

Social Determinants of Health and Oral Health



National Center on

Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety



Today's Presenter

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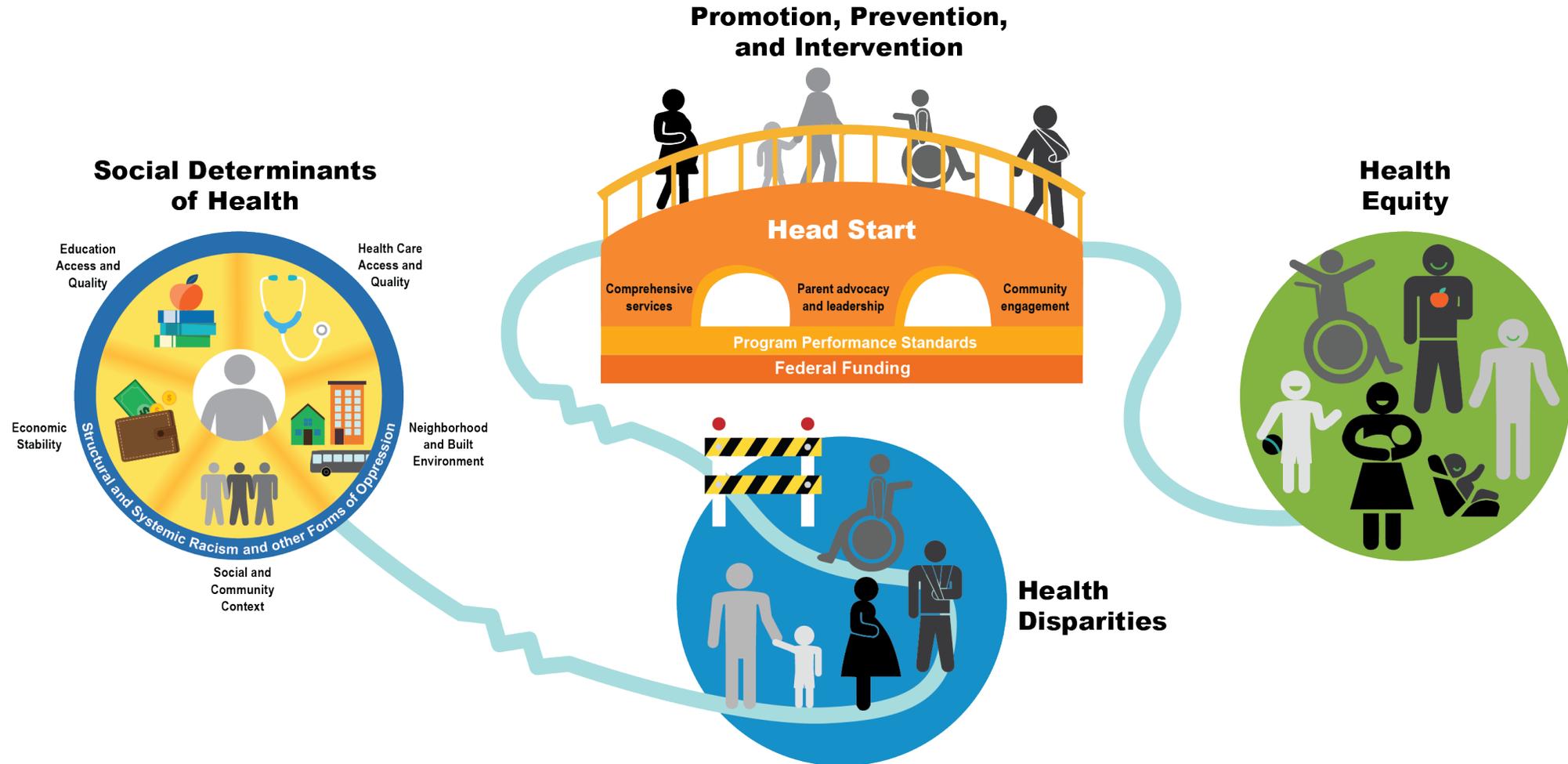
Session Topics

- Head Start Services as a Health Equity Intervention
- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
- Health Disparities
- Head Start Services that Address SDOH





