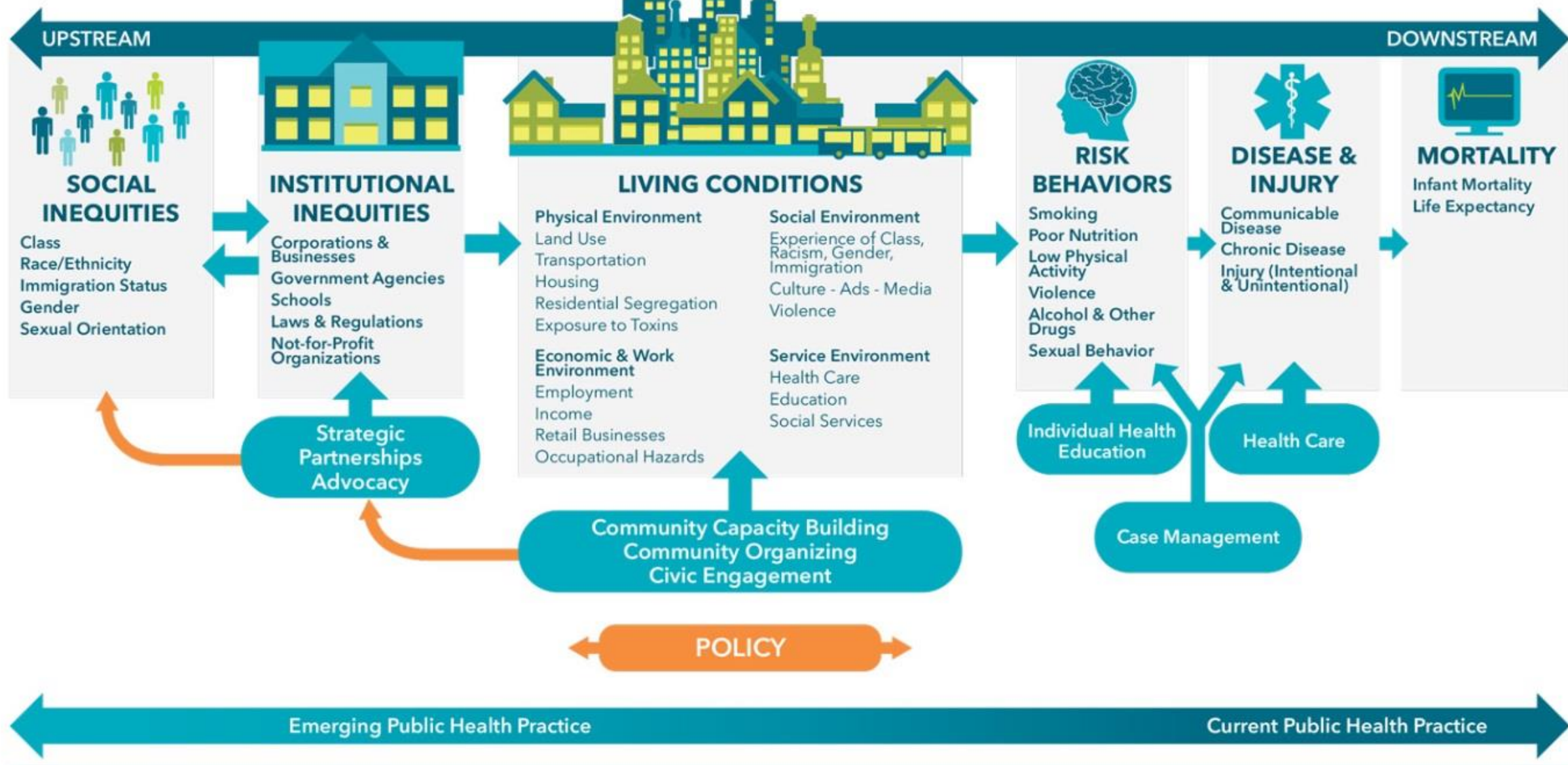
The economic and social conditions that influence the health of individuals, communities, and jurisdictions as a whole;

