



Policy, Social, and Environmental Determinants of Health

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COMPETENCIES

Year 1. I will focus on the following competencies during the first year of the KHS program:

- Expand and contribute to the understanding of the determinants of health (economic, social, behavioral, political, gender, racial/ethnic, and environmental) and further developing skills and commitment to effect community and social change through the translation of health policy research into policy.
- Write grants that express the importance of health disparities policy research.
- Complete journal articles and conducting presentations that inform health policy decisions that address health disparities.

Year 2. In addition to the above competencies, I will work on the following:

- Understand the health policy process at the local, state and national levels.
- Communicate, inform and participate in discussions across policy-academic-community groups.
- Translate health policy research findings to policy options or recommendations that address health disparities.
- Take on leadership roles either in academia, local, state and federal government, and policy organizations that relate to the determinants of health.

MENTORS AND ADVISORY TEAM

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, PhD, Harvard University's School of Public Health. Dr. Acevedo-Garcia

Paula Braveman, MD, MPH., UCSF, Director, Center on Social Disparities in Health.

Patricia Crawford, DrPH, RD, University of California Berkeley, Center for Weight and Health.

Policy Advisory Board: *Patricia Crawford*, DrPH, RD, University of California Berkeley, Center for Weight and Health. *Harold Goldstein* DrPH, Director of the California Center for Public Health Advocacy, an advocacy organization that has been the primary sponsor of several California State bills addressing childhood obesity.

George Flores, MD MPH, Senior Program Officer, The California Endowment.

RESEARCH (Partial List)

Policy Determinants of Childhood Overweight

- Impact of competitive food and beverage policies on population patterns of childhood overweight
- Informing Latino Childhood Obesity Prevention: The role of Physical Education (PE) Policies in California

Social Determinants of Health

- Social Disparities in Birth Outcomes: Birthplace, Race/ethnicity, and Socioeconomic Status
- Does the association between birthplace-length of residence and BMI and Diabetes vary among Asian subgroups?

Environmental Determinants of Obesity

- Who benefits the most from eating lunch at school?

Policy Implications

The research projects have the potential to inform health and social policies at the state and national levels, including childhood obesity prevention, social disparities in overweight/obesity, school nutrition, immigrant health, maternal and child health promotion policies

Lessons Learned (challenges)

- Accurately evaluating the time that it takes to complete a research project;
- Navigating institutional and administrative processes and relationships;
- Developing consciousness toward strategic grant writing.