Head Start Service as a Health Equity intervention

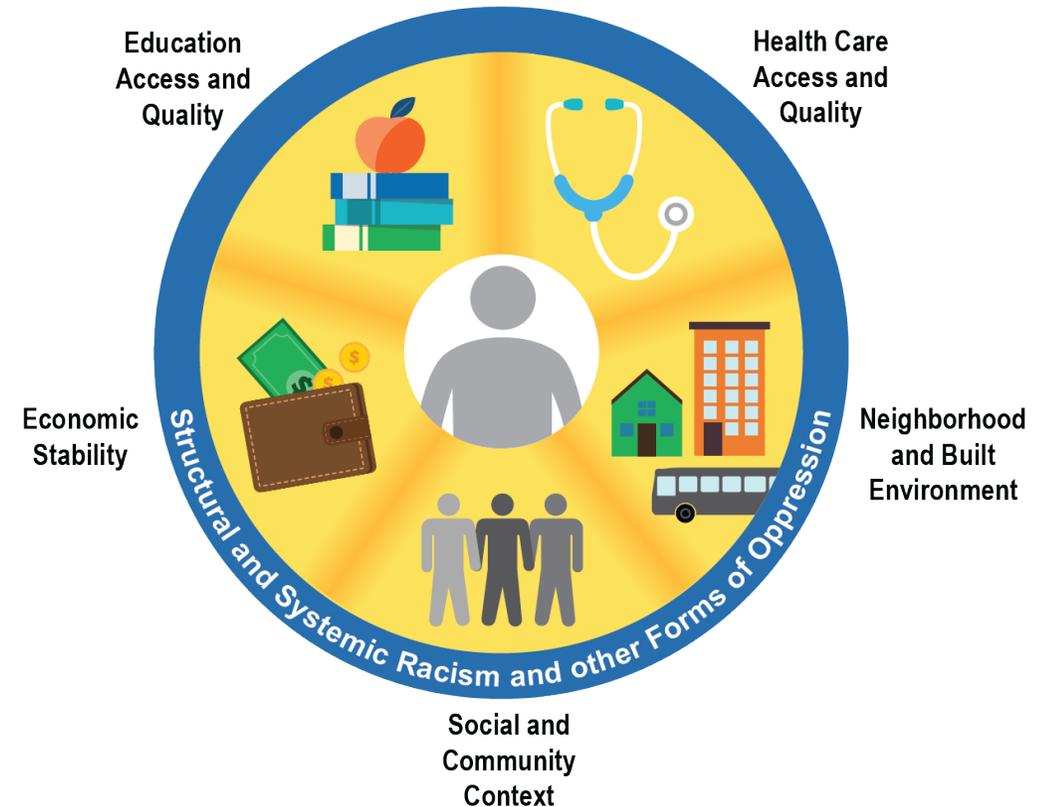




What Are Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)?

- **Conditions in the environments** where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age
- Affects a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks
- Drives over **80%** of health outcomes

Social Determinants of Health



Neighborhood and Built Environment



Mapping Environmental Hazards



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SDOH Are Unevenly Experienced

SDOH have a disproportionately negative impact on the health of people from historically marginalized communities

- Black, indigenous, Latinx, and other communities of color
- People with disabilities
- LGBTQIA+ people
- People living in under-resourced neighborhoods



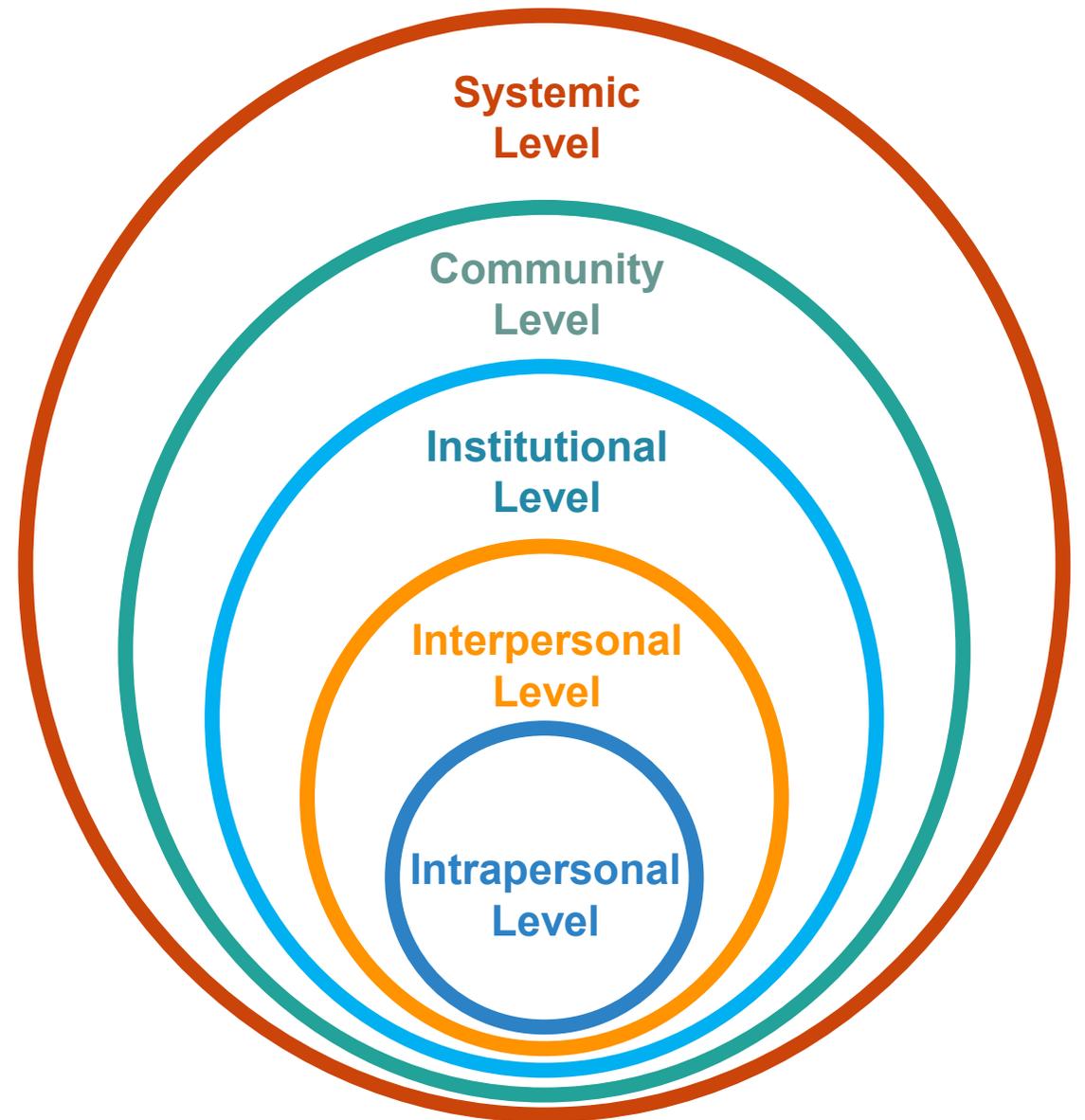
Systematic marginalization and discrimination of people of color have occurred consistently over time and across systems



This **systematic marginalization via policy** that has disadvantaged people of color and advantaged white people has **resulted in racial disparities** in poverty, income, and wealth.

