

## **Determinants of Health**

“Conditions in the social, physical, and economic environment in which people are born, live, work, and age. They consist of policies, programs, and institutions and other aspects of the social structure, including the government and private sectors, as well as community factors.”

## **Social Determinants of Health**

Education, income, early life experiences, housing, work, community, race/ethnicity, economy

Examples:

- Availability of resources to meet daily needs (i.e., safe housing)
- Exposure to crime, violence and social disorder
- Social norms and attitudes (i.e., discrimination, racism)
- Socioeconomic conditions (i.e., concentrated poverty)
- Language/Literacy
- Availability of jobs that pay a living wage

## **Increasing Disparities in the U.S. tied to the social determinants of health**

- Strongly associated with social environment (education, job opportunities, etc...)
- High health care expenses impact poor people at a rate 5 times that of high-income earners
- From 2000 - 2007, infants born to black women are 1.5 to 3 times more likely to die than those born to women of other races and ethnicities
- In 2009, the age-adjusted death rate for non-Hispanic blacks was nearly 27% higher than that of non-Hispanic whites
- Hispanics are almost twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to die from diabetes

## **Examples in Salt Lake County**

- Areas of lower income are also areas of lower education, higher minority populations, and poorer health status
- Poorer health status in these areas includes:
  - Lower life expectancy (74.5 years compared to 79.8 years for County)
  - Increased adolescent birth rate (55.7 compared to 27.3 for County)
  - Increased asthma hospitalizations (10.8 compared to 7.2 for County)
  - Higher cholesterol (37.1% compared to 26% for County)
  - Diabetes hospitalization (15.4 compared to 10.1 for County)
  - More overweight/obesity (79.8% compared to 58.2% for County)
  - Less physical activity (40.4% compared to 60.5% for County)
  - More smoking (19.2% compared to 12.0% for County)