



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION
Commission to Build a Healthier America

Beyond Health Care: The Intersection of Housing and Health

National Healthy Housing Policy Summit
Washington, DC
May 7, 2009



America's Health Crisis



- Some of us can expect to live an average of 20 years less than others, depending on our race, income and education, and where we live
- We spend more than \$2 trillion/year on health care, yet:
 - In life expectancy and infant mortality, the US ranks near the bottom in comparison with other industrialized nations
- Poor health limits the productivity of our citizens
- Many health gaps have not decreased in more than a generation
 - Some gaps have grown larger
- Within each racial and ethnic group, lower-income adults have higher rates of poor or fair health than their more affluent counterparts



Commission Leadership



Mark McClellan

Physician and economist who helped develop and then effectively implemented Medicare prescription drug benefit. Former CMS Administrator (2004) and FDA Commissioner (2002). Director of the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform, Senior Fellow in Economic Studies and Leonard D. Schaeffer Director's Chair in Health Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution.



Alice M. Rivlin

Former U.S. Cabinet official, and an expert on the budget. First woman to hold the position of Director of the Office of Management and Budget and was founding director of the Congressional Budget office. Currently, Director of Greater Washington Research Program at Brookings Institution.



Commissioners



Katherine Baicker
Professor of Health Economics, Department of Health Policy and Management,
Harvard University



Angela Glover Blackwell
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, PolicyLink



Sheila P. Burke
Faculty Research Fellow and Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy, Kennedy School of
Government, Harvard University



Linda M. Dillman
Executive Vice President of Benefits and Risk Management, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.



Sen. Bill Frist
Schultz Visiting Professor of International Economic Policy, Princeton University



Allan Golston
U.S. Program President, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Commissioners



Kati Haycock
President, The Education Trust



Hugh Panero
Co-Founder and Former President and Chief Executive Officer, XM Satellite Radio



Dennis Rivera
Chair, SEIU Healthcare



Carole Simpson
Leader-in-Residence, Emerson College School of Communication and Former Anchor,
ABC News



Jim Towey
President, Saint Vincent College



Gail L. Warden
Professor, University of Michigan School of Public Health and
President Emeritus, Henry Ford Health System



Commission Objectives

Raise awareness and identify areas for action by:

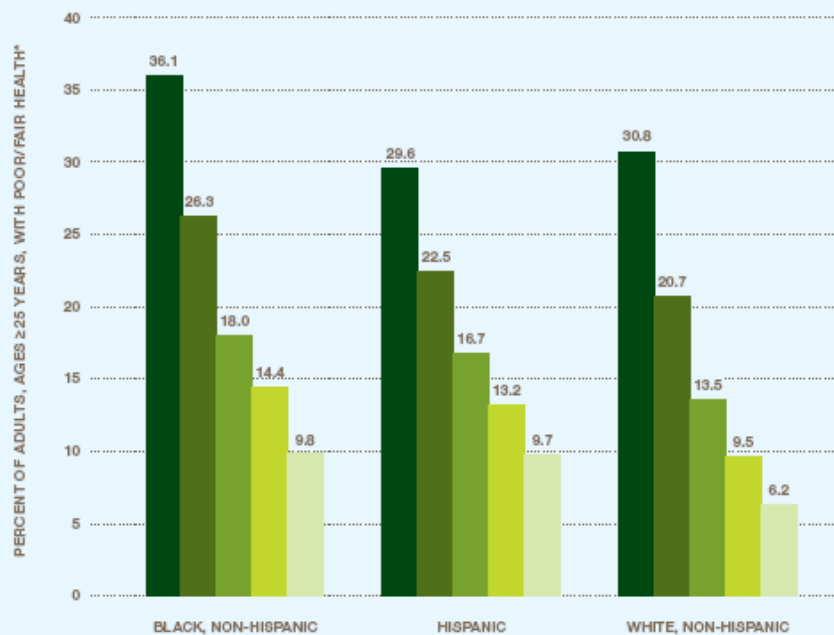
- Address work to decision-makers in public and private sector
 - Reach non-traditional allies and advocates for social and policy changes
 - Make academic research on social inequalities more accessible to policy makers
 - Conduct work in a nonpartisan fashion
 - Recommend solutions that are sustainable, flexible and relevant
-



Socioeconomic and racial or ethnic differences are closely linked

Income Is Linked With Health Regardless of Racial or Ethnic Group

figure 7b Differences in health status by income do not simply reflect differences by race or ethnicity; differences in health can be seen within each racial or ethnic group. Both income and racial or ethnic group matter.