These are related to other SDOH: safe housing, education quality, transportation, etc.

Racism itself is a SODH, contributing to negative social conditions and health outcomes through discriminatory policies across multiple levels and systems.





Racism as a Social Determinant of Health

Structural and
Systemic
Racism and
other Forms of
Oppression

- Racism has a **direct impact on health**.
- Increases stress contributes to chronic disease such as diabetes, hypertension, and a propensity for infectious illness

Racism is prevalent on multiple levels and a **significant driver of health inequities**. For example:

- Disproportionate exposure to environmental toxins
- Housing discrimination
- Job discrimination, low wages
- Barriers to education
- Barriers to health care services
- **Barriers to oral health services**



Chat With Each Other

Question: What social determinants of health have you observed in your work/service?

Health Care Access and Quality



Identity-Based Mental Health Directory





Health Disparities



What are Health Disparities?

- Differences in health outcomes and their causes among groups of people.
- Preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health experienced by socially disadvantaged populations



Examples of Health Disparities

Mortality — Most Profound Outcome

Infant Mortality



Maternal Mortality



**Behavioral Health
Access and Use**

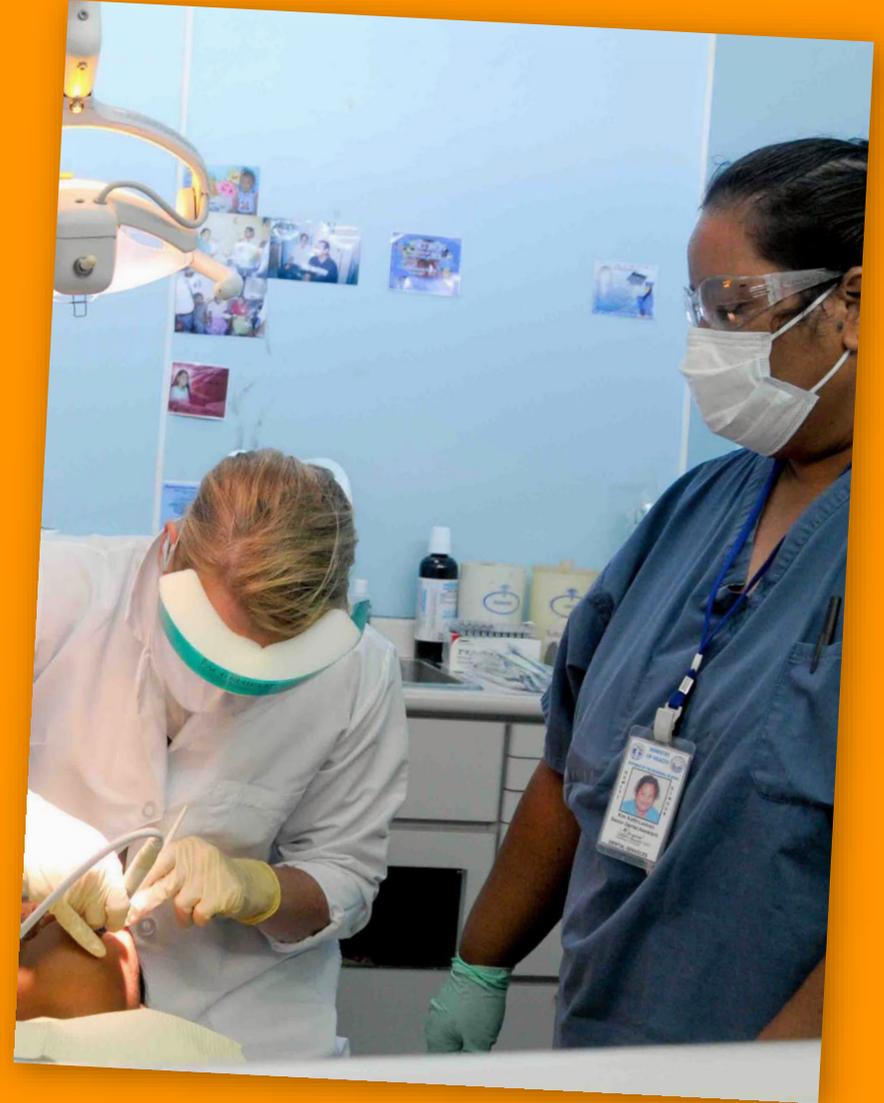


**Motor Vehicle
Crashes**



Examples of Populations Experiencing Oral Health Disparities

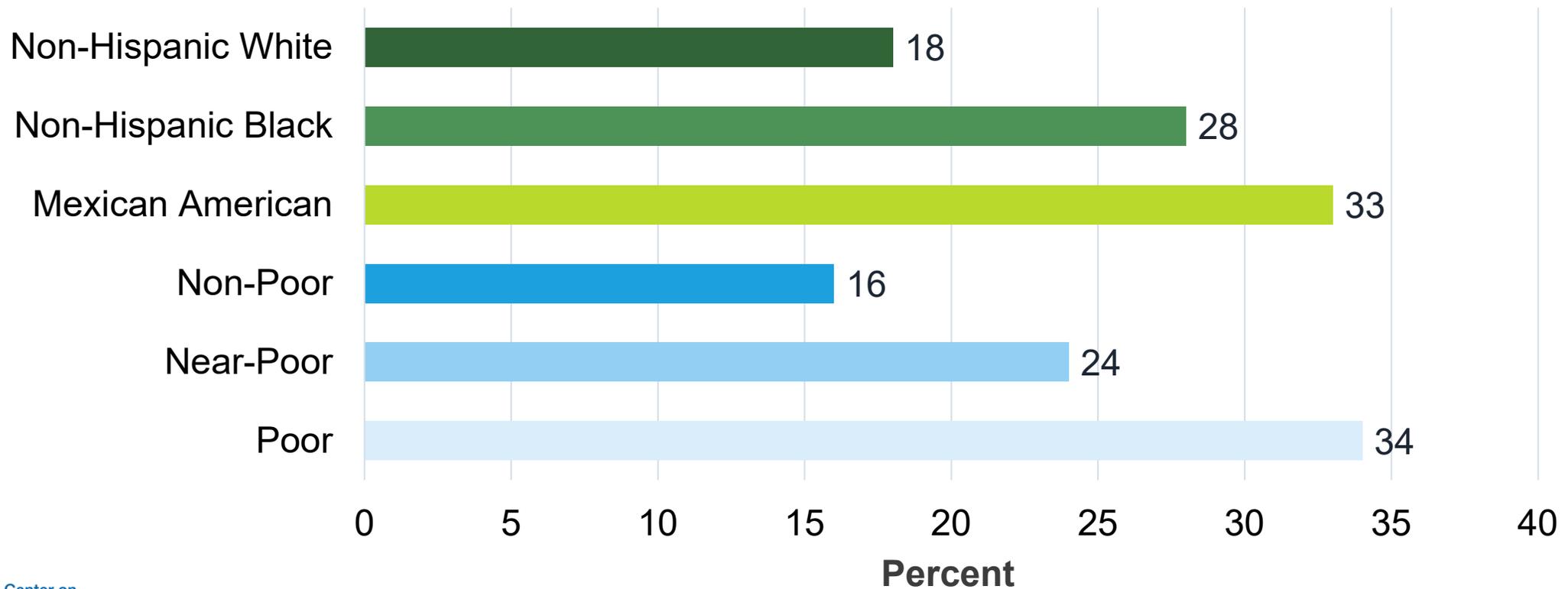
- Low income populations
- Rural populations
- Black and African American communities
- Hispanic populations
- American Indian/Alaskan Native





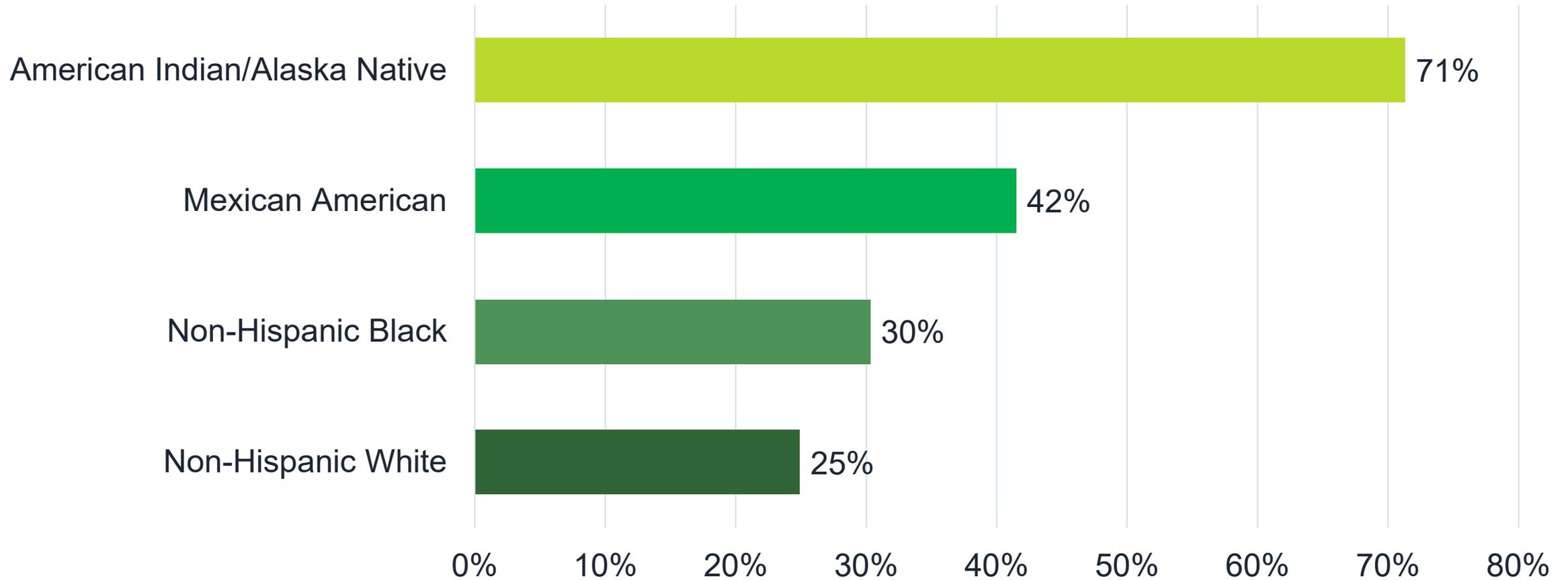
Tooth Decay Experience by Race/Ethnicity, and by Poverty, United States 2011–2016

