

Health Disparities in Children: A Lasting Legacy

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Health disparities in children are particularly troubling. Gaps in health status and access to the elements of a healthy lifestyle for children can be influenced by geography, economic conditions, and race/ethnicity.

Many health problems that begin in childhood have a lifelong impact. Disparities in health and health care contribute to lasting effects on the population's well-being.

All children deserve to live in a physically and emotionally healthy environment that nurtures growth and provides equitable access to treatment and care when needed.



An appreciation for a clean and healthy environment begins at an early age.

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Inner-city kids, particularly African Americans, suffer disproportionately from asthma. Staying indoors and curtailing everyday activities becomes a way of life.



Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), Medicaid's comprehensive prevention and screening program, is instrumental in early identification and treatment of health problems, so kids can be ready to succeed in school.



Access to care is more than insurance coverage. It's negotiating bus schedules, office policies, and caregivers' perceptions of who you are.



Intensive home visitation programs for low-income, at risk, and often teenaged mothers and their infants are having a positive impact on child well-being.



The number of ethnic minorities in the health care professions is woefully inadequate in this country.



The nutritional status of our nation's children has taken a dramatic turn for the worse, with an increase in childhood obesity, poor food choices at school, and many children living in households without adequate food.



Multilingual signs are turning up in health care and social agencies as the population becomes increasingly diverse.



A “village” of healthy, thriving children is everyone’s responsibility.