The Role of Law and Policy in Achieving Health Equity and Attaining Our Healthy People Objectives

Don Wright, MD, MPH
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health
Director, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

June 13, 2019
Agenda and Featured Speakers

• Healthy People Background and the Role of Law and Policy in Achieving Health Equity and Attaining the Healthy People Objectives
  o Don Wright, MD, MPH, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health; Director, ODPHP, HHS

• Introducing A Blueprint for Changemakers: A New Tool for Achieving Health Equity Through Law & Policy
  o Kimberly Libman, PhD, MPH, Program Director, ChangeLab Solutions

• Advancing Health Equity Through Active Transportation Plans
  o Genoveva Islas, MPH, Director, Cultiva La Salud
What Is Healthy People?

- Provides a strategic framework for a **national prevention agenda** that communicatess a vision for improving health and achieving health equity.

- Identifies science-based, **measurable objectives with targets** to be achieved by the end of the decade.

- Requires tracking of **data-driven outcomes** to monitor progress and to motivate, guide, and focus action.

- Offers a model for international, state, and local **program planning**.
## Target Year 1990

- Decrease mortality: infants–adults
- Increase independence among older adults

## Target Year 2000

- Increase span of healthy life
  - Reduce health disparities
  - Achieve access to preventive services for all

## Target Year 2010

- Increase quality and years of healthy life
  - Eliminate health disparities

## Target Year 2020

- Attain high-quality, longer lives free of preventable disease
  - Achieve health equity; eliminate disparities
  - Create social and physical environments that promote good health
  - Promote quality of life, healthy development, healthy behaviors across life stages

### Leading Health Indicators (LHIs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Areas</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 topics</td>
<td>22 indicators</td>
<td>12 topics</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Objectives</th>
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<th>2000</th>
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<tr>
<td>226</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>~1,000</td>
<td>&gt;1,200</td>
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</table>
Law and Health Policy Project

Reports and Related Products
- Reports and community “Bright Spots”

Webinar Series
- Focused on specific Healthy People 2020 topics
- Shares community examples of innovative uses of law and policy to improve health outcomes

Supporting the Development of Healthy People 2030 (HP2030)
- HP2030 Listening Session: 2018 Public Health Law Conference

For more information: www.healthypeople.gov/2020/law-and-health-policy
### Healthy People’s Social Determinants of Health Framework and Key Issue Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Stability</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health and Health Care</th>
<th>Neighborhood and Built Environment</th>
<th>Social and Community Context</th>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>High school graduation rates</td>
<td>Access to health services</td>
<td>Quality of housing</td>
<td>Social cohesion</td>
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<td>Employment</td>
<td>Enrollment in higher education</td>
<td>Access to primary care</td>
<td>Crime and violence</td>
<td>Discrimination</td>
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<td>Housing stability</td>
<td>Early childhood education and development</td>
<td>Health literacy</td>
<td>Environmental conditions</td>
<td>Civic participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food insecurity</td>
<td>Language and literacy</td>
<td>Health literacy</td>
<td>Access to healthy foods</td>
<td>Incarceration</td>
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</table>
Developing Healthy People 2030

3-Pronged Approach

Secretary’s Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030

Public Comment

HP Federal Interagency Workgroup (FIW)  
HP2020 Topic Area Co-Leads
Secretary’s Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030

Co-Chairs:
• Dushanka V. Kleinman, DDS, MScD
• Nico Pronk, PhD, MA, FACSM, FAWHP

Chair Emeritus: Jonathan Fielding, MD, MPH, MBA, MA

Members:
• Susan F. Goekler, PhD, MCHES
• Cynthia A. Gómez, PhD
• Paul K. Halverson, DrPH, MHSA, FACHE
• Mary A. Pittman, DrPH
• Therese S. Richmond, PhD, CRNP, FAAN
• Nirav R. Shah, MD, MPH
• Edward J. Sondik, PhD
• Joel B. Teitelbaum, JD, LLM
• Glenda L. Wrenn Gordon, MD, MSHP, FAPA
• Namvar Zohoori, MD, MPH, PhD
The Advisory Committee’s Charge and Work

• Charge: “The Committee’s advice must assist the Secretary in reducing the number of objectives while ensuring that the selection criteria identify the most critical public health issues that are high-impact priorities supported by current, national data sets.”

