

Structural vs Social Determinants of Health and Social Risk vs Social Needs of Health: Precision Matters for Accountability for Effective Change

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When Talking About Social Determinants, Precision Matters

[Katie Green](#), [Megan Zook](#)

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Public health experts have aptly [expressed concern](#) about the health care industry's characterization of interventions as addressing "the social determinants of health" and have [pointed out](#) the limitations of over-medicalizing individuals' social needs rather than investing in upstream community interventions. Acknowledging this concern and seeking greater internal consistency, the Health Care Transformation Task Force (the Task Force)—a coalition of payers, purchasers, providers, and patients committed to embracing value-based payment

Conceptual Framework for Health Systems Interventions: Distinctions among Structural Determinants of Health, Social Determinants of Health, Social Risk Factors and Social Needs

- “Health Care Industry’s characterization of interventions as addressing Social Determinants of Health ..over-medicalizing individuals social needs rather than **investing in upstream community health interventions**”
- Difference between determinants vs risk and sectors of engagement vs immediate needs of individuals—Health Care Transformation Task Force-payers, purchasers, providers, patients interested in **value based payment models**
- Work Of Hugh Alderwick & Laura M Gottlieb (2019), Crear-Perry et al (2021) WHO (2010)



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QUARTERLY ARTICLE

Meanings and Misunderstandings: A Social Determinants of Health Lexicon for Health Care Systems



Social and Structural Determinants of Health Inequities in Maternal Health

Joia Crear-Perry , Rosaly Correa-de-Araujo, Tamara Lewis Johnson, Monica R. McLemore, Elizabeth Neilson, and Maeve Wallace

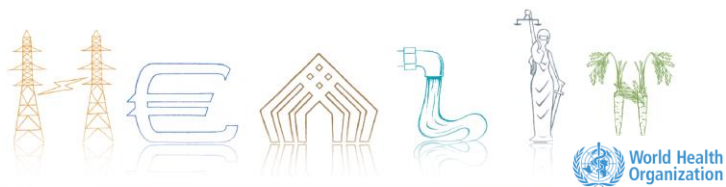
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Abstract

Since the World Health Organization launched its commission on the social determinants of health (SDOH) over a decade ago, a large body of research has proven that social determinants—defined as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age—are significant drivers of disease risk and susceptibility within clinical care and public health systems. Unfortunately, the term has lost meaning within systems of care because of misuse and lack of context. As many disparate health outcomes remain, including higher risk of maternal mortality among Black women, a deeper understanding of the SDOH—and what forces underlie their distribution—is needed. In this article, we will expand our review of social determinants of maternal health to include the terms “structural determinants of health” and “root causes of inequities” as we assess the literature on this topic. We hypothesize that the addition of structural determinants and root causes will



A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2



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A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health