The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age

SDOH include, but are not limited to:

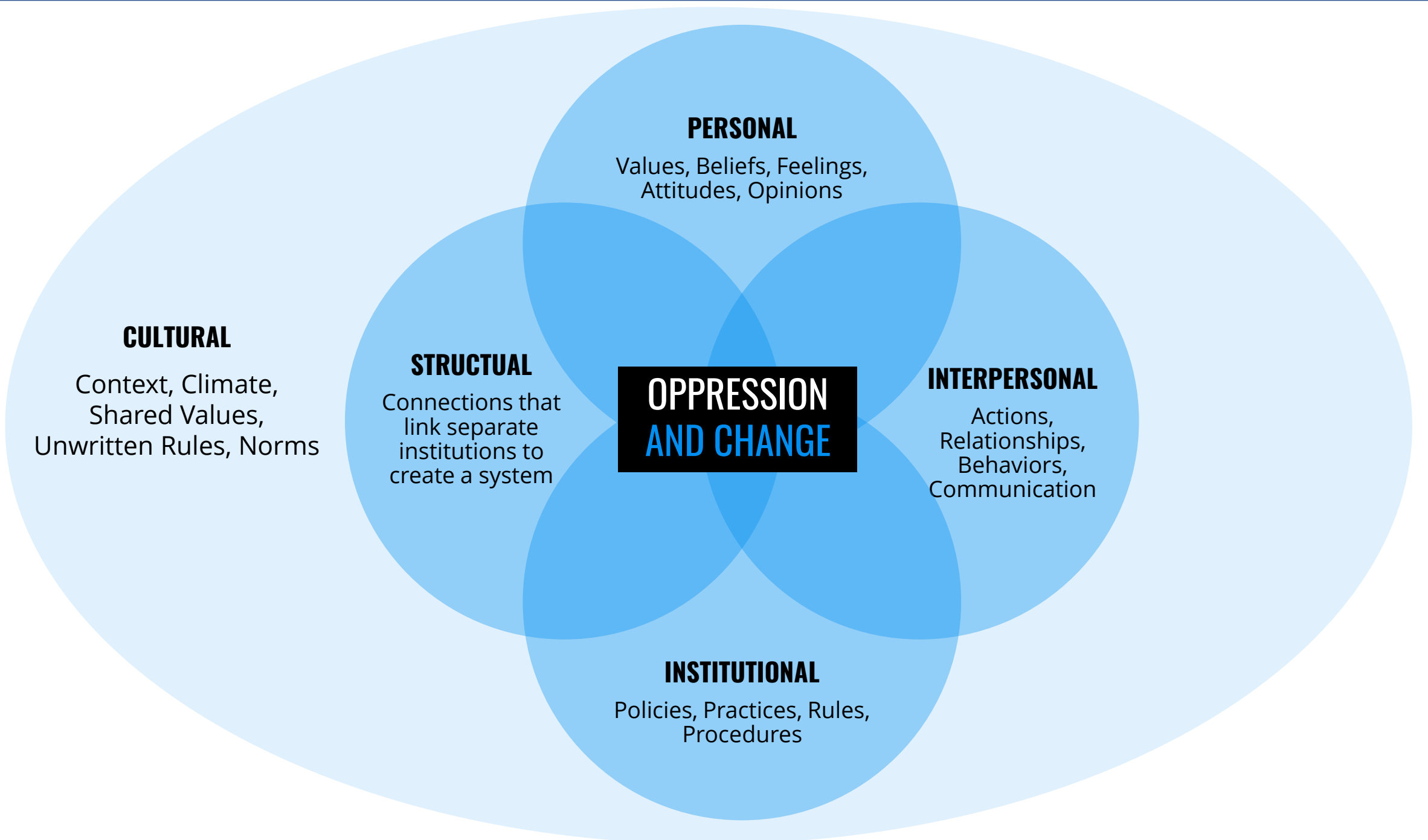


A PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES
BAY AREA REGIONAL HEALTH INEQUITIES INITIATIVE



ROOT CAUSES OF OPPRESSION





FORMS OF OPPRESSION USED TO MAINTAIN POWER

All contribute to systemic, avoidable, unfair, and unjust health outcomes and are used to maintain power