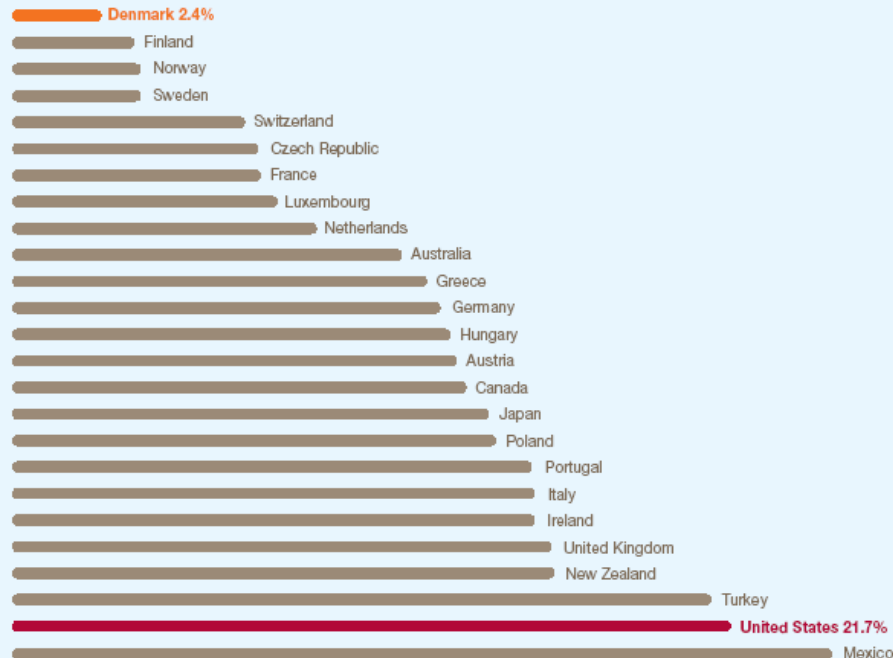
- These patterns – for health status but seen across a wide range of health conditions -- tell us that both income and race are important for health and health disparities.



The U.S. has a higher proportion of its population – and particularly of its children – living in poverty than most other affluent countries

More Child Poverty in America

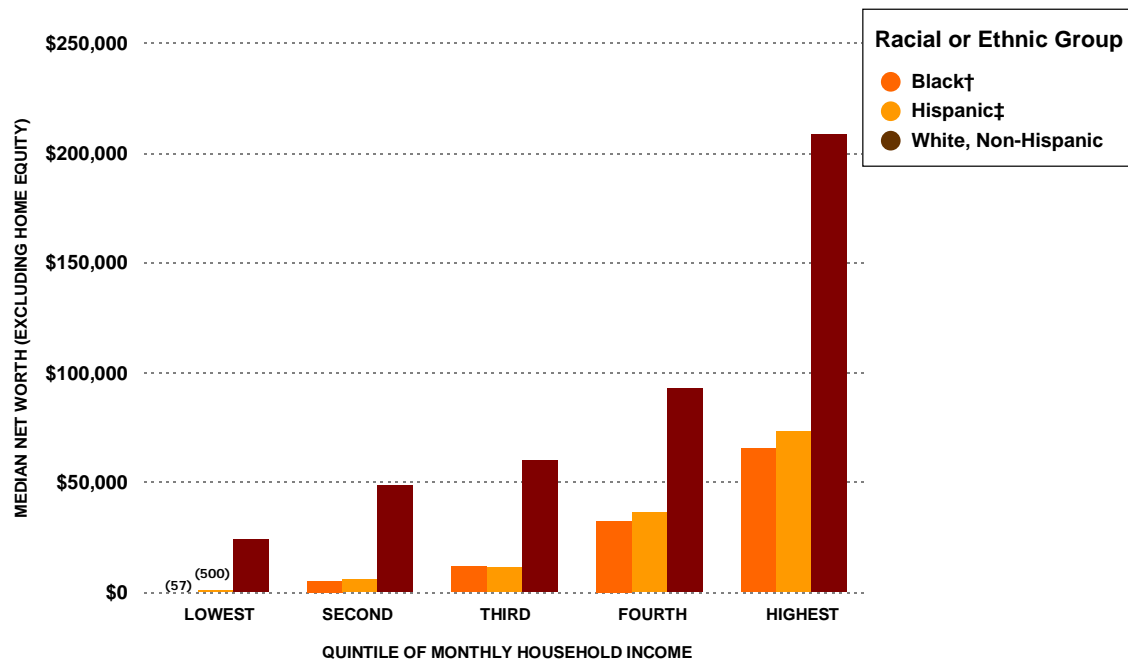
figure 11 The U.S. has higher rates of child poverty* than many other countries. In 2000, one-fifth of American children were poor—a proportion that was nine times higher than in Denmark.





