HEALTH EQUITY AND STILLBIRTH

Stillbirth Summit
June 21, 2017
Star Legacy Foundation
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Objectives

• Relate the concept of health equity to poor pregnancy outcomes.
• Investigate the impact that lack of health equity has on stillbirth rates.
• Discuss how the concept of health equity may be considered in future initiatives and programming to reduce stillbirths.
• Recommend priorities to address health equity related to stillbirth.
• Discuss what health equity could be incorporated into the work you are doing in your agency, practice or community.
• Discuss action steps you might take in your community to begin this process.

What determines health?

• 30% of health is determined by health care.
• Health services
  • "Access" vs access
• 70% of the factors that determine health can be attributed to social determinants of health

Gilbert C. Gee @ Discrimination in Health Care: What Can be done? University of Minnesota, April 8, 2016
Disparity

- Health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.

What is health equity?

Health equity refers to the study and causes of differences in the quality of health and healthcare across different populations. Health equity is different from health equality, as it refers only to the absence of disparities in controllable or remediable aspects of health.

How do we achieve health equity?

- We value all people equally.
- We optimize the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, learn and age.
- We work with other sectors to address the factors that influence health, including employment, housing, education, health care, public safety and food access.
- We name racism as a force in determining how these social determinants are distributed.

American Public Health Association

https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/health-equity
Why do we want to achieve health equity?

Ted talk by Richard Wilkinson

Inequality in Birth Outcomes

[Image of a graph showing income inequality and trust levels in the USA]

World Inequality vs. Infant Mortality, 2012

[Graph showing relationship between income inequality and infant mortality rates across different countries]

http://inequality.org/inequality-health/#sthash.yzGZuSaW.dpuf
State of the Union

Inequity and IMR/IMR by Race

- http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/Bar/21-infant-mortality-by-race?loc=1&loct=2#1/any/false/36/10,11,9,12,1,13/284

The Cost of Stillbirth
Cost of Racial Disparities in Health

- Excess death and human life lost
- Days away from work
- Excess health care expenses

Harvard Business Review @https://hbr.org/2015/10/the-costs-of-racial-disparities-in-health-care

Costs of Lack of Health Equity

Harvard Business Review @https://hbr.org/2015/10/the-costs-of-racial-disparities-in-health-care
Five Principles for Eliminating Racial Disparities

• Provide insurance coverage and access to high-quality care for all Americans.
• Promote a diverse health care workforce.
• Deliver patient-centered care.
• Maintain accurate, complete race and ethnicity data to monitor disparities in care.
• Set measurable goals for improving quality of care, and ensure that goals are achieved equitably for all racial and ethnic groups.


Make a mole hill out of a mountain...
Ending Preventable Stillbirths: A Call to Action in High-income Countries

- Stillbirth rates vary across high-income countries (HICs) from 1.3 to 8.8 per 1000 total births
- Reduction in stillbirths is possible in HIC

A Call to Action in High-income Countries

- Improvements in data collection, investigation, classification and understanding of causal pathways
- Setting and monitoring targets in all HICs to reduce preventable stillbirths.
- Substandard care contributes to 20-30% of all stillbirths; even more to late gestational intrapartum stillbirths
- Reduce stigma and improve bereavement care

Infant Mortality Rate by State

- [http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/infant-death-rate/#map](http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/infant-death-rate/#map)
Call to Action

- Social determinants of maternal and fetal wellbeing should be:
  - monitored in all high income countries (by home visiting nurses)
  - addressed through education and alleviation of poverty
  - improved access to health care, especially timely, culturally appropriate antenatal care.

Call to Action: Star Legacy Recommendations to Practitioners

Women from high risk populations benefit from being:

- Monitored as high-risk pregnancies
- Educated about their risk factors for poor pregnancy outcomes and how to reduce those risks
- Carefully listened to and counseled as high-risk pregnancies
- Provided quality prenatal care

Propose two ways the concept of health equity could be incorporated into the work you are currently doing or want to do in the future.

Discuss action steps you might take in your community to begin this process.

In summary…
Questions/Comments

Bibliography

- Unnatural Causes: http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/media_and_documents_video.php


<table>
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<th>Additional Resources</th>
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| - TED how inequality harms societies  
| - Investing in the Healthiest Nation  
| - Sick Around the World.  