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WHO TEAM

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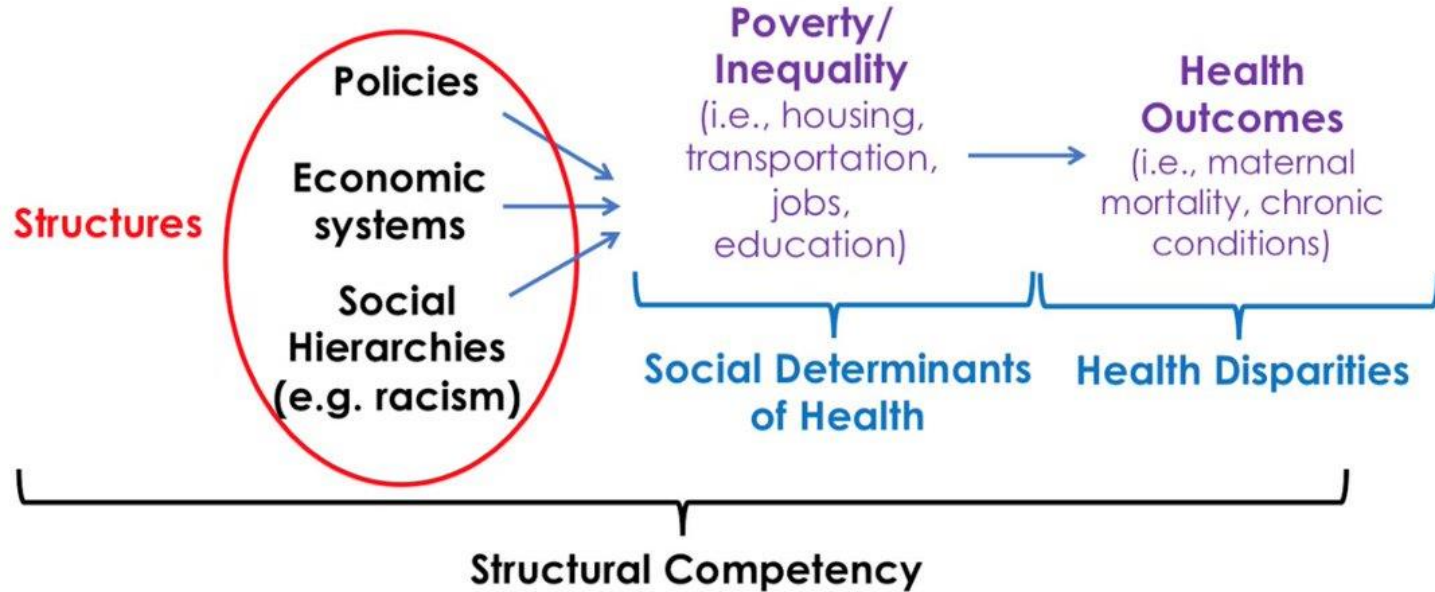
Structural Determinants of Health Distinct Difference from Social Determinants of Health

- Are the social and political mechanisms that operate
- Structural determinants include the governing processes, economic and social policies that can affect everything from sick leave policy to housing or education which are the intermediary step to unequal distribution of power, prestige and resources
- Structural Determinant interventions are often marked by the ability to be transformative agency, to intervene in events in a manner that alters the course of the events (not an individual). We think of the federal government, the supreme court and others having the capacity to change the course of events by the agency of others

Structural Determinants of Health Distinct Difference from Social Determinants of Health

- Power over or power to bring about change in the agency of actions
- Think of this as the “context which encompasses a broad set of structural, cultural and functional aspects of a social system which then influences social stratification”---these contextual issues tend to generate, configure and maintain social hierarchies (e.g. labor market, educational system and political institutions) they CREATE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (education, occupation...populations for whom they occupy particular social stratification in society)

Structural Competency



“Structural determinants of the social determinants of health”

Social Risk vs Social Need

- Social risk is the manifestation of social determinants of health at an individual level. Some use the term social vulnerability to indicate that those things we know with certainty if they become worst have bad health outcomes—food insecurity, housing instability, utility needs, IPV, transportation, paying medical bills...

Social Risk vs Social Need

- Screening by health care practices to try and prevent rather than to focus on just curative approaches and encourage innovation within the context of value-based payment models
- Social needs—diverse and vary but quality of life, finances, access to healthy food, social connections, housing.....

