

Bridging Health and Wealth: Building, Support, Preservation



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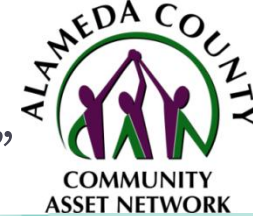
About Urban Strategies Council

- Non-profit founded in 1987 in Oakland, California
- Mission: *To eliminate persistent poverty by working with partners to transform low-income neighborhoods into vibrant, healthy communities.*
- **Operating Programs:**
 - Economic Opportunity
 - Community Safety & Justice
 - Education Excellence
- **Support Programs:**
 - Research & Technology
 - Community Capacity Building



About Alameda County CAN

“the whole is greater than the sum of its parts”



Why AC CAN?

AC CAN seeks to build our members' capacity and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of providers *on the front lines* of the economic crisis.

AC CAN Members and Partners are *trusted advisors* in their communities.

AC CAN develops tools and resources for providers.

AC CAN Members Provide:

- Financial education and counseling
- Benefits enrollment (including health insurance) and work supports
- Employment assistance
- Credit building and repair
- Banking & saving products
- Housing and foreclosure assistance
- Legal advocacy
- Education about predatory lending
- And much more...

Who benefits from AC CAN's Tools?

- Asset Builders
- Financial Educators, Counselors and Coaches
- Social Service Providers (including health and childcare providers)
- Community Organizers
- VITA site volunteers and staff
- Community-based organizations
- Alameda County residents!



Why Health/Wealth?

Health > Health care

“The **wealthiest people** have the most access to power, resources and opportunity – and thus **the best health**.”

Those **on the bottom** are faced with **more stressors** – unpaid bills, jobs that don't pay enough, unsafe living conditions, exposure to environmental hazards, lack of control over work and schedule, worries over children – and the **fewest resources** available to help them cope.↓

How do disparities arrive?



Figure 1

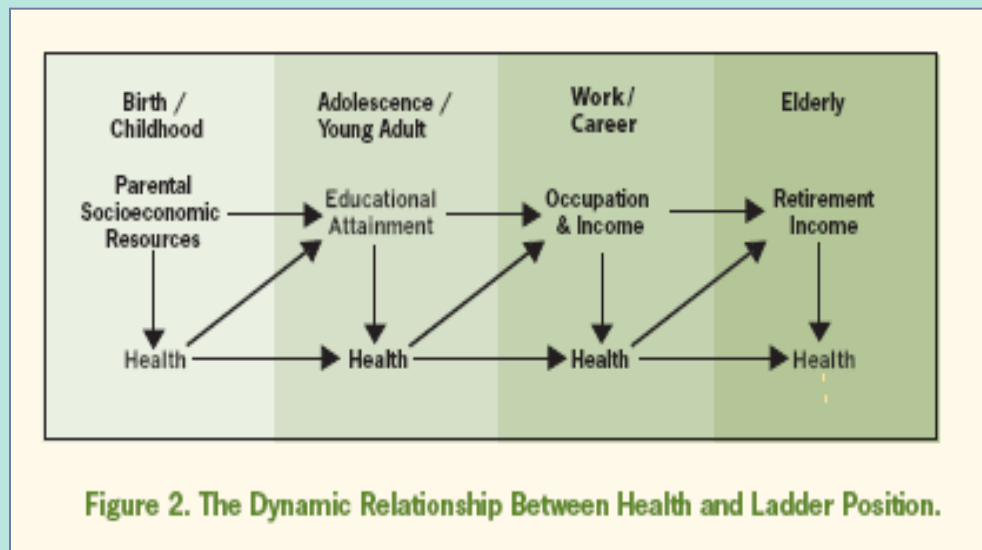


Figure 2. The Dynamic Relationship Between Health and Ladder Position.

1. “In Sickness and In Wealth.” *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* Prod. California Newsreel; 2008.

