

Assessing Social Determinants of Health in COVID -19 Vaccinations - Community Outreach Project

E. Wojtaszek, H. Ayoub, A. Haffar, L. Kats, Y. Rajwana, K. Gyekye J. Depasquale, S. Khera, M. Daw
JCMC-RWJBarnabas Health, Jersey City, NJ, United States

Covid-19 Vaccination in populations at high risk

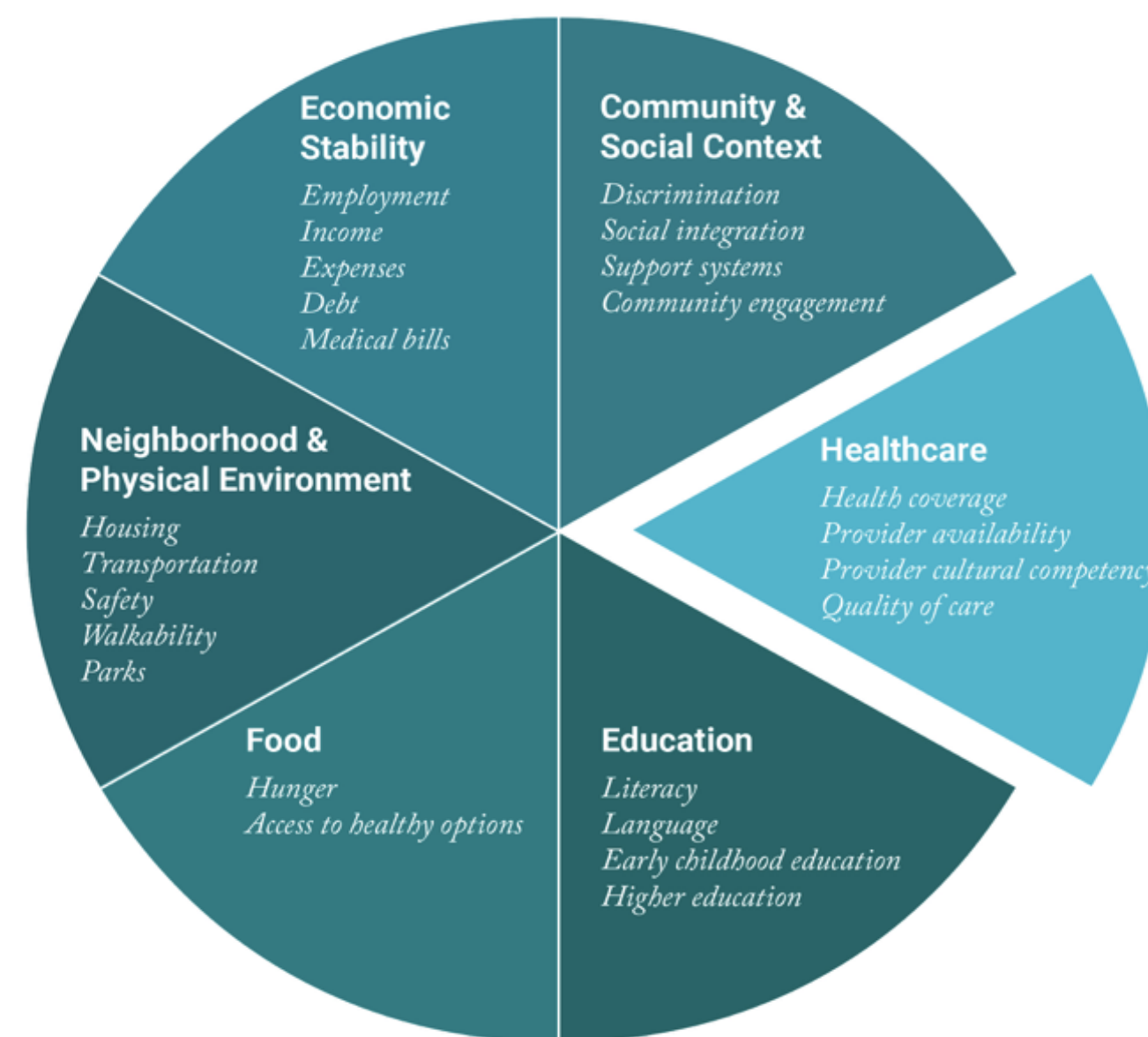
- Disproportionate risk of COVID-19 illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths is linked to systemic socio-economic disparities and resultant underlying conditions.
- Strategies to reach the underserved and marginalized populations who represent the highest risk for mortality have been only partially successful.
- An equitable COVID-19 immunization program is paramount to prioritizing these populations to receive vaccines in order to mitigate health inequities.
- Systemic social injustices and social determinants of health (SDOH) were identified as a major hurdle in equitable vaccine roll-out in our community.

At Risk Populations

- The populations most affected by SDOH include ethnic minorities with low socioeconomic status, elderly and disabled.

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

SDOH include economic stability, social and community context, health and access to health care, education, food, neighborhood, and built environment.



SDOH issues impact about 70% of health care outcomes which supports the argument that it's not the genetic code, it's the zip code (1).

Methods

- Existing resources of the organization's Population Health and Community Outreach Department will be implemented.
- CDC Community-Based COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit will be used.
- Social Determinant of Health Index (SDOHI) to target COVID-19 Vaccination to the most vulnerable will be applied.
- Vaccine adoption rate Pre-Intervention and Post-Intervention in each of the SDOH categories listed above will be measured.
- Project will be carried out during the period of September 2021 to December 2021 to achieve maximal vaccine penetration in the most vulnerable populations and the consequent dual-risk of Influenza and COVID-19 resurfacing in the community will be monitored.
- Implementation of a repeat Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle from January 2021 to March 2021 based on emerging vaccine guidelines for COVID-19.

Objectives

- To measure vaccine acceptance and completion rate in the most vulnerable members of the community based on SDOH and implementing strategies to reduce the impact of health inequities.

Reference

- (1) Rose, J. Contributor: It's the Zip Code, Not the Genetic Code—The Need for an Equitable Vaccination Strategy. AJMC, Feb 15, 2021