Children Ages 2-5 with Tooth Decay in Primary Teeth





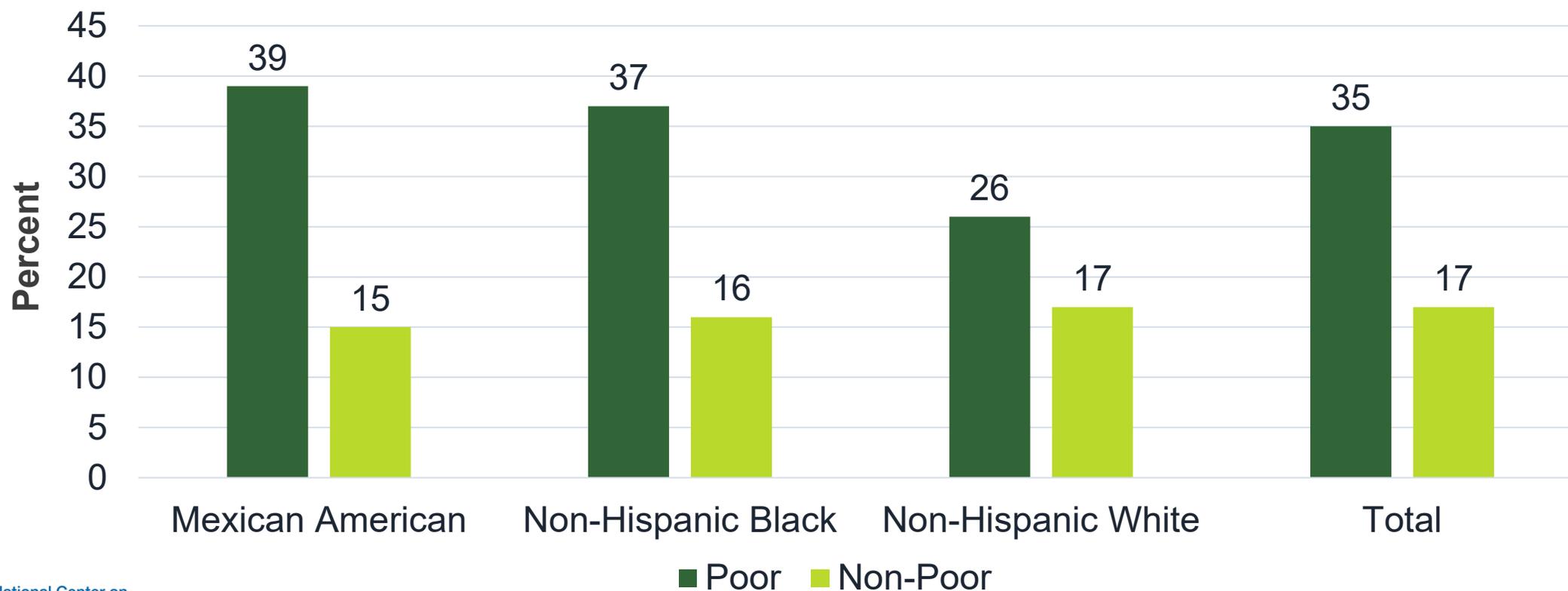
Early Childhood Caries Among Children Ages 3–5 by Race/Ethnicity





