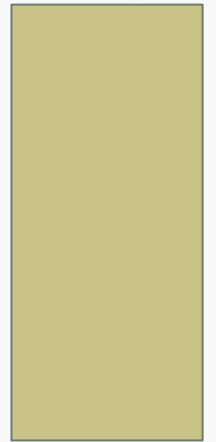


LIBRARIES AND THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH

JENNIFER BYRNES, MLS, MPH



PUBLIC HEALTH 101

- What is the number one determinant of health?
- Whitehall Study*
 - Conducted by the Department of Medical Statistics & Epidemiology at the London School of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
 - Was a longitudinal health survey of the Civil Service, 1967-1970.
 - The study screened over 18,000 men, aged 45-60, based in the London area primarily for cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.
- Findings:
 - Higher mortality rates due to all causes for men of lower employment grade.
 - EVEN after controlling for smoking status, obesity, blood pressure, and underlying illness.

*Reid DD, Hamilton PJS, McCartney P, Rose G, Jarrett RJ, Keen H. Smoking and other risk factors for coronary heart-disease in British civil servants. *Lancet* 1976; 2: 979-84.

ROLE OF LIBRARIES

- How do libraries improve a patron's SES?

PREVIOUS EFFORTS

1979

Consumer health
information

Houston PL, TX

2012

Healthy Learning &
Living Center

Petersburg PL, VA

2010

STI testing

Omaha PL, NE

2015

Healthy Library Initiative

Philadelphia Free
Library, PA

CENTRAL LIBRARY

- Homeless migrated to the Central Library en masse after the closing of Midtown.
- Librarians not equipped to assist them in finding shelter.
- In flux created problems with other patrons and some staff.
- **Homelessness is a Public Health Issue!**

POOR HEALTH IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

Injury or illness can lead to employment problems due to:

- missed time from work
- exhausted sick leave
- not being able to maintain a regular schedule or perform work functions

CREATES NEW HEALTH PROBLEMS

- Exposed to communicable disease (e.g. TB, respiratory illnesses, etc.)
- Violence
- Malnutrition
- Weather exposure

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Public Health Law Program. *Homelessness as a Public Health Law Issue: Selected Resources.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/phlp/publications/topic/resources/resources-homelessness.html>

National Healthcare for the Homeless Council HOMELESSNESS & HEALTH: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/HIn_health_factsheet_Jan10.pdf

EXACERBATES EXISTING PROBLEMS

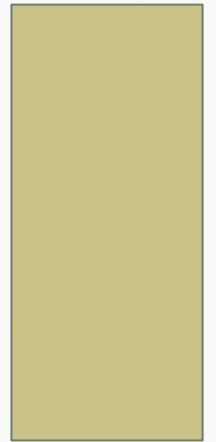
- HTN
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Storing meds / clean syringes
- MH/SA
- Injuries don't heal / wound infection
- Common colds turn into pneumonia.

RESULTS

- Inappropriate use of emergency rooms
- 3 to 4 times more likely to die prematurely
- Average life expectancy 41 years

LIBRARY RESOURCE OUTREACH CENTER

ANDY CAREY, MSW



ADVENT OF HEALTH CENTRAL

- Medical students rotate as part of their 4th year Community Health Improvement Course
 - 5 months per year
- Registered Nurse when medical students are not available.
- Mobile Dental Unit

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Rapid HIV testing starting in June
- Mobile medical unit
- Peer diabetes educator training

THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO DO

- Dispense medications
- Collect coats, scarves, etc.
- Tell patrons what they need
- Put someone in charge who is not comfortable with that population