

PARTNERSHIP TO FIGHT  
CHRONIC DISEASE

# The Business Case For Equity of Care

Ken Thorpe, PhD  
Chairman

April 7, 2014



# PARTNERSHIP TO FIGHT CHRONIC DISEASE



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More than 100 partners  
partners  
ONE message



# Costs Related to Chronic Disease



- One in two Americans lives with a chronic condition
- Chronic disease accounts for **84 percent** of what is spent on healthcare in the United States
- The annual amount of lost productivity due to seven of the most common chronic diseases is more \$1 trillion
- U.S. health spending is projected to almost double over the next ten years
  - Based on this prediction, U.S. health spending could reach \$4.78 trillion by 2021.

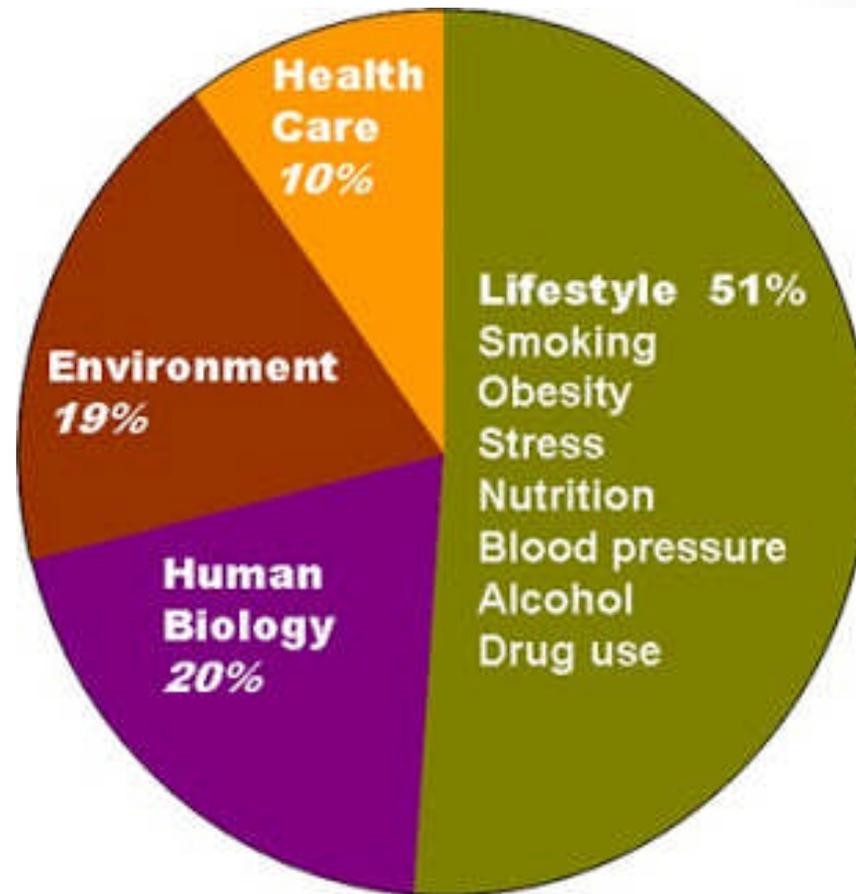
# Gaps in Equity Mean Large Human & Economic Costs

- Each year, 7 out of 10 deaths in the U.S. are due to chronic diseases.
  - According to the New England Journal of Medicine, people with chronic conditions receive only 56% of recommended preventive health care services.
- Significant differences in health outcomes based on variety of factors unrelated to health
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
  - Geographic location
  - Socioeconomic status



# Determinants of Health

- There are many channels through which to impact perceptions, decisions and behaviors that directly affect overall health.
- Understanding these factors and their relevance is an important step in preventing chronic disease and better managing health outcomes.