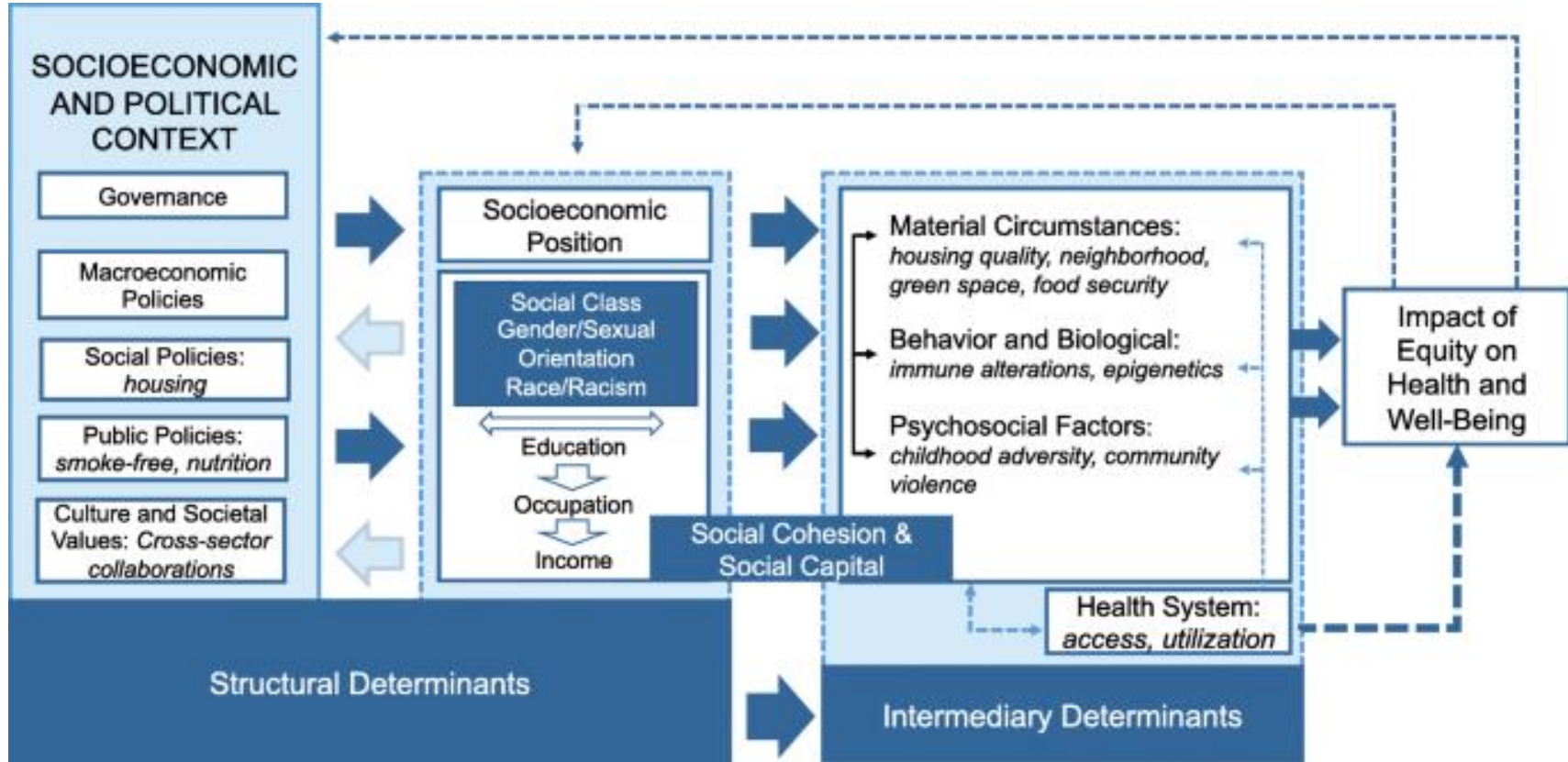
ASPE's Second Report to Congress on the Role of Social Risk in Medicare's Value-Based Purchasing Programs