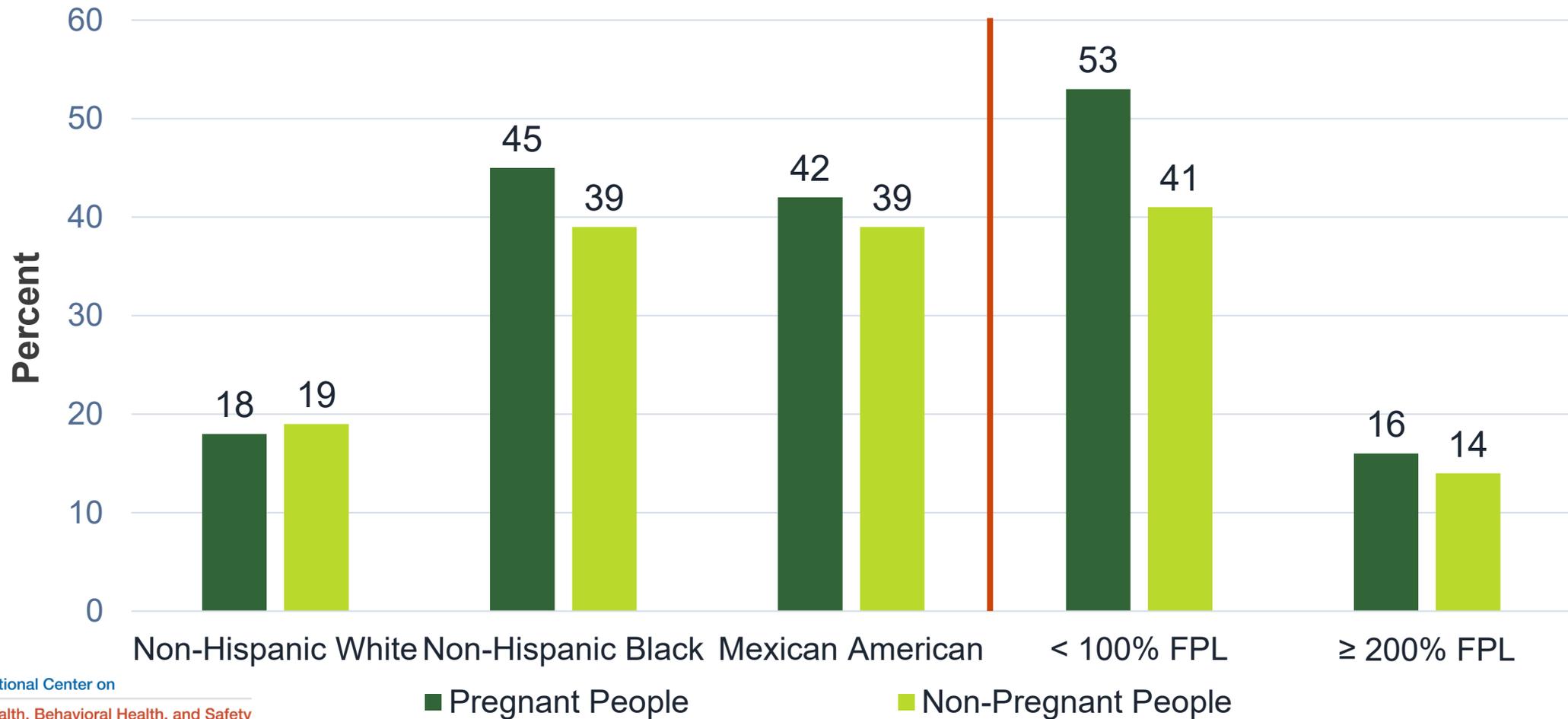
Tooth Decay Experience by Race/Ethnicity and Poverty

Percent of Children Ages 2–5 with Tooth Decay in Primary Teeth





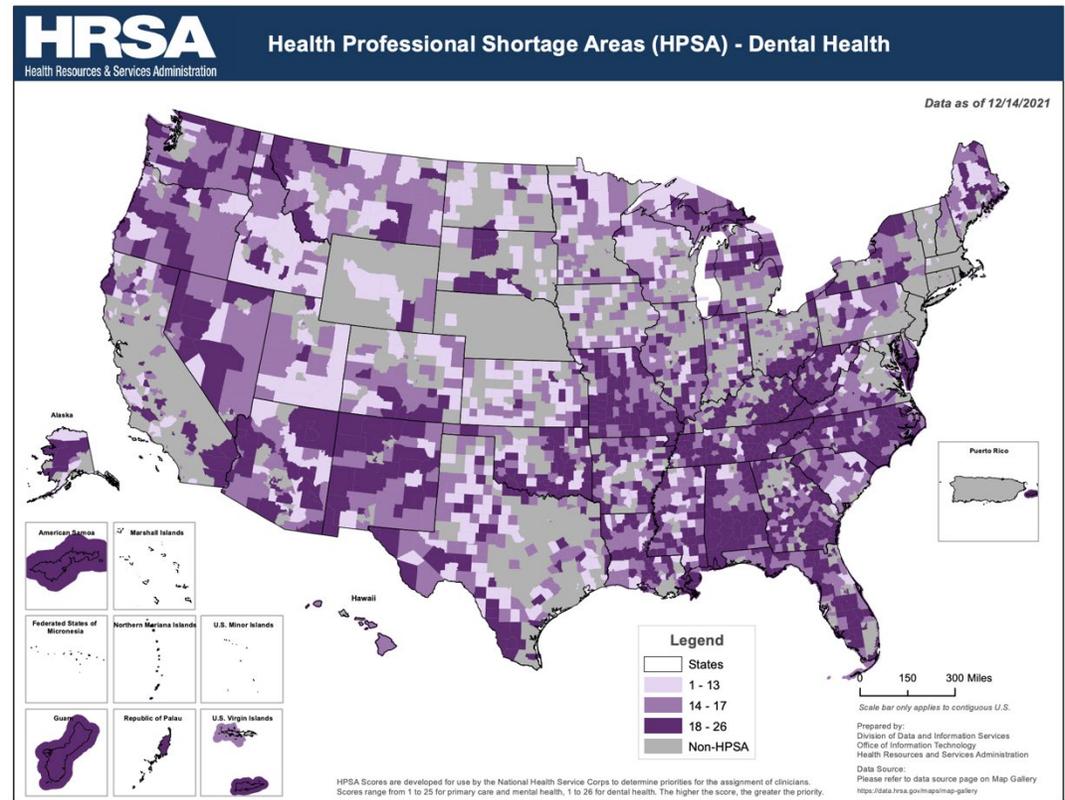
Pregnant People with Untreated Tooth Decay By Race/Ethnicity and Income: United States, 1999–2004





Barriers to Access to Oral Health Care

- Shortage of oral health professionals
- High cost
- Lack of accessible dental services in the community
- Geographic isolation
- Fear and anxiety
- Other social and economic factors





COVID-19 Related Barriers to Oral Health Care

- Closures and reduced dental clinic hours due to COVID-19 in spring 2020
- Some clinics providing only emergency oral health care to prevent spread of COVID-19





