

Advancing the Role of Neighborhoods in Health

Thursday morning 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

In the US, the reality is that where you live and where you grow up shapes your future outcomes, including health. Our social, economic, and physical environments account for half of the factors that influence a community's health by shaping individual behaviors and increasing or mitigating individual risk factors related to health. Systemic racism and discriminatory policies and practices have shaped these environments, putting additional stressors on low-income communities of color. As a result, we find startling inequities in health outcomes. For example, life expectancy in San Antonio (and many cities) can change by as much as 20 years from one zip code to the next.

NNIP Partners all measure the social determinants of health in their communities and engage with organizations to increase equity and promote better program and policymaking in education, employment, social services, public safety, and housing. Increasingly, Partners are connecting to the public and medical health sectors to add indicators of health to round out a holistic picture of neighborhood well-being.

From the health side, exciting work going on around the country to pull in information about the places people live to predict health risk factors for children and to better connect individuals to the services they need to achieve health. But more progress is needed to connect the institutions and agencies in health to community and policy level efforts happening upstream in the determinants of health.

The purpose of this session is share examples of how NNIP Partners are exchanging data and information as well as fostering understanding of neighborhood context and policy issues with the public health and health care sectors.

This session will be moderated by *Hilary Heishman*, a Senior Program Officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, who is leading RWJF's [Data Across Sectors for Health](#) (DASH) program. Hilary will give a brief overview (5 minutes) of the importance of neighborhoods to health, RWJF's goals for DASH, and her view on how we can work to advance the role of neighborhoods in health. Following Hilary's introduction, we will hear from our three panelists (8-10 minutes each) and then have plenary discussion.

- *Amy Carroll-Scott* from the Urban Health Collaborative at Drexel University will provide framing about how public health and healthcare stakeholders think about neighborhoods and where NNIP partners can contribute value, with examples from their local work in Philadelphia.
- *Laura McKieran* from CI:Now will discuss her work with HASA – a health information exchange (HIE) and the potential value of combining data from an HIE with neighborhood data for community action.

- *Sarah Morgan*, a CountyStat Analyst from Allegheny County, will describe Allegheny's DASH Project and how they collaborated to assemble and publish a set of neighborhood data sources related to cardiovascular disease, including upstream predictors and data from managed care organizations.

Discussion: (30 minutes)

- What types of institutions in the public health and healthcare sectors have you been able to connect with?
- What messages have you found effective for engaging public health and health care institutions in community and policy initiatives to improve neighborhoods?
- What can we do together as a network to increase understanding of neighborhood context among the health sectors and support community-level policies and programs to support a culture of health?

Reference:

Iton, Anthony. 2006. "Tackling the Root Causes of Health Disparities through Community Capacity Building." In *Tackling Health Inequities through Public Health Practice: A Handbook for Action*, edited by Richard Hofrichter. 115-136. Washington DC: The National Association of County & City Health Officials. Available at: http://archived.naccho.org/topics/justice/upload/naccho_handbook_hyperlinks_000.pdf