

Social Determinants of Health

Andrew Grant Thomas, Deputy Director

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

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Case Studies: Interventions to Target Social Determinants of Health

- Pennsylvania: Fresh Food Financing Initiative
- Arkansas: Healthy Arkansas Initiative
- Wisconsin: New Hope
- England: Neighborhood Improvement Project

Pennsylvania

- The Problem:
 - Supermarket accessibility reduces the risk of developing diet-related diseases such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes
 - Research on inner-city supermarkets shows that many inner-city communities lack stores that offer fresh foods and affordable prices
 - Research also shows that the costs of operating grocery stores in urban areas are higher than the costs of operating in suburban areas

Intervention: Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative

- Public-private partnership to leverage funds
- Objectives:
 1. Reduce the high incidence of diet-related diseases by providing healthy food
 2. Stimulate investment of private capital in economically distressed communities
 3. Remove financing obstacles and lower operating barriers for supermarkets in low-income communities
 4. Create living wage jobs
 5. Prepare and retain a qualified workforce



Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative

- The Outcome:
 - As of December 2009, the program had approved 87 applications for funding
 - Provided more than \$49.1 million in loans and \$11.3 million in grants
 - Approved projects are expected to bring 5,000 jobs and 1.6 million square feet of commercial space
 - Increased access to fresh foods in urban areas

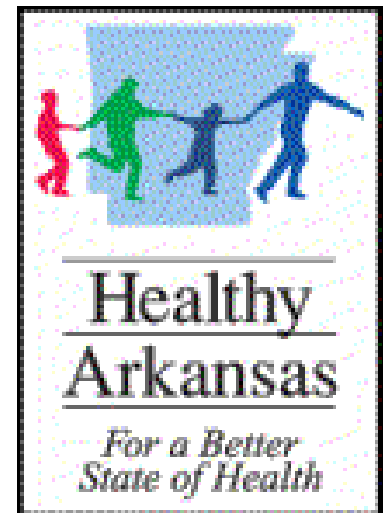


Arkansas

- The Problem:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranked Arkansas:
 - 1st in stroke mortality
 - 6th in deaths due to lung cancer
 - 8th in mortality due to heart disease
 - Cost of state's Medicaid program was rising to more than \$3 billion annually

Intervention: Healthy Arkansas Initiative

- Targets 50,000 state employees, Medicaid recipients and other Arkansans
- Seeks to increase exercise, decrease tobacco use and decrease obesity rates among children and adults
- Creates incentives and offers information to enable residents of one of the unhealthiest states to become one of the healthiest
 - Free Healthy Guide book and Healthy Baby book
 - Trails for Life
 - Healthy Restaurant Search
 - Find a buddy



Healthy Arkansas Initiative

- The Outcome
 - The Healthy Baby book has helped over 200,000 women have a better pregnancy
 - Initiative resulted in a statewide ban on smoking in the workplace and in restaurants
 - Expected to reduce Medicaid cost: a reduction of only 1% will result in \$30 million in annual savings
 - The National Governor's Association adopted the Healthy Arkansas Initiative for the rest of the country, renaming it "Healthy America"

Wisconsin

- The Problem:
 - High poverty rates in Milwaukee
 - People working full time yet remained below the poverty line
 - Had negative effects on children's educational achievement

Intervention: New Hope



- Enrolled its first volunteers in August of 1994
- Offered participants a comprehensive package of benefits:
 1. Wage supplement ensured that the net income of families increased as they earned more on the job
 2. Subsidized health insurance
 3. Childcare subsidy that enabled families with at least one dependent child under age 13 to choose any state-licensed or county-certified child care provider
 4. If a private sector job could not be found, participants were entitled to a community service job for two renewable periods of up to six months each

New Hope

- The Outcome:
 1. Poverty rates declined dramatically
 2. Employment and earnings increased among participants who were not initially working full-time
 3. For those who had faced one significant barrier to employment (such as a lack of access to child care), these gains lasted years
 4. More medical needs were met
 5. Children in New Hope families performed better in school, were more cooperative and independent, had fewer behavior problems and had loftier goals than children in a control group
 6. Especially successful in improving boys' school performance:
 - Boys performed better on school-related measures, had more positive social behaviors, higher levels of school engagement, higher expectations for future educational attainment, and lower levels of aggression

England

- The problem:
 - Disinvested neighborhood characterized by:
 - Lack of amenities such as local parks and shops
 - Safety concerns
 - Houses in disrepair
 - Lack of landscaping
 - As a result many residents reported high levels of anxiety and depression and lack of trust in their neighbors

Intervention: Neighborhood Improvement Project

- Residents became involved in planning process to improve their neighborhood
- During the project:
 1. Homes were refurbished
 2. Traffic regulations were improved
 3. Landscaping and lighting were installed
 4. Alleyways were closed
 5. Gardens for apartments were enclosed



Neighborhood Improvement Project

- The Outcome:
 - Residents reported increased contact with their neighbors and higher levels of trust in their neighbors
 - Levels of optimism and belief in the future increased
 - Residents reported stronger identification with their neighborhood
 - Levels of anxiety and depression among the residents decreased

Sources

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