Advancing a Culture of Health and Equity: Current RWJF Approaches

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Our vision is that we, as a nation, will strive together to build a Culture of Health enabling all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now and for generations to come.
WHAT IS HOLDING THE U.S. BACK?
$3.3 Trillion
Annual health care expenditure in the U.S.

Close to 18% of U.S. GDP
Highest percentage spent on health care in the world.

$10,348
Per capita public spending on health care in the U.S.
Shifting to Focus on Health, Broadly

RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America

Building a Culture of Health

2014 President’s Message
Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA, President & Chief Executive Officer

Time to Act: Investing in the Health of Our Children and Communities

Recommendations From the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America
WHERE YOU LIVE AFFECTS HOW LONG YOU LIVE
CULTURE OF HEALTH ACTION FRAMEWORK

ACTION AREA 1
Making Health a Shared Value

ACTION AREA 2
Fostering Cross-Sector Collaboration to Improve Well-Being

ACTION AREA 3
Creating Healthier, More Equitable Communities

ACTION AREA 4
Strengthening Integration of Health Services and Systems

OUTCOME
Improved Population Health, Well-Being, and Equity
Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination & their consequences – including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs, education, housing, environments, and health care.

- Working definition prepared by Paula Braveman, MD, MPH
Barriers to Health and Well-being

- Residential segregation
- Housing affordability crisis
- Poverty
- Lack of access to healthy foods
- Poor air quality
- Lack of adequate educational systems
- Community policing concerns
- And many more
What does Progress look like for Culture of Health?

**NARRATIVE**
Changing national discourse on health and well-being (values and priorities)

**ACTION**
Changing how we invest (national and federal budgets, workforce development)

**ASSESSMENT**
Changing what we measure (our approach to research, our use of data, etc.)
Nearly one-fifth of all Americans live in neighborhoods that make it hard to be healthy.
East Lake Meadows Public Housing
Atlanta, GA
Villages of East Lake
Atlanta, GA

> $200 M private investment

- Crime ↓
- Violent crime ↓
- Employment ↑
- Student performance ↑
Five major hospitals in Portland, Oregon, and a low-income, nonprofit health plan are donating a combined $21.5 million toward the construction of nearly 400 housing units for the city's homeless population.

6 Portland health providers give $21.5M for homeless housing
Signature Research Programs

- E4A: Evidence for Action
- HD4A: Health Data for Action
- P4A: Policies for Action
- S4A: Systems for Action
Universal Basic Income Evaluation
The University of Tennessee – Knoxville College of Social Work is conducting a mixed-methods evaluation on the impacts of the country’s first city-led guaranteed income pilot on financial security, civic engagement, health, wellness, and other outcomes on the lives of Stockton, CA residents.

Building Researchers’ Capacity
E4A conducted an 18-month matching service pilot with Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to test whether promising, but initially unsuccessful applicants from community organizations can be matched with a researcher to submit a stronger proposal.
• Cornell University is testing the effect of a messaging intervention on mindsets, expectations, and civic engagement related to early childhood development policies.

• The project features two randomized, controlled trials—one among the general public and one among state legislators—to test the effects of values-based policy messages on these outcomes over time and under competition from opposing viewpoints.

• Findings will offer clear guidance for strategic messaging to promote these policies.
• Our goal is to generate insights from valuable, and often, hard-to-access, data to inform health and related policies.

• A recent Call for Proposals offered access to datasets from athenaHealth or the Health Care Cost Institute.

• A research team from Emory University is evaluating how opioid prescribing patterns vary across different pediatric surgical procedures and whether pediatric patients exhibit persistent opioid acquisition three months after surgery. The results could lead to increased standardization of practice and more appropriate opioid prescribing.
How may a return to a more personalized delivery of health care services improve health outcomes?

- Dr. David Meltzer, University of Chicago
- Randomized Control Trial
- After one year, patients in the intervention group:
  - Had 20% fewer hospitalizations
  - Reduced own medical expenses by $800
  - Shortened hospital stays by ½ day
U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Projects

- Life expectancy at birth is the first public health outcome measure available nationwide at the census tract level
  - Census tract-level data can help leaders, advocates, residents create healthier communities
  - 2010-2015 data

- In Kansas…
  - 723 Kansas census tracts
  - Life expectancy ranges from 62.5 years (Wyandotte County) to 89.7 years (Gray County)

Opioids

- RWJF released a CFP in June to support evaluation of innovative community-based projects to understand the impact of multi-sectoral approaches across public health, social services, health care, behavioral health, justice, and other community-based settings to prevent and treat opioid misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD) within effected communities.

