

A Green New Deal as a Vehicle to End Health Disparities

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Governor Admits He Was in Racist Yearbook Photo



Ralph Shearer Northam



Alma Mater: Virginia Military Institute
Interest: Pediatrics
Quote: There are more old drunks than old doctors in this world so I think I'll have another beer.



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A photograph from the 1984 medical school yearbook page of Mr. Northam showing a person dressed as a member of the Ku Klux Klan and another wearing blackface. Eastern Virginia Medical School

Agenda

- Magnitude of Health Disparities in Colorado
- Health Equity Success Story
- Policy Recommendations
- Promise of the Green New Deal with Respect to Health Outcomes

Pop Quiz

Does infant mortality vary by race?
If so, why?

Data on Infant Mortality in Colorado in 2016

(from the Kaiser Family Foundation)

- Non-Hispanic White 4.0
- African American 11.7
- Hispanic 4.7

Colorado Health Disparities

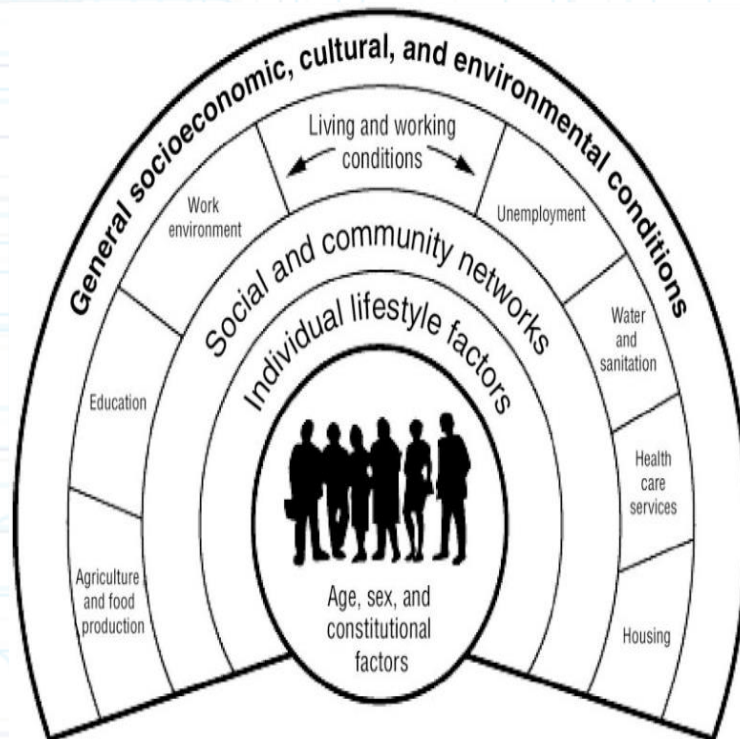
(CO Trust Data)

- Perinatal and infant mortality
- Child and adult obesity
- Child oral health
- Teen fertility
- Diabetes mortality
- Liver disease mortality
- Motor vehicle injury fatality
- Homicide mortality
- Mental health
- Low birth weight
- Suicide
- Cervical cancer incidence and mortality
- Lung cancer incidence and mortality
- Prostate cancer mortality
- Diabetes incidence and mortality
- Infectious disease (HIV, TB, HBV)

Health disparities

- A particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage
- Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on:
 - racial or ethnic group
 - religion
 - socioeconomic status
 - gender
 - age
 - mental health
 - cognitive, sensory, or physical disability
 - sexual orientation or gender identity
 - geographic location
 - other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion

Determinants of health



Complex ecological web of interrelated factors (Braveman et al., 2014)

Genes and healthcare delivery system

20%?

Behaviors 30%?

Social and Environmental Determinants of Health 50%

Loma Linda (CA): a Health Equity Success Story



- A majority minority community in Southern California
- Life expectancy for women is 91
- Life expectancy for men is 89

Families USA Health Equity Policy Agenda

- Payment Systems that Sustain and Reward High-quality Equitable Healthcare
- Investing to Support Safety Net and Small Community Providers in Delivery System Reform
- Building Robust and Well-resourced Community Partnerships
- Ensuring a Transparent and Representative Evidence Base

Families USA Health Equity Policy Agenda

(continued)

- Equity-focused Measurement that Accelerates Reductions in Health Inequities
- Growing a Diverse Healthcare Workforce that Drives Equity and Value

Green New Deal

Five Goals

1 | Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers.

2 | Create millions of good, high wage jobs; and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States.

3 | Invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century.

4 | Secure clean air and water, climate and community resilience, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all.

5 | Promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of frontline and vulnerable communities.

QUESTION

If passed, will the Green New Deal have the statutory teeth to advance a health equity agenda?