

# Promoting Health Equity for the Prevention of HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB in the United States



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Moving Beyond Health Disparity and Achieving Health Equity  
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# Outline

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1. Update on the HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDS and TB in the United States
2. What do we know about social and structural determinants of STD/HIV/Hepatitis/TB transmission and barriers to prevention?
3. CDC's strategic approach to addressing social and structural barriers to STD/HIV /Hepatitis/TB prevention in the United States

# A Public Health Crisis?

- **High population burden of STDs, HIV, viral hepatitis and other sexual health problems, TB and their associated costs**
  - 19 million STI each year—almost half among young people 15 to 24 years old
  - One in four teen women infected with at least one STD
  - Estimated 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV
  - One-half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended
- **Cost of STDs, including HIV, estimated at \$15.9 billion per year**
- **Health Equity/ Disparities Major Concern**
  - African-Americans: HIV rates 6 ½ to 15x Whites
  - MSM: 44x higher rates than other males
  - Geographic and socio-economic concentration

# Common or overarching themes

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- **Dynamic challenge:** Changing demography, epidemiology, cultural norms and values, and political contexts
- Among the **worst health inequities** observed for sexual and reproductive health outcomes in the U.S.
- **Increasing concentration** of issues among the socio-economically disadvantaged, minorities, those with poor healthcare access
- Interconnected epidemics or "**syndemics**" require a systemic change in our health care delivery system
- Challenging **fiscal environments** require increased efficiency, harmonization and minimize duplication

# Social and Structural influences on the U.S. STD/HIV epidemics and health outcomes

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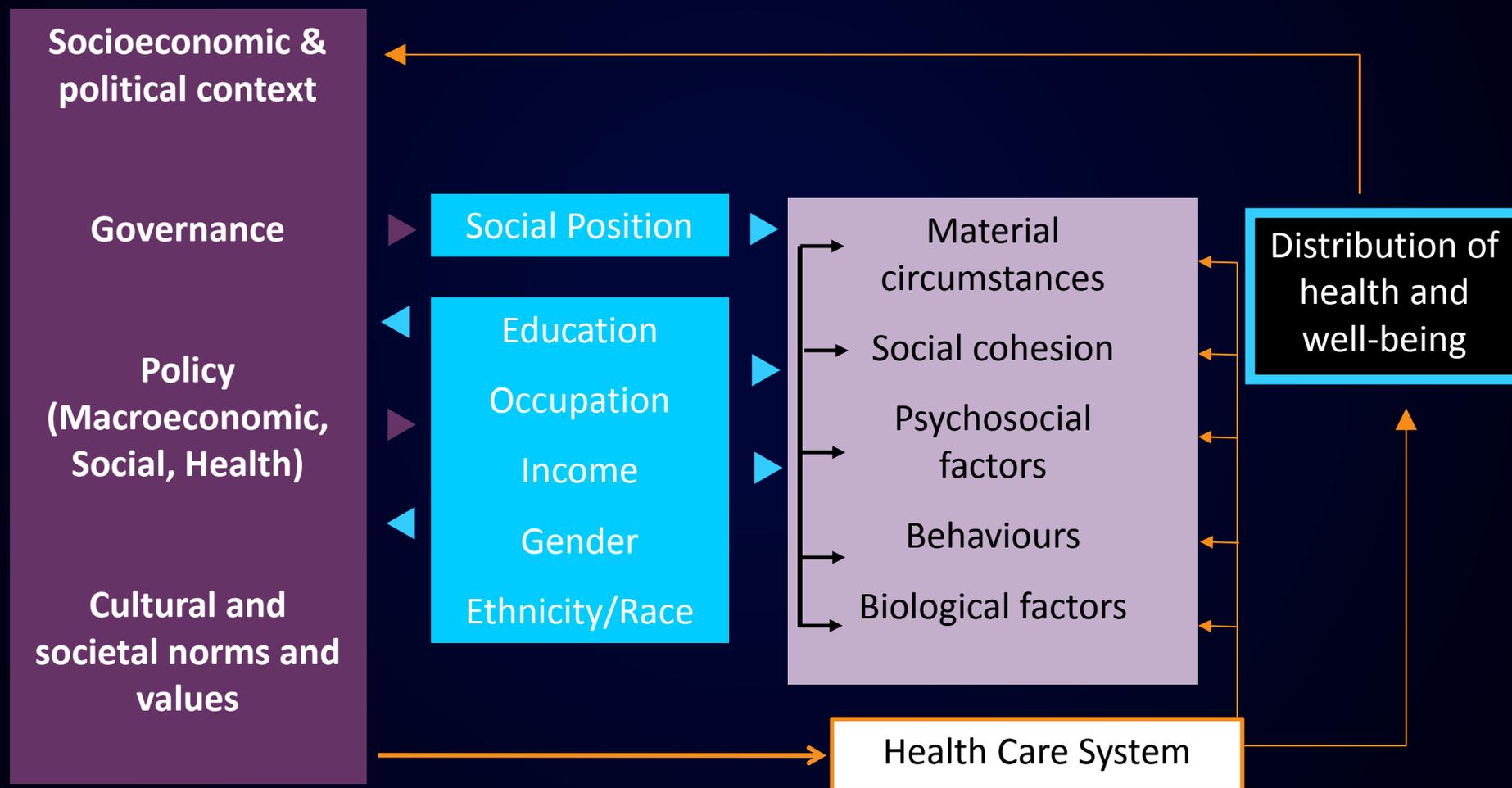
- **Structural factors**, defined as physical, social, cultural, organizational, community, economic, legal, or policy aspects of the environment that impede or facilitate efforts to avoid HIV infection.
- **Social determinants** are the economic and social conditions that influence the health of people and communities as a whole. SDH include
  - conditions for early childhood development
  - education, employment, income & job security
  - food security
  - health services and access to services
  - Housing, social exclusion, stigma