- Through evaluation of existing approaches or programs and broad dissemination, the CFP will enable communities to learn with and from one another as they work to address the opioid epidemic and the inequities facing diverse populations across this nation.
Health and Climate Solutions Program

- Climate change magnifies the inequities that prevent all people from having a fair opportunity to live a healthier life
- RWJF is funding assessments of community-driven approaches that address the nexus between health and climate change, with an explicit focus on reducing health inequities
Shifting the Health Services Research (HSR) Paradigm

• Goal: to move HSR beyond its focus on health care policy to assume a broader view on health and well-being that corresponds to the Culture of Health

• Why: the current paradigm of scientific inquiry is increasingly inconsistent with advances inside the research enterprise and in society at-large

• How: by convening a learning community of new researchers and thought leaders who can disrupt, redesign, test, and refine key components of the research ecosystem
Exploring New Frontiers of Health Equity Research will be a collaborative learning exchange with researchers, community leadership, and funders to advance health equity research that promotes evidence-based, actionable solutions to achieve health equity.

Health research has expanded from measuring health disparities to investigating broader efforts to foster health equity. New research questions explore the health impacts of bias and racism, cross-sectoral factors that cause inequity, and collaboration with communities to find solutions. How can new research, methods, and strategies inform funders’ understandings of what it will take to achieve health equity?
Later this year we will launch an equity-driven national program that will create pathways for professional development for faculty and researchers from historically underrepresented backgrounds.

The objective is to challenge and shift the conditions and contexts where researchers conduct their work, in order to support their professional development and skills in health equity research.

This program builds off a decade-long RWJF program, started in 2005, that has supported over 130 junior and mid-career diverse professionals, and has fostered a network of more than 830 researchers from historically disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.
Measuring Well-Being in the City of Santa Monica

Overall State of Community Wellbeing

**COMMUNITY**
How strong is the sense of community & connection?
- strong local networks
- civic engagement
- community identity

**PLACE + PLANET**
Does the built + natural environmental support & promote wellbeing?
- mobility options
- quality & access
- pride in place
- natural environment

**LEARNING**
Do people have the opportunity to enrich their knowledge & skill sets across their lifespan?
- learning status
- learning behaviors
- access

**HEALTH**
How healthy is Santa Monica?
- physical & mental health status
- access
- healthy behaviors

**OPPORTUNITY**
Can a diverse population live & thrive in Santa Monica?
- affordability
- opportunity
- business diversity

Sample Measures...
- voter participation rates
- volunteering
- public safety
- frequency of social contact
- sense of community & neighborhood identity

Sample Measures...
- public & active transit use
- green & open space access
- shared/community space access
- healthy ecosystems
- satisfaction with transit
- perceptions of place & community assets

Sample Measures...
- patrons & service usage
- graduation & literacy rates
- learning activity participation rates
- sense of accomplishment & opportunities to learn

Sample Measures...
- chronic disease rates
- emergency response calls
- health-promoting activity participation rates
- physical activity & healthy eating habits
- work-life balance

Sample Measures...
- income & employment
- housing affordability
- business diversity
- sense of economic security
- satisfaction with mix of businesses

Image Source: The Wellbeing Index (The Santa Monica Office of Civic Wellbeing)
Ongoing Challenges for Well-Being Driven Policies in the U.S.

- Structural and policy barriers that reflect structural racism and amplify health inequities
- Reluctance to address threats of climate change, including adverse weather events and extreme heat, on the ability for communities to thrive
- Impacts of gentrification and residential segregation on housing affordability in cities
- Health and well-being concerns related to deaths of despair (opioids)
- Marginalization of indigenous populations
Encouraging Trends and Innovations at Local and Regional Levels

• There is promise in:
  • Committed and innovative local government
  • Increasing trust and transparency in decision-making processes
  • Fostering new and additional cross-sector collaborations
  • Authentically engaging community residents in policies and programs
  • Generating and leveraging representative community-level data
  • Well being metrics and related governmental policies
Knowledge Building and Culture of Health

Contact me at aplough@rwjf.org

Learn more about RWJF investments and funding opportunities at rwjf.org