**SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**

# Social and Community Context: Discrimination, Civic Participation, Incarceration and Social Cohesion

The social and community context understands where people live and includes the relationships formed between individuals and their social and civic connections. Recognizing the connection between people's well-being and the contexts within which they live, learn, work and play, is important to improving quality of lives.

**Discrimination plays out in social and community context. Looking at two levels of discrimination:**

**STRUCTURAL DISCRIMINATION:** Macro level discrimination i.e. residential segregation, health disparities and access to quality education.

**INDIVIDUAL DISCRIMINATION:** The behavior of individual members of one race/ethnic/gender group that is intended to have a differential and/or harmful effect on the members of another race/ethnic/gender group.

*i* **DISCRIMINATION:** 31% of U.S. adults report at least 1 major discriminatory occurrence in their lifetime, and 63% report experiencing discrimination everyday.

## Incarceration has a great impact in social and community context.

In 2018, the imprisonment rate for black persons was more than 5 times the rate for whites. This is an opportune time to consider federal, state and local laws and policies and how they contribute to this phenomenon. Where do opportunities exist that can change this reality and make a difference?

- Half of the people in federal prisons are serving time for a drug offense.
- The number of people in state prisons for drug offences today is 10 times greater than in 1980.
    - African Americans and Latinos constitute 57% of people in state prisons for a drug offense despite the fact that drug use is roughly similar among all racial/ethnic groups.

## WHAT PROVIDERS CAN DO:

Encourage civic participation

- Voting
- Volunteering
- Boy/Girl Scouts
- PTA
- Community Garden

## SIX PRINCIPLES OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

1. Embracing the Gifts of Diversity
2. Realizing the Role of Race, Power, and Injustice
3. Radical Hospitality: Invitation and Listening
4. Trust-Building and Commitment
5. Honoring Dissent and Embracing Protest
6. Adaptability to Community Change

## BENEFITS OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION:

- Increased Social resources
- Positive Mental Health
- Improved Physical Health

## POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS/RESOURCES

- Join local groups working to reform the criminal justice system.
- The Sentencing Project State Contacts. https://www.sentencingproject.org/state-contacts/Supporting children and families affected by parental incarceration.
- Organizations In Support of Children and Families of the Incarcerated
- The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated

## SOCIAL COHESION AND RESILIENCE

- This video provides an excellent example of how social supports contribute significantly to health and well-being.
    - Laura Porter Keynote:  NEAR science and new WA State Resilience Factor Findings
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jr-w_uBCbYY

### References:

Healthy People 2020, (n.d.) Social Determinants of Health: Civic Participation. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/civic-participation

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