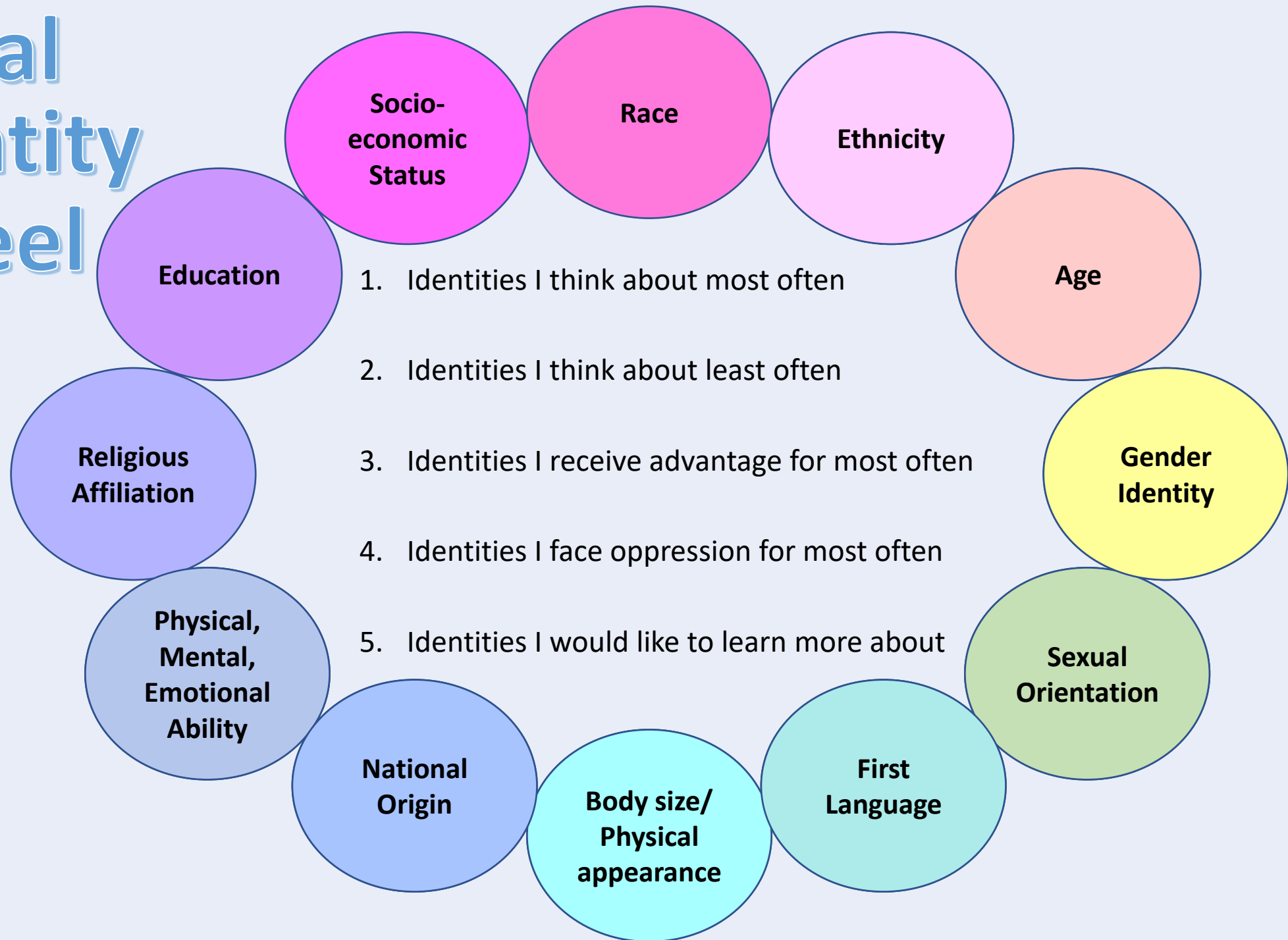




OUR SOCIAL IDENTITIES



Social Identity Wheel

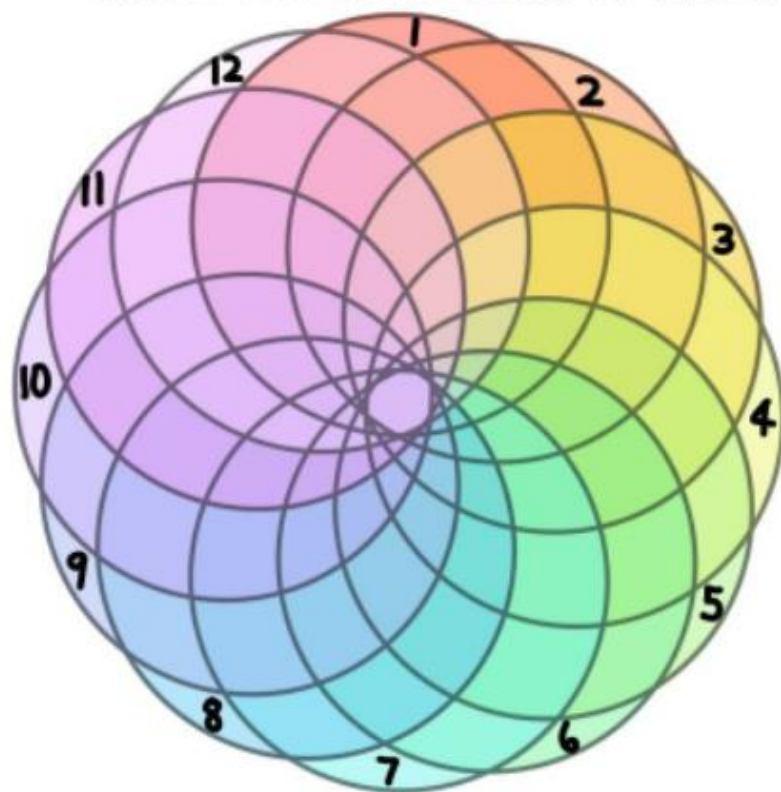


A portrait of Kimberlé Crenshaw, a Black woman with long braided hair, wearing a dark patterned jacket over a red top. She is speaking and looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred indoor setting with other people.

Kimberlé Crenshaw

Professor, Duke University
Professor, UCLA School of Law and
Director, Law Center

INTERSECTIONALITY



- 1 Race
 - 2 Ethnicity
 - 3 Gender identity
 - 4 Class
 - 5 Language
 - 6 Religion
 - 7 Ability
 - 8 Sexuality
 - 9 Mental health
 - 10 Age
 - 11 Education
 - 12 Body size
- (...and many more...)

Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it locks and intersects. It is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and privilege.