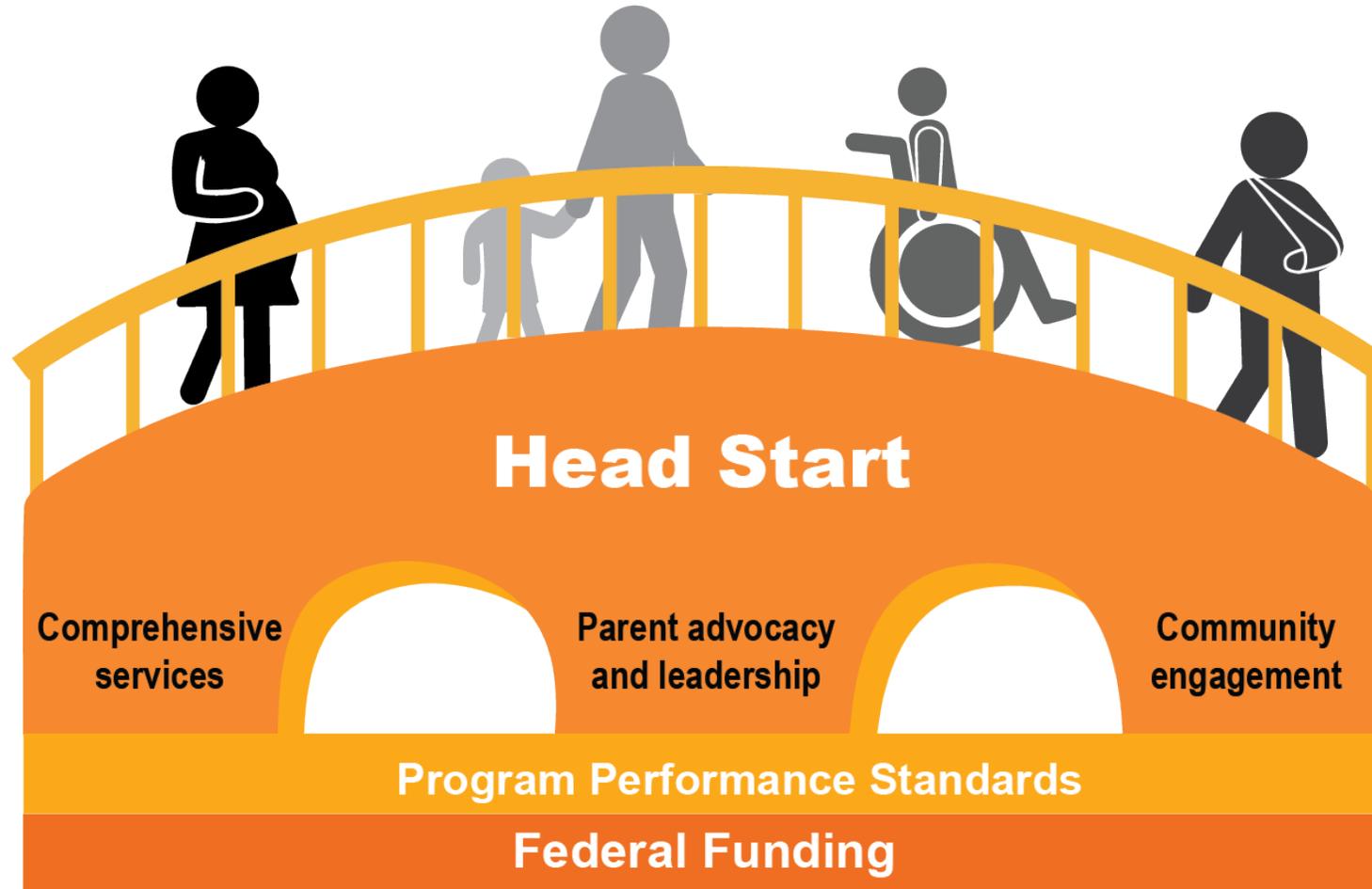
Chat With Us

Question: What other health disparities can Head Start staff and pregnant people and families of children enrolled in Head Start face?





Promotion, Prevention, and Intervention

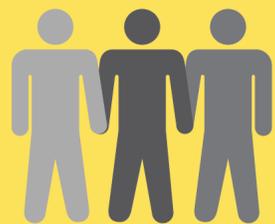




Head Start Practices that Build Health Equity

- Community assessments
- Nutrition assessments
- **Oral health assessments, follow up, and treatment**
- Family engagement and leadership building
- Family assessments
- **Multigenerational approach**
- Comprehensive health services
- Family health education and literacy
- Family support services
- **Health Services Advisory Committee**
- Community network participation
- Culturally and linguistically responsive
- Trauma-informed care
- Social-emotional development supports
- **Access to medical (and dental) homes**
- Whole-child approach
- Mental health consultation services
- Family-style, nutritious meals
- Staff wellness strategies and professional development
- Services for pregnant people
- Serving the most vulnerable populations
- Life course model
- Exclusion policies

Social and Community Context



Fostering Culturally Relevant Support Systems



Black-Led Efforts to Combat Racism and Promote Health

Center Issues that Matter to the Community By:

Engaging	Neglected, disenfranchised communities to build leadership and power
Centering	Black women-led organizations
Affirming	The importance of faith-based organizations
Promoting	Radical healing
Addressing	Mistrust and trauma and retraumatization inflicted by traditional modes implemented by physical and mental health care systems



