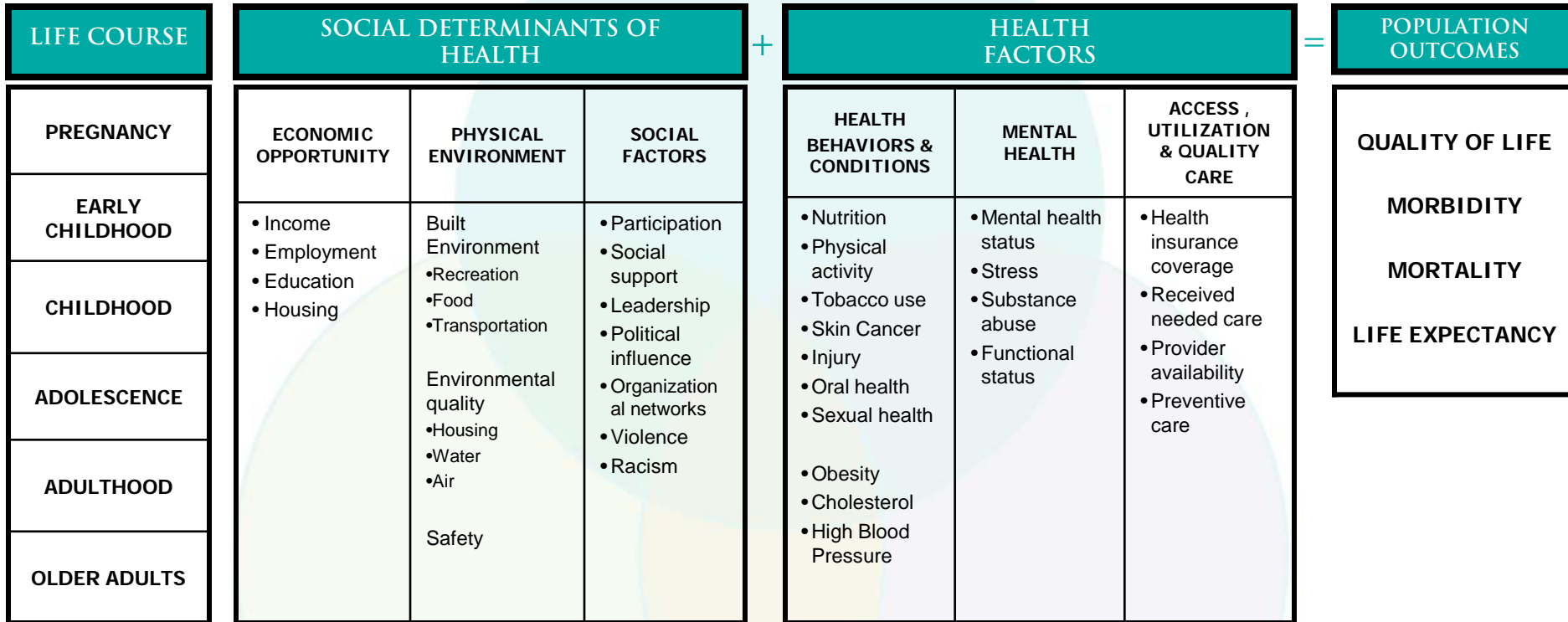


Health Equity

AN EXPLANATORY MODEL FOR CONCEPTUALIZING THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

**NATIONAL INFLUENCES
GOVERNMENT POLICIES
U.S. CULTURE & CULTURAL NORMS**



Public Health's Role in Addressing the Social Determinants of Health

- Advocating for and defining public policy to achieve health equity
- Coordinated interagency efforts
- Creating organizational environments that enable change
- Data collection, monitoring and surveillance
- Population based interventions to address health factors
- Community engagement and capacity building

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

“Social determinants of health are life-enhancing resources, such as food supply, housing, economic and social relationships, transportation, education and health care, whose distribution across populations effectively determines length and quality of life.”

S. James in Promoting Health Equity: A Resource to Help Communities Address Social Determinants of Health, CDC, 2008

Addressing the Social Determinants of Health through Healthy Public Policy to Achieve Health Equity Among All Coloradans

The Public Health System can affect population health outcomes by addressing the SDoH through a life course perspective. By directing attention to how policies can positively change the social determinants of health, how they operate at every level of development and continuing our work on individual factors, changes can be made to Colorado's health outcomes.

Advocating For and Defining Public Policy to Achieve Health Equity

Local and state policy that is focused on the social determinants of health, such as economic development (education & adequate income), community environment (built environment & transportation) and the social factors (social support, leadership and racism), have the greatest effect on making the changes needed to achieve health equity.

Coordinated Interagency Efforts

In order to ensure that awareness and engagement is built around the social determinants of health across all state agencies and public health partners, there must be coordinated interagency efforts. With this engagement comes a stronger voice to make the policy changes necessary to achieve equity.

Creating Supportive Environments to Enable Change

Changes need to happen internally within agencies

because work on the social determinants of health is a shift in the way we currently address public health issues.

Data Collection, Monitoring and Surveillance

The social determinants framework requires that we look for and look at data in new ways. By engaging system partners in data sharing and learning how to appropriately analyze and interpret data from fields such as education, transportation, and housing, the social determinants framework provides a rich and robust view of health. This type of data synthesis will lead to a deeper understanding of the many issues that ultimately affect the health and health behaviors of people in families, neighborhoods and communities.

Population Based Interventions to Address Individual Factors

Although addressing the social determinants of health means working more deliberately on the previously mentioned areas, population based interventions of the current public health system are still needed.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building

Community members must be engaged and informed in order to move policy change forward. Communities are the most important participants in identifying the problem and educating decision makers on changes that can benefit all. With proper support, such as knowledge, skills and tools, communities can champion solutions that result in long term changes to the social determinants of health.

SUMMARY

Policies at the state and local level must include more equitable distribution of economic opportunity, community empowerment and positive social factors. Changes need to occur that create a system supportive of this policy perspective, including a more comprehensive set of data indicators, leading to greater coordinated interagency efforts and community support.