



Social Determinants of HIV

January 9, 2020

Nicole D. Johns, MPH

Office of HIV Planning

Why social determinants?

Social Determinants

Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.

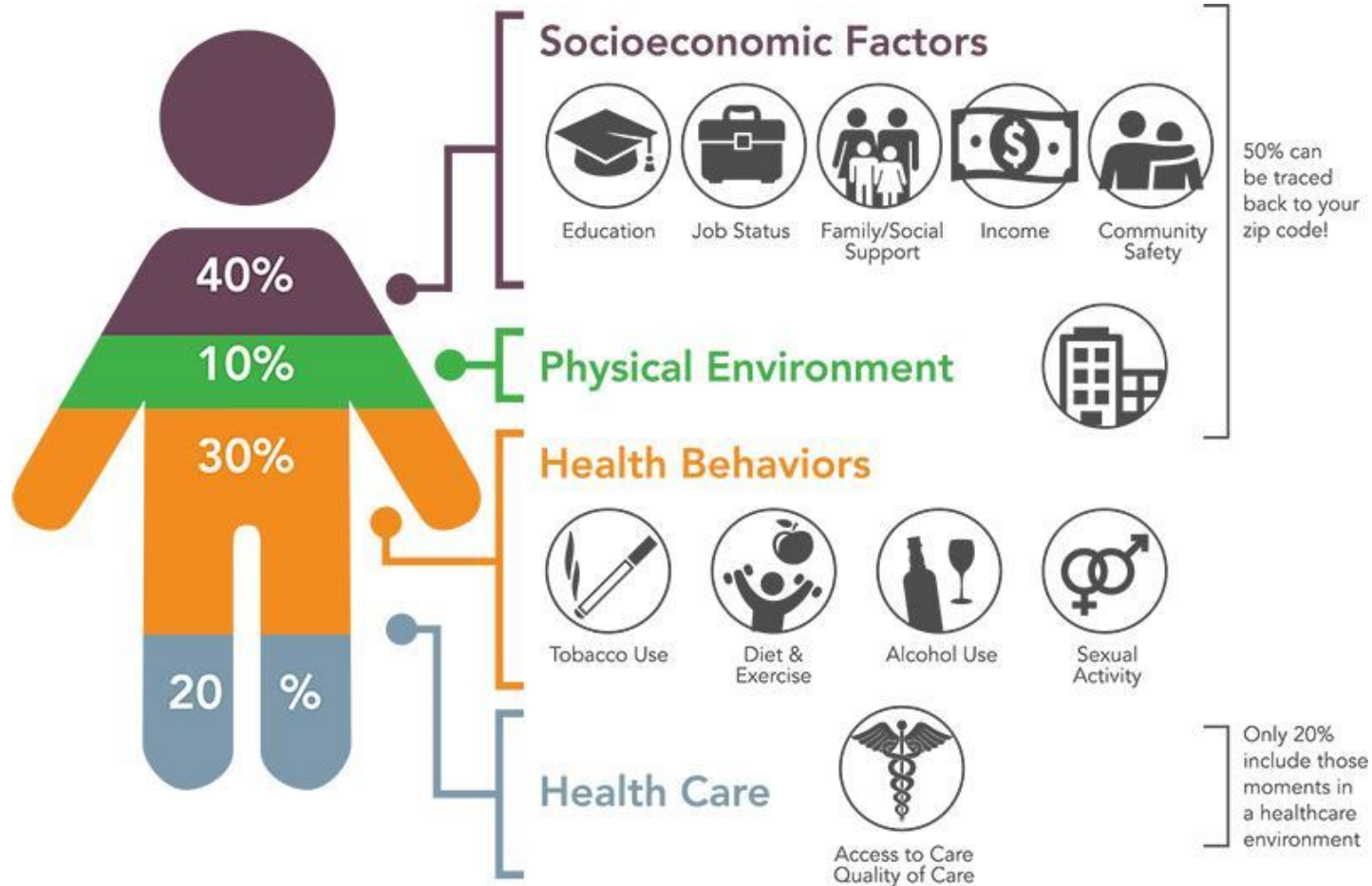
Figure 1

Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education		Stress	Quality of care
Support	Walkability				
	Zip code / geography				

Health Outcomes

Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations



Association between health and socioeconomic status is causal

(Ansari, Carson et. al, 2003)



Our neighborhood affects our health

- Fear for physical safety from crime, violence, and lack of safe sidewalks can keep people isolated
- Living in a socially disadvantaged neighborhood can lead to fatalism, harmful coping mechanisms, high levels of stress
- Some neighborhoods lack basic resources like grocery stores, health care, schools, jobs, etc.
- Pollution and harmful industries are often located in poor and minority communities (Chester incinerator as example)



Poverty - coping and HIV risk

- Poverty is stressful - so much time/energy devoted to daily tasks and securing necessities
- May lead to exchanging sex for housing, money, food, safety, etc.
- Drug use/self-medication is a common coping mechanism
- Poverty limits access to medical care, prevention methods, and health information
- Housing insecurity/homelessness is a growing concern due to rising rents and lack of resources

“It is not a question of how a person’s race causes disadvantage and discrimination. The real issue is the way society responds to an individual’s racial identification.

Racial identity is not about an individual’s skin color. Race is about the individual’s relationship to other people within the society.”

Dr. Tukufu Zuberi, “White Logic, White Methods”



Racial segregation and discrimination

Stress of racial discrimination related to risk behaviors

HIV is concentrated in poor and Black communities - which often lack services and resources

Mass incarceration removes members from the community and often returning citizens are vulnerable to being lost to care, engaging in risk behaviors, and generally vulnerable to violence and ill-health

Medical mistrust is high in Black and other minority communities



HIV Stigma

In addition to other social
discrimination and
marginalization

Racism

Sexism

Heteronormativity

Sex Negativity

Classism

Transphobia

Criminalization



Psychosocial and socioeconomic barriers

Low/no income

Homeless/housing instability

Incarceration history

Chronic health conditions

Mental health disorders

Lack of social support/isolation



Systemic/structural barriers

Transportation- unreliable, expensive, not available

Eligibility for programs

Navigating systems is difficult and confusing

Lack of resources and services in community

Lack of public benefits/programs to meet current need

**How can we address social
determinants and end disparities?**