

Social Determinants of Health Disparities: The CT Health Index

Connecticut Association of Directors of Health
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Assumptions

- Social conditions are major determinants of health
- Social determinants are affected by larger economic, environmental and institutional forces
- Graded relationship exists between socio-economic position and health status

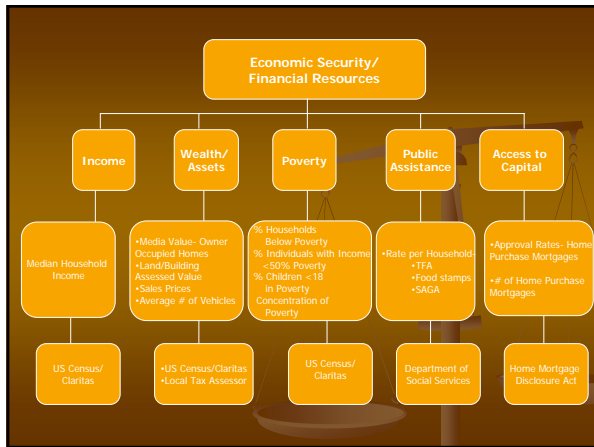
Assumptions Continued

- Index used as instrument to portray overall picture of disparities and inequities that give rise to disparities
- HEI must measure conditions at smallest feasible geographic area
- HEI must serve as stimulus for collective social action and change efforts

Health Equity Index

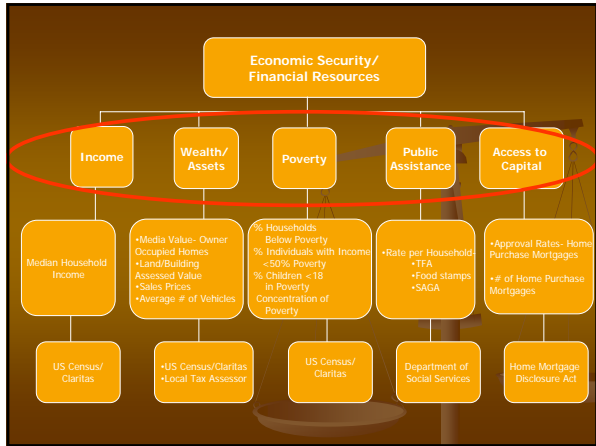
A systematic, identification, quantification and measurement of social determinants that lead to health disparities

- Social Determinants
- Components
- Indicators
 - Core
 - Complementary
- Data Sources



Social Determinants

- Set of Ten Social Determinants
 - Economic Security & Financial Resources
 - Livelihood Security & Employment Opportunity
 - School Readiness & Educational Attainment
 - Environmental Quality
 - Civic Involvement & Political Access
 - Availability & Utilization of Quality Health Care
 - Health
 - Adequate, Affordable & Safe Housing
 - Community Safety & Security
 - Transportation

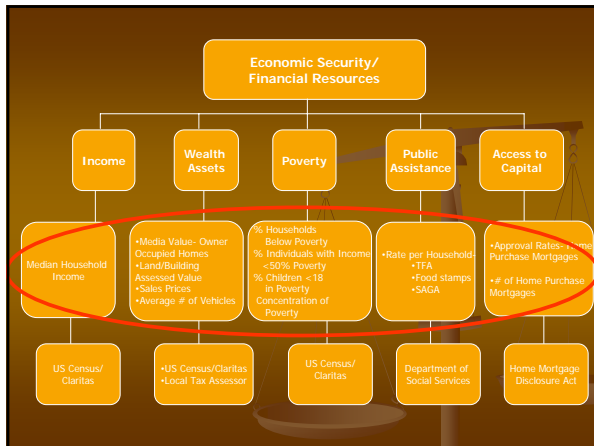


Components

- A set of elements that comprise the respective Social Determinants
- Examples
 - Economic Security & Financial Resources
 - Income
 - Wealth/ Assets
 - Poverty
 - Public Assistance
 - Access to Capital

Indicators

- A measurement used to describe the condition of a population group on a specific characteristic or event.
- Indicator Selection Criteria
 - Core Indicators
 - Proxy Measure
 - Complementary Indicators




- ### Indicator Selection Criteria
- Availability
 - Reliability
 - Validity
 - Measurability
 - Relevance/ action-oriented
 - Capacity to be disaggregated
 - Sensitivity
 - Statistically sound
 - Compelling/ interesting

- ### Types of Indicators:
- #### 1. Core Indicators
- The set of indicators used in the HEI for which reference points and measurement scales have been developed and scoring will be applied

Types of Indicators:
1. Core Indicators

- Social Determinant: Economic Security & Financial Resources
- Component: Wealth/ Assets
- Indicators:
 - Median Value for Specified Owner-occupied Housing
 - Land/ Building Assessed Values
 - Sales Prices of Existing Homes
 - Average Number of Automobiles Available by Household



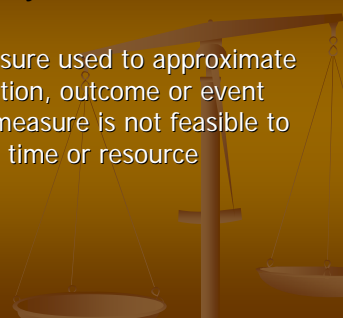
Types of Indicators:
Core Indicators

- Social Determinant: Economic Security & Financial Resources
- Component: Access to Capital
- Indicators:
 - Approval Rate of Home Purchase Mortgage Loan Applications
 - Number of Home Purchase Mortgage Loan Applications
 - Median Dollar Amount of Home Purchase Mortgage Loans Originated Over Two Years



Types of Indicators:
2. Proxy Measures

- A stand-in measure used to approximate an actual condition, outcome or event when a direct measure is not feasible to data collection, time or resource constraints.