Rachael Zuckerman
Office of Health Policy, ASPE

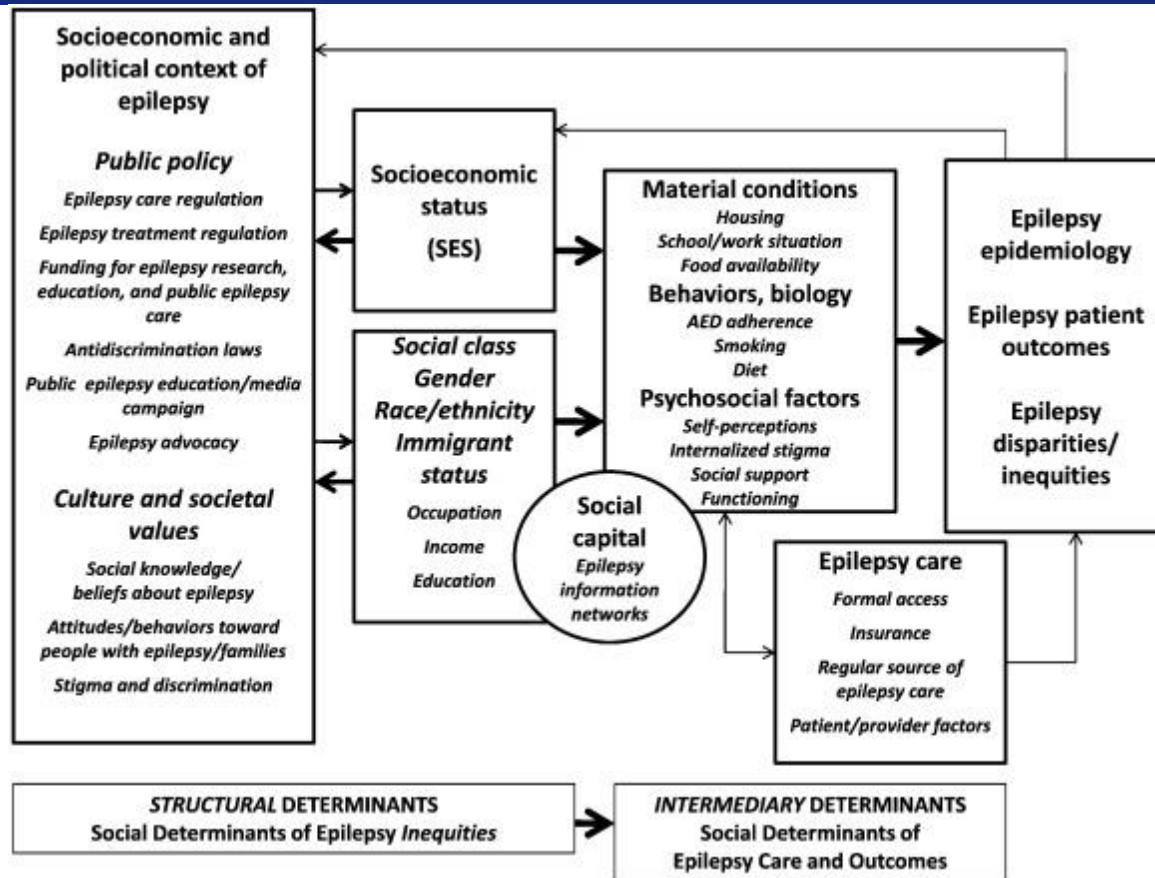


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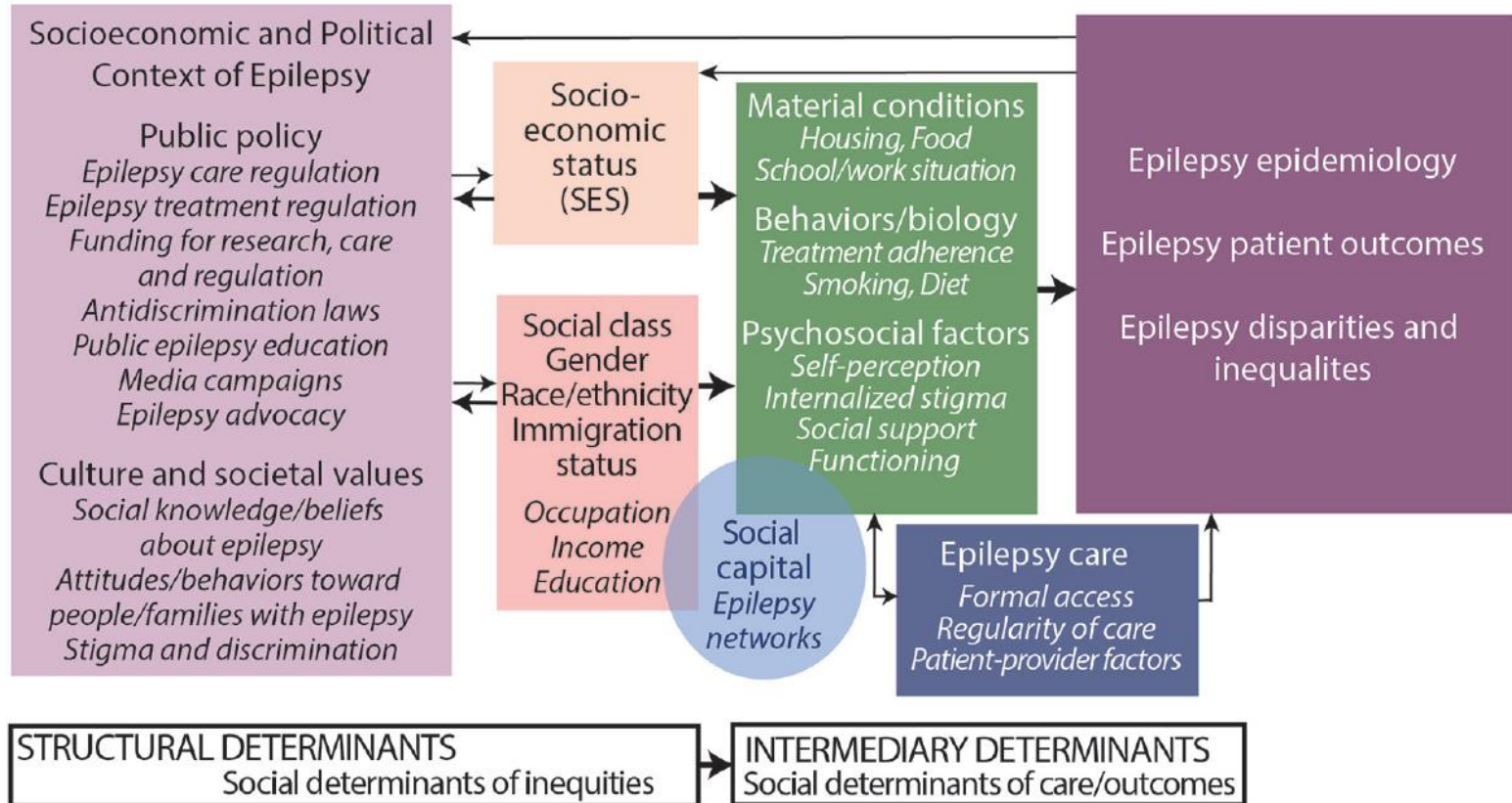
Structural and Social Determinants of Health in Asthma



Social Determinants of Health in Epilepsy



Social Determinants of Health Interact with Epilepsy



Federal Level Innovation—Structural Interventions

- Medicare Advantage –ability to offer chronically ill non-medical benefits such as transportation to doctor visits, pharmacies, home improvements
- Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2019---interagency advisory council to identify opportunities for state and locals to coordinate with feds on their programs, build more community partnerships, increase uptake of interventions in high-need Medicaid patients (homeless, nursing home residents...)
- Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 or the IMPACT Act (P.L. 113-185), requires the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), to conduct research on issues related to social risk in Medicare's value-based payment programs.

What Is the Best Strategy for Social Determinants of Health Screens?

Using community-based data does not provide a granular view of social risk, whereas individualized social determinants of health screens do.



Do Patients Want Help Addressing Social Risks?

*Emilia H. De Marchis, MD, MAS, Hugh Alderwick, BA, and
Laura M. Gottlieb, MD, MPH*

Evaluations of health care–based screening programs for social risks often report that a relatively small proportion of patients screening positive for social risk factors are interested in receiving assistance from their health care teams to address them. The relatively low number of patients who desire assistance is relevant to the growing number of initiatives in US health care settings designed to collect data on and address patients' social risks. We highlight multiple studies that have found differences between positive