• The committee’s work is to:
  o Ensure the selection criteria identify objectives addressing public health issues that current national data have shown are high-impact priorities
  o Limit the number of objectives
  o Identify the Leading Health Indicators
  o Implement Healthy People 2030

• Work started in December 2016.
  o Mission, vision, overarching goals
  o Subcommittee work, including issue briefs (Health Equity and Law and Policy)
Overarching Goals

• Attain healthy, thriving lives and well-being, free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death.

• **Eliminate health disparities, achieve health equity**, and attain health literacy to improve the health and well-being of all.

• Create social, physical, and economic environments that promote attaining full potential for health and well-being for all.

• Promote healthy development, healthy behaviors, and well-being across all life stages.

• Engage leadership, key constituents, and the public across multiple sectors to take action and design policies that improve the health and well-being of all.
Health Inequalities
Differences in health status or in the distribution of health determinants among different population groups (e.g., differences in mobility between elderly and younger populations or in mortality rates between people from different social classes).

Health Inequities
Differences in health and well-being outcomes that are avoidable, unfair, and unjust. Health inequities are affected by social, economic, and environmental conditions.

The history of health equity in Healthy People demonstrates that the concept has evolved over time as knowledge and values have changed.

The emphasis on health equity within Healthy People 2030 marks a critical shift away from focusing on disease outcomes, which are often attributed to individual behaviors.
Health Equity Issue Brief

“Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.” (RWJF)

• To achieve health equity, we must recognize that multiple determinants of health and well-being interact with each other across the life span.

• The ability of Healthy People 2030 to measure its success in achieving health equity will depend on ongoing surveillance of health inequalities between more and less advantaged social groups.
Since health inequities are a key concern of Healthy People 2030, the initiative must enable stakeholders to identify opportunities to achieve health equity. Recommendations include:

- Include social determinants of health (SDOH) and health equity as cross-cutting themes in Healthy People 2030.
- Maintain SDOH as a distinct topic area.
- Apply SDOH as a selection criterion for topic area objectives.

Objectives should seek to reduce health disparities and increase health equity as much as possible, including addressing social determinants of health.
Law and Policy Issue Brief:
Law and Policy as Determinants of Health

- Can be direct responses to health-harming social conditions and deficiencies
- Perpetuate social conditions that can be harmful to health and well-being
- Sometimes applied selectively based on biases that affect distributions of health and well-being
- Are hollow without regulations, funding, and effective enforcement
- Can affect health and well-being based on how they are interpreted by the courts
Conclusions

• Health equity has an important role in both HP2020 and HP2030.
• Law and policy can be important tools to promote health equity and to address barriers to good health.
• Improving health often requires working closely with other sectors (e.g., housing or transportation).
  o Law and policy can be helpful tools to leverage.
  o The committee argues law itself is a determinant of health.
• Next we will explore how communities can incorporate equity into their planning and policy work to improve population health.
For more on the Healthy People initiative, including the development of Healthy People 2030:
  - www.healthypeople.gov

For the Law and Health Policy project:

For any other questions, please contact:
  - Angie McGowan, Project Director (CDC Assignee), ODPHP: Angela.McGowan@hhs.gov
Our Mission

Healthier communities for all through equitable laws & policies.
A Blueprint for Changemakers
What Health Inequities Are & Why They Exist
The Fundamental Drivers of Health Inequity

- Structural discrimination
- Income inequality and poverty
- Disparities in opportunity
- Disparities in political power
- Governance that limits meaningful participation

A Blueprint for Changemakers
Why Law & Policy Tools Are Needed to Achieve Health Equity
Addressing Health Inequity at the Local Level: Opportunities & Barriers
What is preemption?
When the law of a higher level of government invalidates the law of a lower level of government
Designing Specific Strategies to Address the Fundamental Drivers of Health Inequity