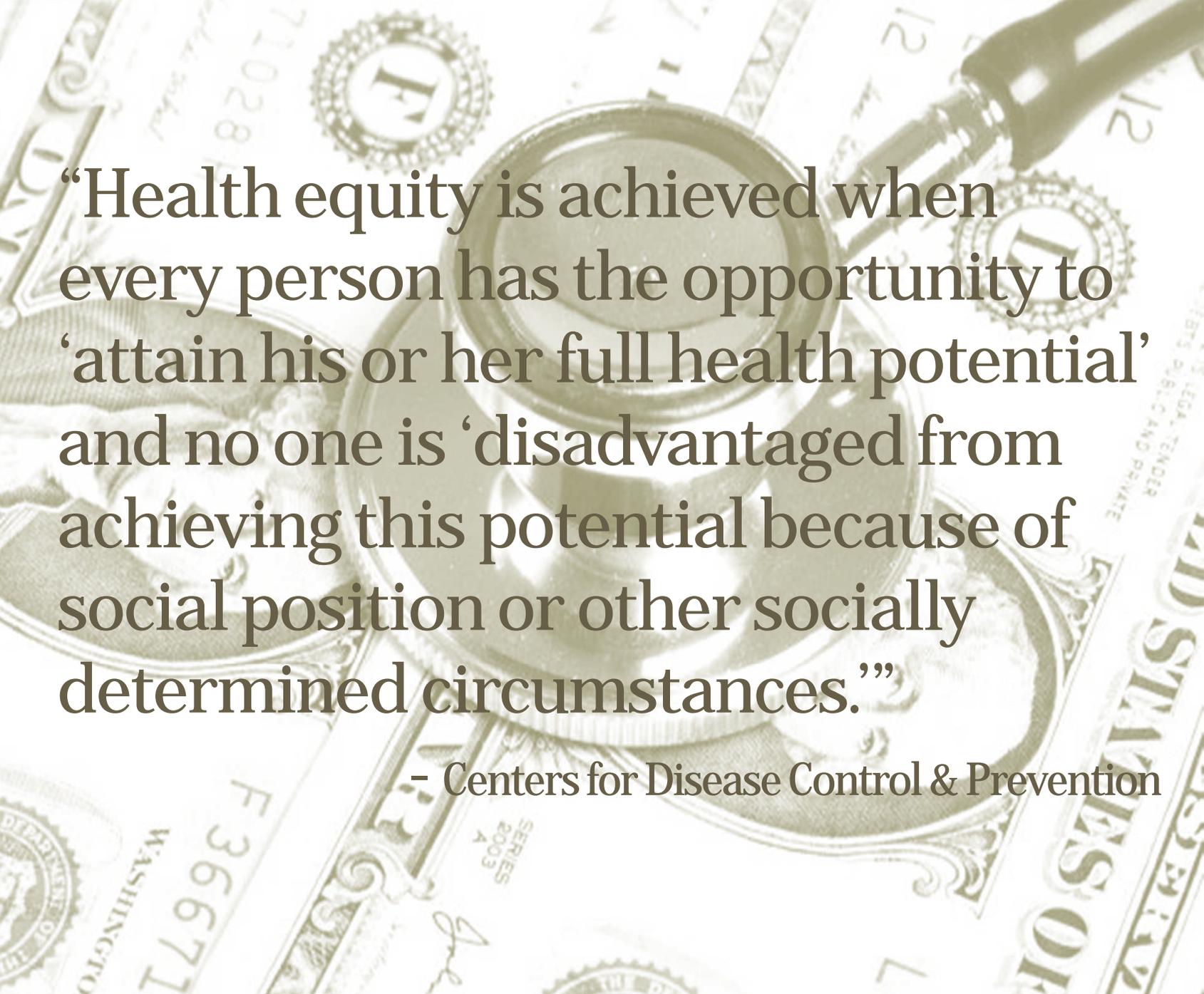


# Health Status & Outcomes Vary

By where we live –  
zip code can tell more than  
genetic code

By racial & ethnic group –  
life expectancy, infant  
mortality, health outcomes

