



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND EQUITY

At its core, Health in All Policies represents an approach to addressing the social determinants of health, which are the key drivers of health outcomes and health inequities. It is founded in the recognition that public health practitioners must work with partners in the many realms that influence the social determinants of health, which are largely outside the purview of public health agencies.

Health is influenced by the interaction of many factors including:

- Genetics, biology, individual behavior;
- Access and barriers to health care; and
- Social, economic, service, and physical (natural and built) environments.

While clinical care is vitally important, only a small portion (20%) of overall health and longevity can be attributed to clinical care. Social, physical, and economic environments and conditions, collectively referred to as the “social determinants of health”, have a far greater impact on how long and how well people live than medical care. The interaction between health, social factors, and environmental factors is complex.

What Shapes Health?