Figure 1: Adapted from Dr. Camara Jones

Figure 2: Adler, Nancy et al. *Reaching for a Healthier Life: Facts on Socioeconomic Status and Health in the US*



Health/Wealth

“...The net effect is a **health-wealth gradient**, in which every descending rung of the socioeconomic ladder corresponds to worse health. And it’s not just the poorest among us who are suffering, but the middle classes too.”¹

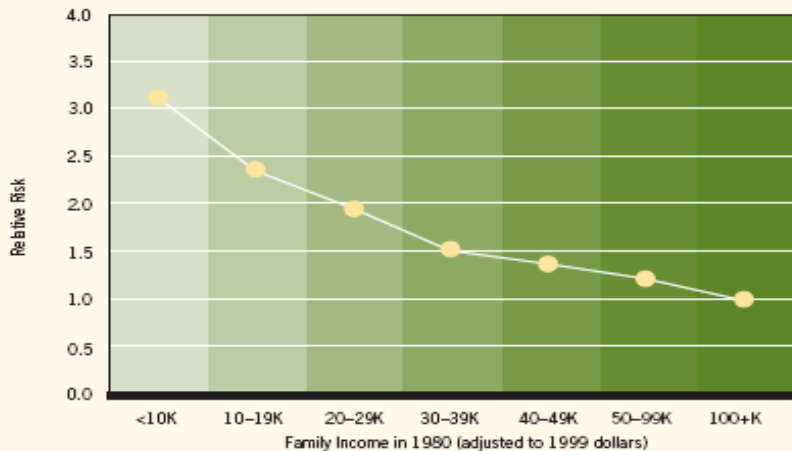
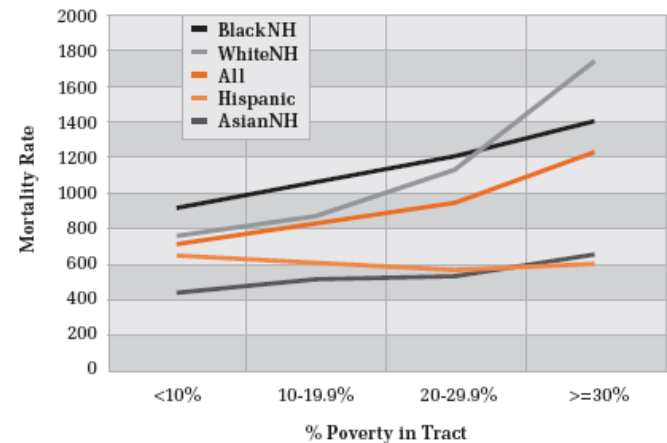


Figure 1. Relative Risk of Premature Death by Family Income (U.S. Population).

*Age and sex-adjusted relative risk of dying prior to age 65
Based on 9-year mortality data from the National Longitudinal Mortality Survey

Mortality Rates in Alameda County Census Tracts by Race by Poverty Rate



1. Adler et al.
2. Iton, Anthony *Tackling the Root Causes of Health Disparities Through Community Capacity Building in Tackling Health Inequities Through Public Health Practice: A Handbook for Action*



What do we do about the Health/Wealth Gradient?

Cease to Work in Silos

Health/Wealth Connection Collaborative (HWCC) of the East Bay:

Examples of Innovation:

- ▶ Alameda County Public Health Department and Alameda County CAN
- ▶ Contra Costa Public Health's Family and Maternal Child Health (FMCH) and Community Financial Resources (CFR)
- ▶ Brighter Beginnings, CFR and *EarnItKeepItSaveIt*
- ▶ Savings Pathway in the San Antonio neighborhood of Oakland



An Economic and Health Justice Symposium

▶ Goals

- ▶ Create a Paradigm Shift to Integrate Health/Wealth Solutions
- ▶ Build Bridges Across Disciplines

▶ Objectives

- ▶ Build Buy-In, Support, and Political Will Among Key Stakeholders and Decision-Makers.
- ▶ Propose Solutions and Formulate Action Steps



References & Resources

- ▶ Adler, Nancy et al. *Reaching for a Healthier Life: Facts on Socioeconomic Status and Health in the US.*
- ▶ Alameda County Public Health Department (May 2008) *Life and death from unnatural causes: Health and social inequity in Alameda County*
- ▶ Building Blocks for Healthy Babies, Healthy Families and Healthy Communities, Alameda County, September 10, 2009 (buildingblocksalamedacounty.wordpress.com)
- ▶ “In Sickness and In Wealth.” Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? Prod. California Newsreel; 2008.
- ▶ Iton, Anthony *Tackling the Root Causes of Health Disparities Through Community Capacity Building* in *Tackling Health Inequities Through Public Health Practice: A Handbook for Action*
- ▶ Jones, Camara Phyllis MD, MPH, PhD, Research Director on Social Determinants of Health in the Division of Adult and Community Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Presentation at www.acphd.org/healthequity
- ▶ Lu, Michael MD, MPH, *David Geffen School of Medicine & UCLA School of Public Health*



Thank You!

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