

Reports of Discussions

Report 1: Research Intersection between Environmental Health Science and Social Determinants of Health

Convener: Jose F Cordero

Brief History:

1. It is time to expand environmental health justice to include the quantitative and qualitative measures of social determinants of health.
2. The economic crisis is expanding the impact of social determinants of health
3. The gap between the wealthy and the poor is widening and it has a serious impact on health

Discussion Highlights:

Social determinants of health relate to medical literacy, knowledge, and access to health care.

We must go beyond the environmental justice concept and broaden it to include social determinants of health.

Examples: The built environment has a component of social determinants of health that should be considered in studies of environmental health risk factors.

Asthma: There are important differences in risk by socioeconomic and by race and ethnicity that should be clarified.

New perspectives on poverty include that it may be considered a cause of death for certain conditions.

Recommendations:

1. NIEHS should sponsor the development of a report on the impact of social determinants of health on environmental health.
2. NIEHS should sponsor research at the intersection of environmental health and social determinants of health
3. NIEHS should sponsor and develop transdisciplinary centers at the intersection of environmental health and social determinants of health
4. NIEHS should sponsor mentoring of scientists on the relationship of environmental health and social determinants of health

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