Types of Indicators: Proxy Measures

Example

- Access to Quality Health Care
 - Insurance Coverage- "Self pay" code as primary payor source- CHIME
 - Rates of Ambulatory Care Sensitive Hospitalizations- CHIME

Types of Indicators: 3. Complementary Indicators

- Measures used to support further, in-depth analysis of issues raised by the HEI
- Based on systematic observation, and survey and qualitative research
- Observations, perceptions, descriptions

Complementary Indicators

- Urban Environment/ Sanitation
- Nutrition/ Life Style
- Natural Environment
- Political Access & Power
- Social Cohesion
- Stress
- Community Organization
- Work Environment
- Public Transit

Examples of Complementary Indicators

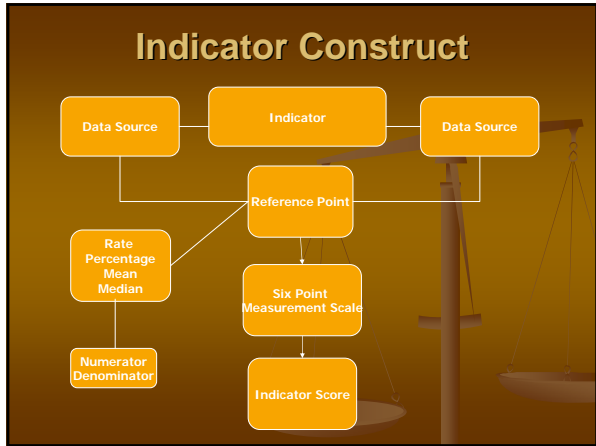
- Urban Environment – Physical Aspects of the Neighborhood
 - “Potential” waste sites, including Brownfields
 - Parks and amount of open space available for recreational use
- Nutrition/ Life Style
 - Supermarkets per capita
 - Billboards advertising liquor or cigarettes
- Transportation
 - Availability of public transportation

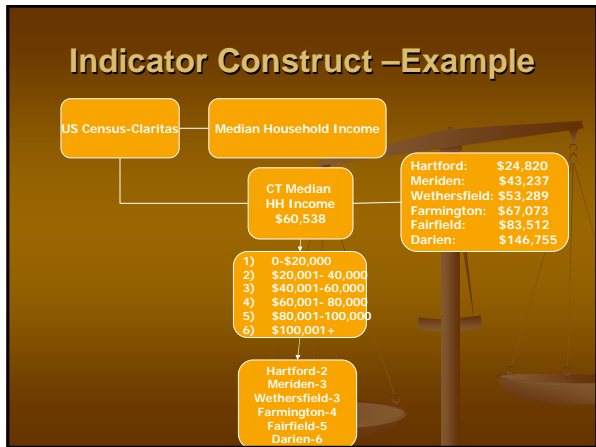
Examples of Complementary Indicators

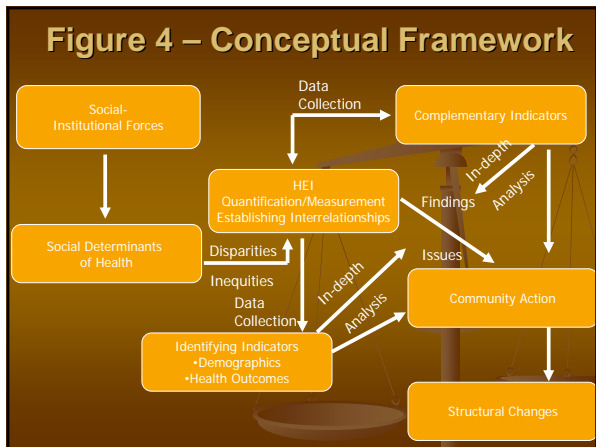
- Political Access and Power
 - Racial/ gender representation in elected office
- Social Cohesion
 - Quality of social relationships/ support network
 - Social control
- Stress
 - Social isolation and exclusion
 - Lack of safety and security
- Work Environment
 - OSHA violations
 - Access to union representation

Complementary Indicators: Limitations

- Subjective – element of error
- Require additional personnel and financial resources
- Lack systematic or consistent data collection, from year to year and community to community
- Problems posed by geographic boundaries
- Difficulties in developing reference points and measurement scales
- Difficulties in making community to community comparisons







Framework of Analysis

Demographic and health outcome measures against which HEI findings will be analyzed

- Demographic: race/ethnicity; gender; age; place of residence; class (educational attainment, income)
- Health Outcomes: incidence or prevalence rates for specified diseases, mortality

Summary: Accomplishments to Date SDHEI Methodology

- Common Meanings for Critical Concepts
- Systematic Methodology
- Identification of Measures of Disparities
- Method of Tying HEI Findings to Health Outcomes
- Method of Pre-testing the SDHEI Instrument
 - 17 Neighborhoods- Hartford
 - 4 Zip Codes- West Hartford

Next Steps

- Complete HEI Development- Core Indicators
- Complete Pre-Testing in Target Cities
- Statistically Test HEI for Reliability/Internal Consistency/Validity
- Selection of Health Outcomes by HEAT

Next Steps (Cont)

- Determine Relationship Between HEI Scores and Demographic Variables and Health Outcomes Through Statistical Analysis
- Complete Development of Complementary Indicators
- Validate HEI with HEAT
- Further Develop Community Engagement Strategies to Implement HEI

Thank you,
and Stay Tuned...