At each level of income, Blacks and Hispanics have far less accumulated wealth than whites.

Figure 7. At every income level, blacks and Hispanics have less accumulated wealth than whites.



†Report does not indicate whether Blacks are non-Hispanic

‡Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race

Source: Braveman PA et al. Socioeconomic status in health research: One size does not fit all. *JAMA*, 294(22), 2005. Based on US Census Bureau Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2000.



The Commission's Recommendations

A twin philosophy: Good health requires personal responsibility and a societal commitment to remove the obstacles preventing too many Americans from leading healthy lives



The recommendations focus on people and the places where we spend the bulk of our time:

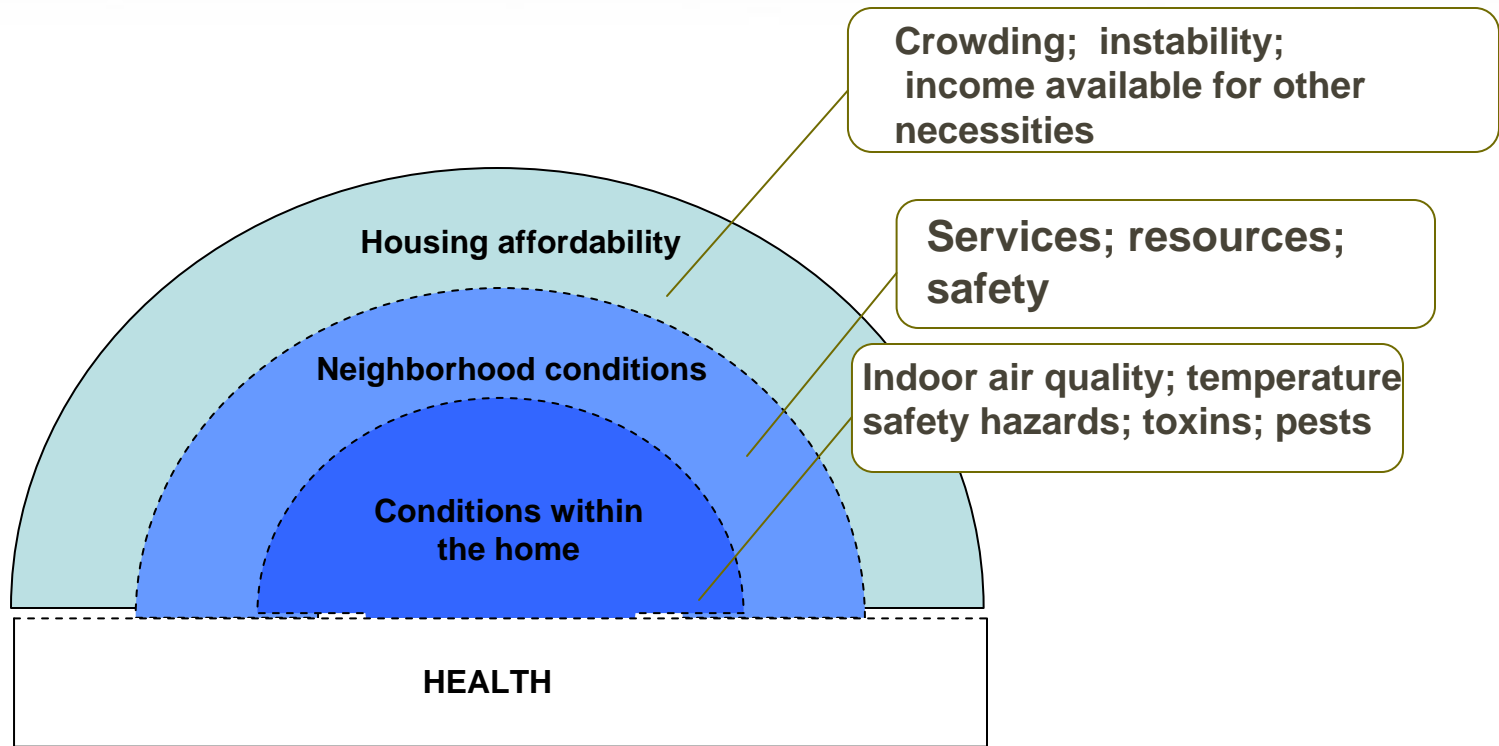
- Homes and Communities
- Schools
- Workplaces

April 2009

Building a healthier America is feasible in years, not decades, if we collaborate and act on what is making a difference