(CSDH, 2008; Braveman & Gruskin, 2003; Raphael, 2004)

These factors help shape a **context of vulnerability** that either contributes to increased individual risk of exposure to HIV or compromises the ability to protect oneself from infection.

# A more holistic framework for health

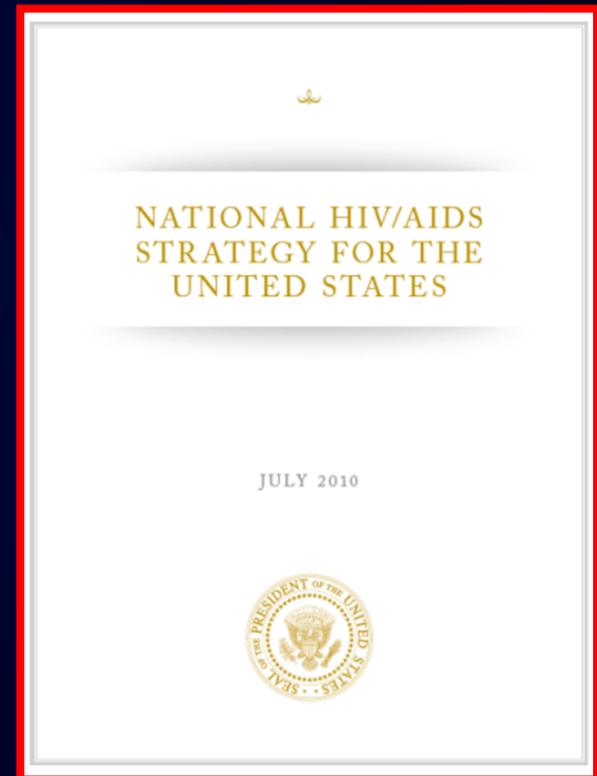
## The WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequities

# National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Suggested Steps for Reducing Health Inequities

- “A concerted national effort to increase the capacity of whole communities to prevent HIV and support community members living with HIV is needed. “
- The following steps are critical to achieving success:
  1. Reduce HIV-related mortality in communities at high risk for HIV infection.
  2. Adopt community-level approaches to reduce HIV infection in high-risk communities.
  3. Reduce stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.



U.S. National HIV/AIDS Strategy, 2010

## **CDC Efforts to Promote Health Equity Through Social and Structural Approaches to HIV Prevention**

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1. Community Mobilization
2. Integration of HIV Services
3. Policy Interventions
4. Contingency funding
5. Economic and Educational Interventions
6. Promoting science on disparities

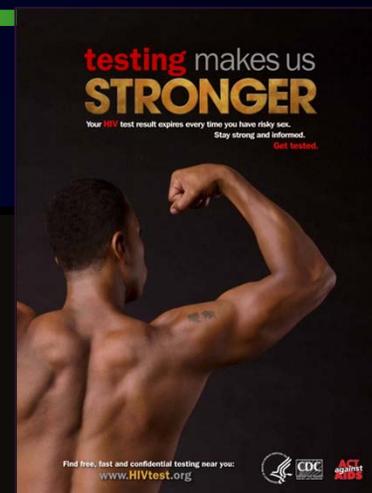
# Promoting Health Equity: Community Mobilization