A Blueprint for Changemakers
## Building A Movement For Health Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Structural Discrimination</th>
<th>Wealth &amp; Income</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Governance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bail &amp; sentencing reform</td>
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<td>Drug courts</td>
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<td>Health in All Policies</td>
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<td>Participatory budgeting</td>
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<td>State policies on home rule</td>
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A Blueprint for Changemakers
### Access to Health Care

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<td>Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP)</td>
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<td>Medicaid</td>
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<td>Prescription access programs</td>
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A Blueprint for Changemakers
## Structural Discrimination

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<td>Complete streets</td>
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<td>Equitable transit-oriented development</td>
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<td>Food procurement</td>
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<td>Housing rehabilitation grant programs</td>
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<td>Inclusionary zoning</td>
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<td>Participatory planning / people-centered engagement</td>
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<td>Limits on density of alcohol, cannabis, sugary drink, &amp; retailers</td>
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<td>Elimination of predatory marketing of alcohol, cannabis, sugary drink, &amp; products</td>
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<td>Improved water quality &amp; access</td>
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## Early Childhood Development & Education

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<td>Equitable school discipline</td>
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<td>SNAP fruit &amp; vegetable incentives</td>
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**Fair Employment & Income Insecurity**

A Blueprint for Changemakers
Achieving Health Equity Through Partnerships & Community Engagement

A Blueprint for Changemakers
Thank you!

A Blueprint for Changemakers: Achieving Health Equity Through Law & Policy

Web: www.changelabsolutions.org
Twitter: @ChangeLabWorks
Facebook: @ChangeLabSolutions
Advancing Health Equity through Active Transportation Plans

Presented by Genoveva Islas, MPH
Director, Cultiva La Salud
Cultiva La Salud

Our mission is to engage, inform and inspire residents in the San Joaquin Valley who are low-income and live in disadvantaged places to become actively involved in promoting health through advocacy for policy, systems and environmental improvements that encourage healthy eating and active living.

We believe that everyone should be able to live the full course of their life in optimal health.
Transportation Inequity
Transportation Inequity

Merced Police Arrest Man For Biking On Sidewalk, Bystander For Filming Arrest

Topics: California, Merced, Merced Police Department

Posted By: Admin  May 16, 2016
What is Transportation Equity?

• Transportation equity means providing all individuals with an opportunity to safely get to work, school, home, healthcare, etc...

• Transportation equity is the just and fair inclusion in transportation planning.

• Transportation equity considers the needs of underserved communities.

• Transportation equity is about shared prosperity.
Challenges in Advancing Transportation Equity

• Limited Political Power
  – Connections and representation
  – Experience

• Challenges to Participation
  – Language Access
  – Meeting Times

• Data
  - Evidence

• Safety

• Racism, sexism, citizenship, social class, etc....

• Poverty
Organizational Capacity Building

- Staff Training
- League Certified Instructors
- Appointment to BPAC
- Stakeholder Review
- Fresno ATP
- Fresno COG
Leadership Development

Powerful People: Building Leadership for Healthy Communities

• Residents self-identifying projects
• Supporting capacity building.
• Boards and commissions
Engaging Decision Makers
Engaging Community

- Community based participatory research
  - Photovoice
  - Walkability assessments
  - Biking assessments

- Community Reports
  - Orange Cove
  - Fresno

- Active Transportation Planning

- Participatory Budgeting
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN FRESNO COUNTY
Biking and Walking Safety
# Equity Tool

## Action Transportation Project Prioritization Tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Expected Impact</th>
<th>Economic Impact</th>
<th>Social Impact</th>
<th>Environmental Impact</th>
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</table>

## Data Collection Tools and Guidance

- **Data Collection Tools**: Detailed step-by-step instructions for various data collection methods, including surveys, interviews, and focus groups.
- **Guidance**: Best practices for ensuring data accuracy and relevance, including tips on data confidentiality and bias reduction.
Active Transportation Plan

Next Steps

• City
  – Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
  – ATP Ambassador

• Schools
  – Safe Routes to School

• CenCalVia
THANK YOU!

GENOVEVA ISLAS, MPH
Genoveva@CultivaLaSalud.org
www.CultivaLaSalud.org
@CultivaLaSalud
#VivaCultiva

CULTIVA LA SALUD
Cultivating Health Equity in California’s Central Valley