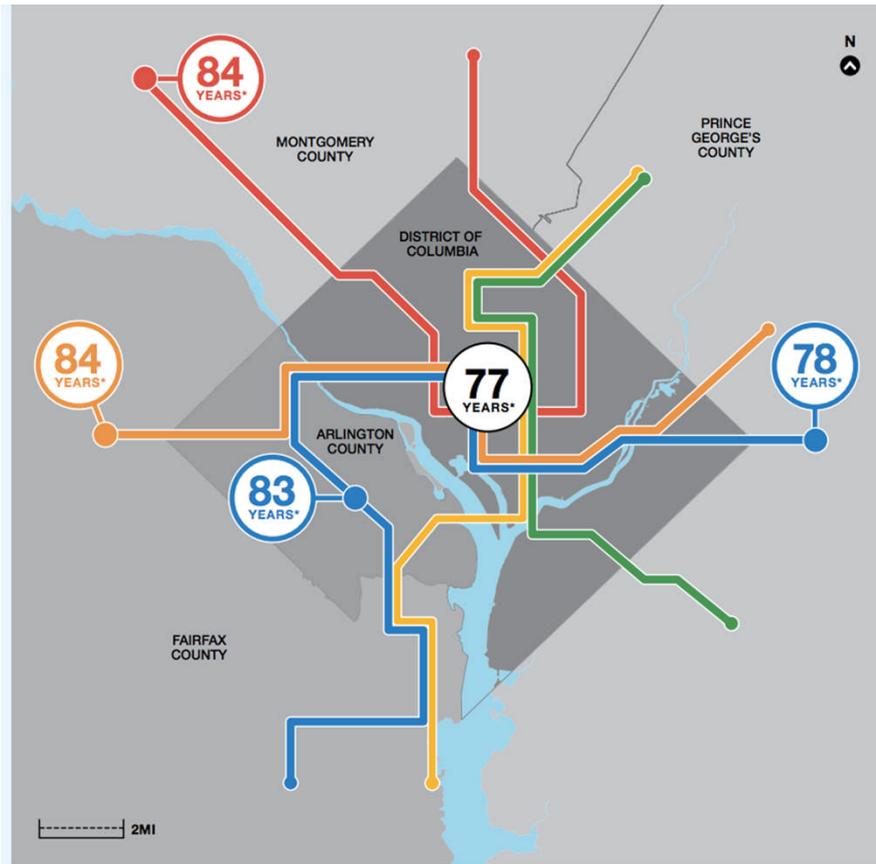
By income and education –  
life expectancy, children's  
health, obesity

A magnifying glass is centered over a document, likely a check or official form. The document features a circular seal with the letter 'F' in the center, surrounded by a decorative border. A pen is positioned diagonally across the top right of the document. The background is a light, textured surface with faint, repeating patterns of the seal and the word 'SERIES'.

“Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to ‘attain his or her full health potential’ and no one is ‘disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.’”

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

# Near in Location, Far in Outcome



Babies born to mothers in Montgomery County in MD or Fairfax and Arlington Counties, in VA can expect to live 6 to 7 years longer than babies born to mother's in Washington, DC – just a few subway stops away.

Businesses hire from all four areas.

Source: Prepared by Woolf et al., Center on Human Needs, Virginia Commonwealth University using Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC WONDER Online Database, released January 2013. Data are compiled from Compressed Mortality File 1999-2010 Series 20 No. 2P, 2013. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmfi-icd10.html>. As appears in, RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America, "Overcoming Obstacles to Health in 2013 and Beyond," (2013).

\* Life expectancy at birth

# Health Depends on More than Medical Care

- Focus a lot of attention on medical care in business:
  - Health coverage costs
  - Benefit design
- Poor health has broader impact on business:
  - Disability
  - Worker's Compensation
  - Health-related retirement
  - Absenteeism AND presenteeism
  - Overall productivity
  - Health of dependents