- Kimberlé Crenshaw -

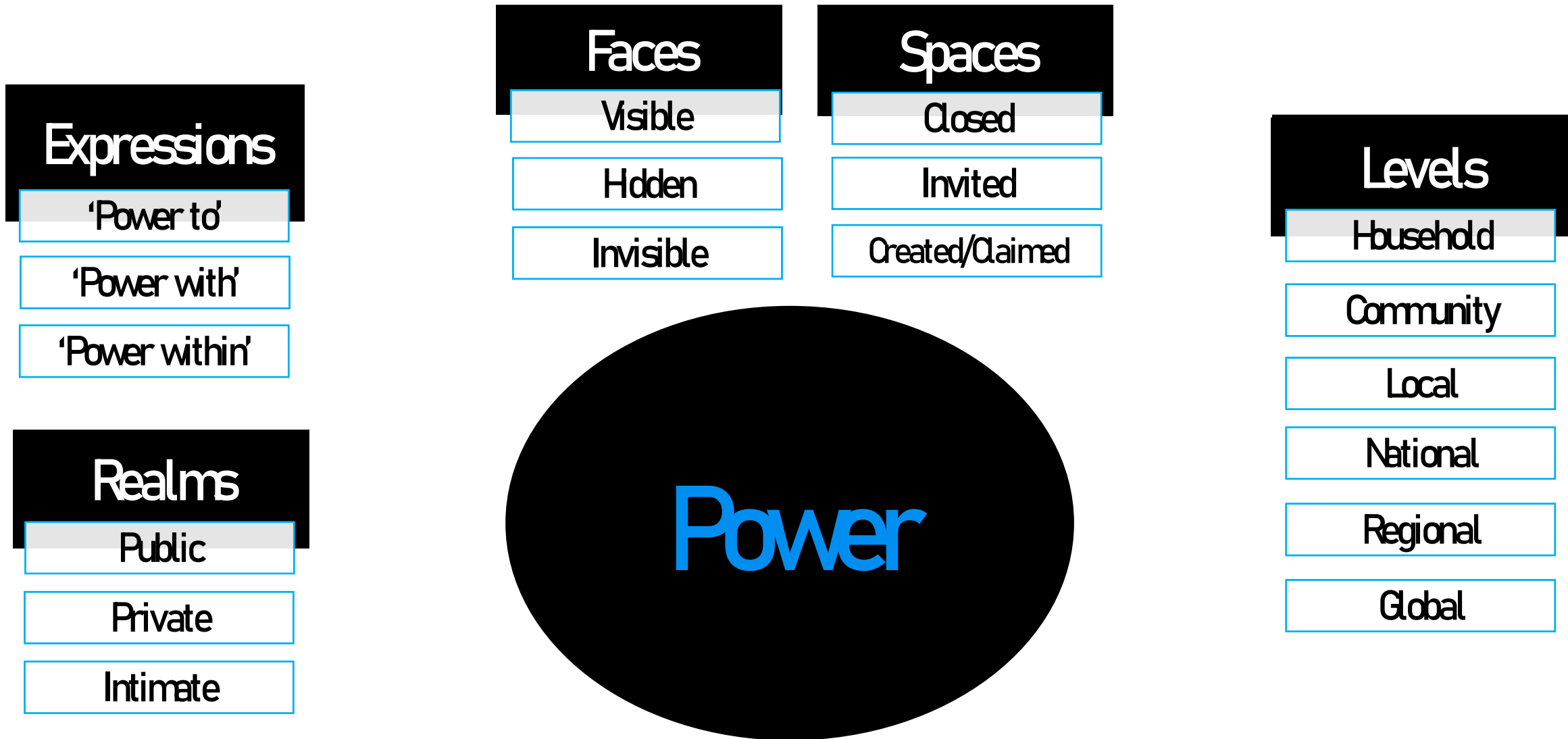
**WHAT ABOUT
POWER?**

“In reality, power is dynamic, relational and multidimensional, changing according to context, circumstance and interest. Its expressions and forms can range from domination and resistance to collaboration and transformation.”

POWER

- The purpose and interests of those with power will be most prominent in our political, social, and economic environment
- Is commonly understood as a form of authority, control or domination
- Those with authority over others are considered powerful, while those who are dominated are seen as powerless

