How Can Academic Medical Centers and Teaching Hospitals Address the Social Determinants of Health?

Malika Fair, MD, MPH, director, Public Health Initiatives, Diversity Policy and Programs, Association of American Medical Colleges, and Taniece Arceneaux Mallery, PhD, director, Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow up, live, work, age, and receive health care. Academic medical centers and teaching hospitals are uniquely positioned to address these factors and have a powerful impact on the health of communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social determinants of health</th>
<th>Basic Necessities</th>
<th>Built Environment</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Economic Stability</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>• The availability of basic necessities such as healthy food and clean water is vital for the health of communities.</td>
<td>• Gundersen Lutheran Health System has been committed to the health of its communities by working with local restaurants, convenience stores, and other retailers to offer healthy food choices to its community.</td>
<td>• Health is influenced by the safety and physical surroundings of homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces.</td>
<td>• Educational opportunity can lead to positive health outcomes.</td>
<td>• Social connectedness and a sense of community is important to achieving good health.</td>
<td>• Economic factors play a key role in the health of communities.</td>
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<td>• Decreased rates of obesity and increased life expectancy can be partly attributed to better nutrition.</td>
<td>• As a prominent institution within a city challenged with crime, extreme poverty, and poor living conditions, Henry Ford Health System has partnered with several institutions to improve local neighborhoods and develop safe and affordable housing for the residents of Detroit.</td>
<td>• Inadequate housing, dangerous streets, and blighted neighborhoods all have a negative impact on health.</td>
<td>• People with more educational opportunities have better jobs, more affluence, greater health, and improved quality of life.</td>
<td>• Social cohesion, defined as the ability to obtain social support from family, friends, and community members, is associated with lower mortality rates.</td>
<td>• The unemployment rate has an impact on rates of domestic violence, substance abuse, depression, and physical illness.</td>
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References
5. Florida International University. Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP (Health Education Learning Program), which exposes students to the delivery of health care from a family and community perspective that will shape the way they interact with patients for the rest of their careers.3

Author contact: mfair@aamc.org