Latinx/Immigrant Paradox

- Latin/e people and immigrants experience greater longevity and lower mortality than Black and white Americans despite overrepresentation in poverty.
- Attributed to Latinx community strengths and cultural assets:
 - Ethnic identity
 - Positive reframing
 - Religion
 - Healthy migrant effect





Indigenous Traditional Ways of Knowing

- Indigenous knowledge and traditions are rooted in
 - collective living
 - staying connected to family and community and
 - practicing collective and cultural traditions.
- Indigenous leadership essential in increasing access to oral health care



Oral Health Access

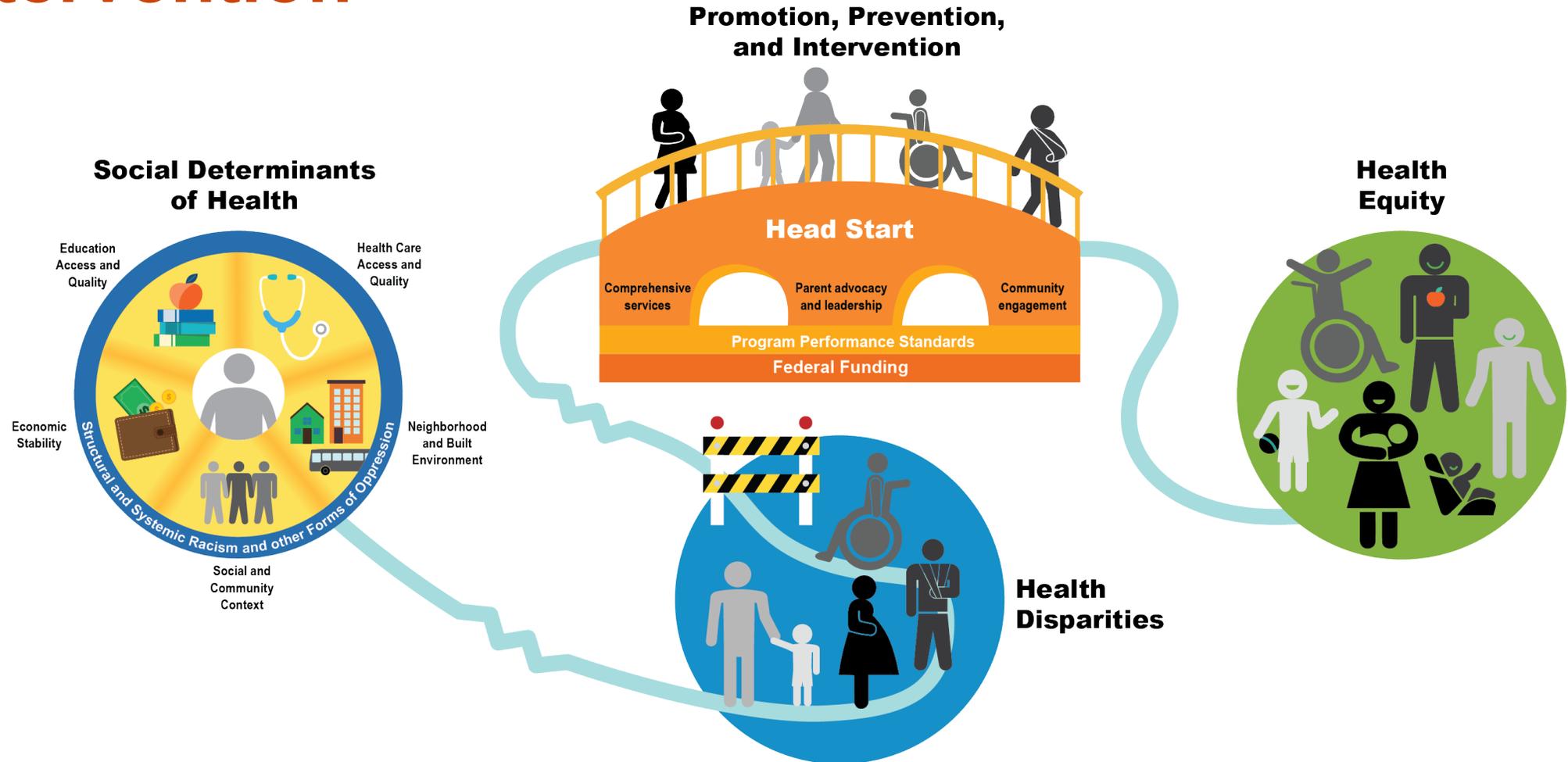
- Community clinics
- Dental Schools
- Dental Hygienist Liaisons
- Free dental clinics
- Health Services Advisory Committees
- Private practice
- School-based health centers
- State and local health departments
- Teledentistry



Photo Source: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community of Washington



Head Start service as a health equity intervention





Chat With Each Other

Question: What are some factors in economic stability and in education access and quality that might affect oral health?



Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021. *Social Determinants of Health: Know What Affects Health*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/index.htm
- Chazen S, Glover J. 2017. *A Community Framework for Addressing Social Determinants of Oral Health for Low-Income Populations*. Hamilton, NJ: Center for Health Care Strategies. www.chcs.org/resource/framework-addressing-social-determinants-oral-health-community/
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. 2021. Section 1: Effect of oral health on the community, overall well-being, and the economy. *Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health. www.nidcr.nih.gov/oralhealthinamerica



Questions?





Evaluation





Thank you!



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