SOURCES & POSITIONS OF POWER



EXPRESSIONS OF POWER



Power to: Individual ability to act

Every individual has the 'power to' make a difference



Power with: Collective action, the ability to act together

Helps build bridges and is about bringing together resources and strategies



Power within: Individual or collective sense of self-worth, value, dignity

Build their capacity to imagine and raise aspirations about change



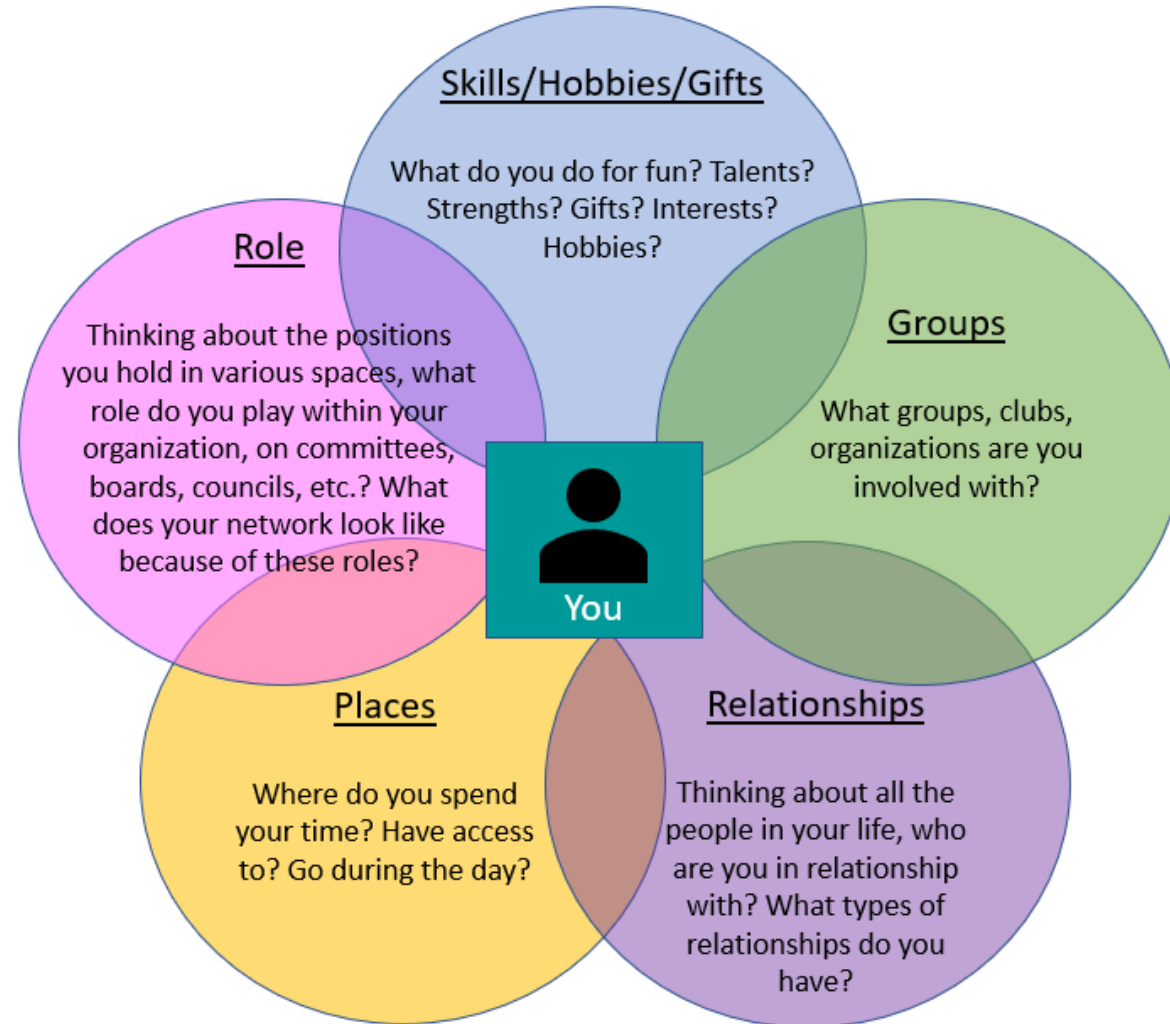
“Powerlessness is making us sick.”

-Anthony Iton, *Unnatural Causes*

Sustained **imbalance in power** can become reinforced in systems and structures that affect decision making and resource allocation

Those who **lack power** experience persistent and avoidable inequities in opportunity and health

INDIVIDUAL ASSET MAPPING



We!



OUR REFLECTION

Name one
thing *that is sitting
with you* from
today?



THANK YOU

CHEP@mphl.org



CENTER FOR
HEALTH EQUITY
PRACTICE