- ACT AGAINST AIDS Initiative
  - Launched April 7, 2009
- 5-year, \$45M national communication and mobilization campaign
  - English and Spanish
- Goal is to reduce HIV incidence
  - **Refocusing attention** on domestic HIV and AIDS and combating complacency
  - **Promoting awareness**, targeted behavior change, and HIV testing
  - Strengthening and establishing **networks, community leadership** and engagement, and other partnerships to extend the reach and credibility of HIV prevention messages



# Promoting Health Equity: Community Mobilization

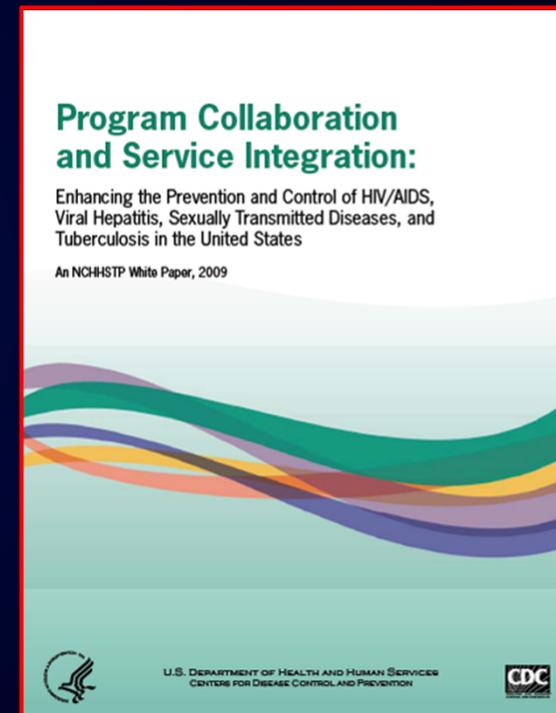
- Act Against AIDS Campaign
  - Multiple phases targeting different populations with tailored messages
  - 2.1 billion media impressions across campaign phases since launch in April 2009
  - Example: Launched local **Testing Makes Us Stronger** campaign in New York City Feb. 6, 2012
- Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative
  - Expanded to include leading national
  - African American, Latino, LGBT organizations
  - Integrating HIV prevention into programs



# Promoting Health Equity:

## Program Collaboration and Service Integration (PCSI)

- Integrating HIV care and reproductive health services potentially can increase the **availability and use** of both types of services.
- PCSI is a **structural intervention** aimed at improving synergies between prevention programs and providing more holistic services to clients
- Priority areas for development include **integrated** programming, surveillance and training. New funding will be available to support local implementation in FY10.



# Promoting Health Equity:

## Influencing policy change

- **National HIV/AIDS Strategy**
- **National Prevention Strategy**
- **Healthy People 2020**
- **U.S. HIV travel ban**
- **Promote strategic investments**
  - Behavioral research
  - HIV prevention in corrections
  - STD prevention interventions
  - Biomedical interventions
  - Quality sexual health education
  - Programs that address the social determinants of HIV transmission e.g. housing, employment, stigma, poverty

# Promoting Health Equity:

## Contingency funding

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- CDC increasingly using **incentive or contingent funding** policies, which make receipt of federal or state funds contingent on implementing laws or policies seen to promote public health.
- Examples include:
  - HIV Testing Initiative
  - PCSI Initiative
  - Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plans (ECHPP)

# Promoting Health Equity:

## Economic and Educational Interventions

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- CDC has a number of ongoing **research studies** to examine the impact of economic, housing and educational interventions on HIV risk and vulnerability
- Examples include:
  - Housing and Health Study (with HUD)
  - Microfinance and African American Women
  - Developing STD Prevention Curricula with HBCUs