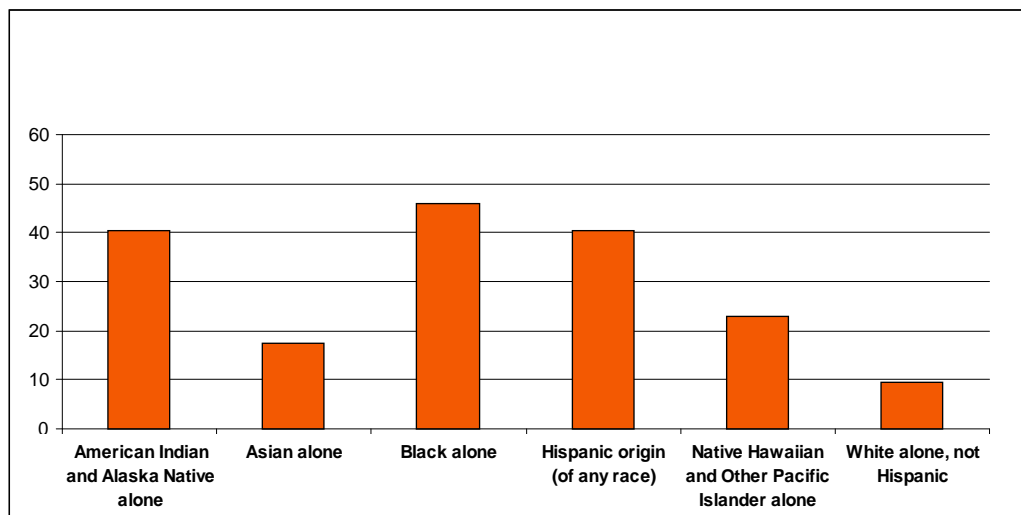
Housing Influences Health in Many Ways





Percent of people in different racial or ethnic groups living in poor* neighborhoods.

At any income level, Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to live in poor neighborhoods than whites of similar income.



•A poor neighborhood is one in which at least 20% of residents have incomes at or below the federal poverty level.

Adapted from Bishaw A. *Areas with concentrated poverty: 1999*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau; 2005.



Creating Healthy Homes and Communities

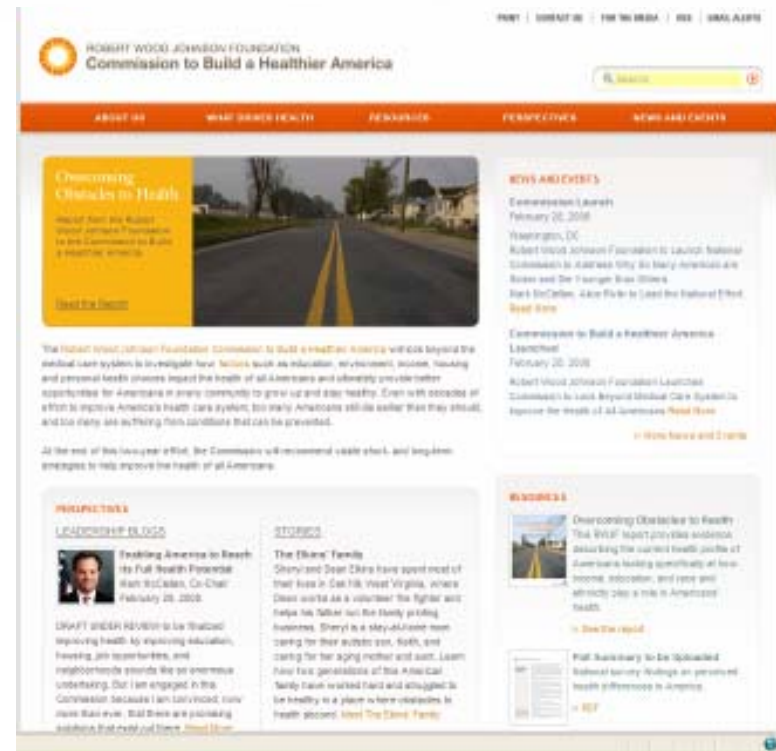
Develop a “health impact” rating for housing and infrastructure projects that reflects the projected effects on community health and provides incentives for projects that earn the rating.

Create “healthy community” demonstrations to evaluate the effects of a full complement of health-promoting policies and programs.



Resources: www.commissiononhealth.org

- *Overcoming Obstacles to Health*
- Charts
- Leadership blog
- Multimedia personal stories
- Commission information and activities
- Commission news coverage
- Relevant news articles
- Interactive education and health tool
- State-level child health data
- Issue briefs
- *Beyond Health Care: New Directions to a Healthier America*
- State-level adult health data (May '09)





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