# It's Not Just About the Business

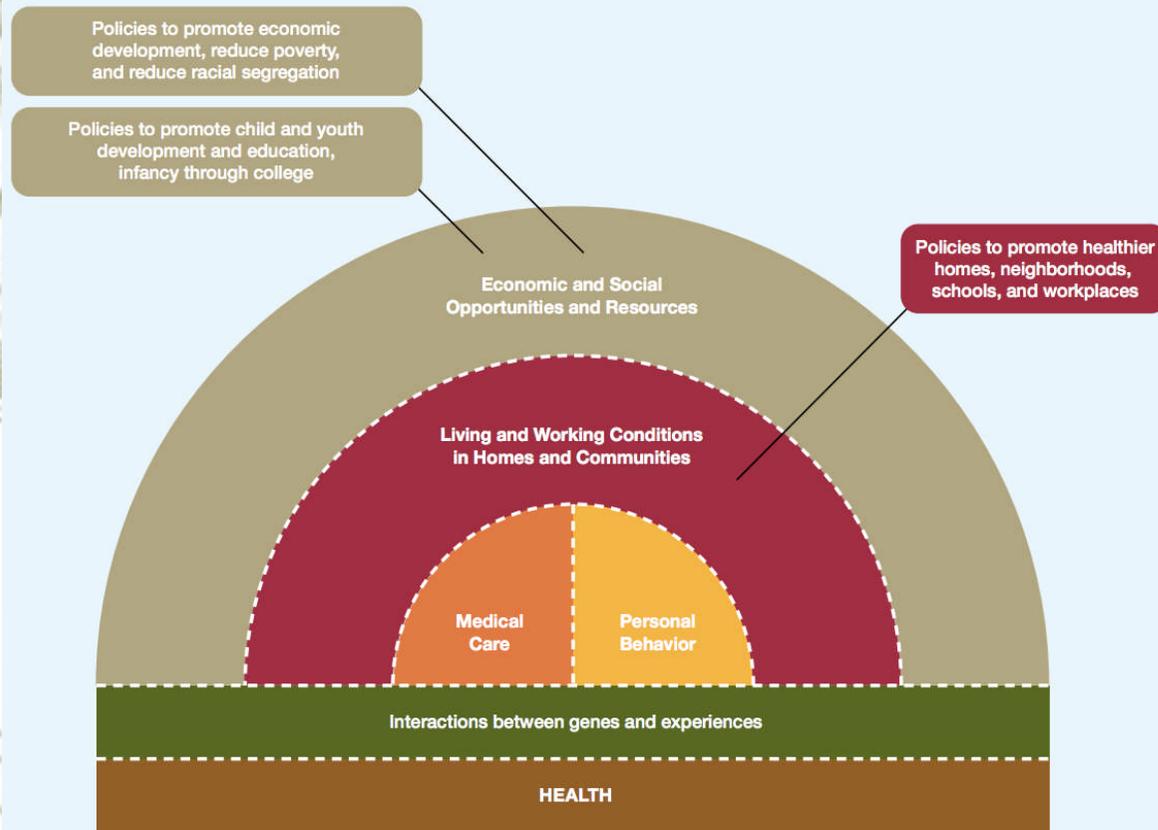
- Talk the talk AND walk the walk
- Community environment where business is being done is equally as important
  - Promoting health equity
  - Prevention & public health
  - Wellness & well-being



# Where Do We Go from Here

## Broadening the Focus to Find Solutions: Understanding How Social Factors Influence Health

*figure 26* Medical care and personal responsibility for behaviors are important. But finding promising strategies for achieving our nation's health potential will require broadening our focus to include the social and economic contexts in which Americans live.



# Keep the momentum going

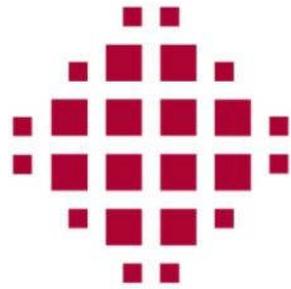
- June is National Employee Wellness Month
  - Health and wellness programs are important to employees.
  - Incentives matter.
  - Communication is a concern.
  - Measuring impact continues to be a challenge.
  - Health and wellness programs have a positive impact on an organization's culture.

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The Total Rewards Association

**NATIONAL EMPLOYEE WELLNESS MONTH**  
June 2013

**I AM MORE MOTIVATED THAN EVER BEFORE TO MAINTAIN MY HEALTH & BECOME STRONGER**  
after joining my company and participating in our wellness program.  
~ Halah Ilias

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