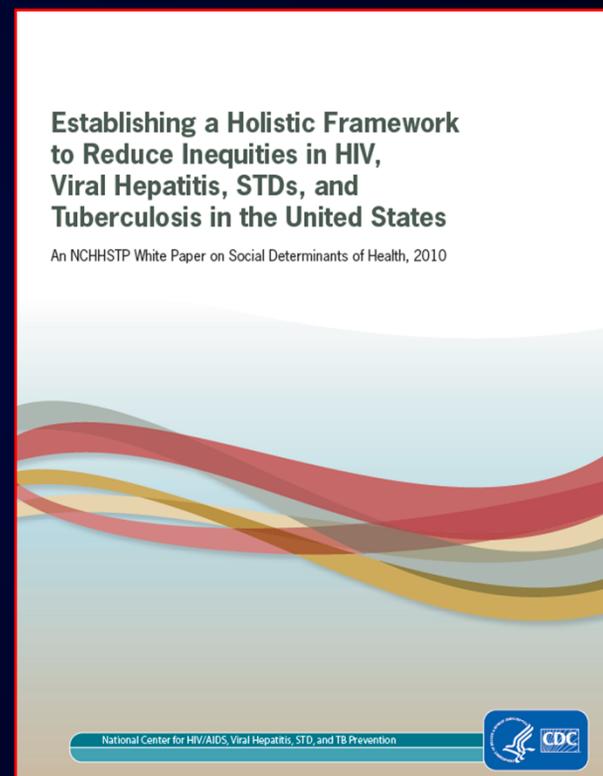
# Promoting Health Equity: Providing Scientific Leadership

- CDC has launched its first Health Disparities Report
- NCHHSTP has launched
  - SDH Website
  - Health Disparities Report
  - Public Health Reports Series
  - White paper on SDH
- All resources available at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/social-determinants/>



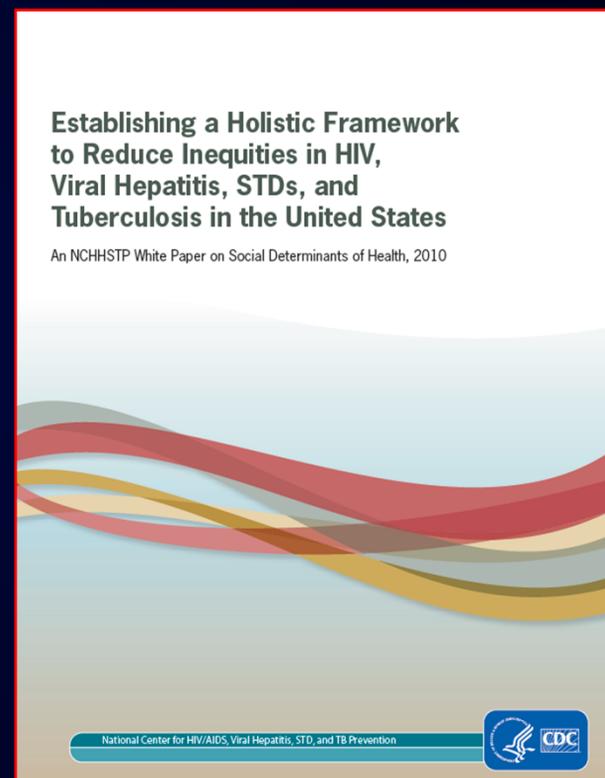
# CDC Recommendations for enhancing health equity in prevention programming

- Leadership
  - Serve as champions in addressing SDH and identify senior leaders in the organization
  - Adopt policies that address SDH in the organization, including identifying priorities, assessing progress, and reporting the progress on a regular basis.
- Research and Surveillance
  - Support and request funding for SDH research to advance the science of the field and to provide evidence for effective interventions and communication strategies.
  - Incorporate SDH measures in surveillance systems.



# CDC Recommendations for enhancing health equity in prevention programming

- **Communication /Policy**
  - Include social determinants and health equity messages in external and internal presentations and communications.
- **Capacity Building**
  - Educate local organizations, policy makers, health care professionals, and partners about SDH and what they can do to address them
- **Partners**
  - Review, assess, and diversify partners and stakeholders engaged in HIV prevention to ensure appropriate expansion and impact of our policies and practices.



*CDC. Establishing a Holistic Framework to Reduce Inequities in HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and Tuberculosis in the United States. Atlanta (GA): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; October 2010.*

# Summary

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- HIV, STD, viral hepatitis, and TB prevention efforts must increasingly address the underlying drivers of risk and vulnerability
- One approach involves incorporating structural interventions that seek to change social, economic, political, or environmental factors determining risk and vulnerability
- Structural approaches to HIV should form part of comprehensive STD/HIV prevention programs, and should be implemented in a contextually sensitive way

# Thank you

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)