

# What do we mean by “Health Equity”?

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# Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities: History

The original impetus for creating an Office of Minority Health (OMH) came from a 1987 report prepared by the State Center for Health Statistics that highlighted the **disproportionate morbidity and mortality experienced by minority populations.**



# Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities: History

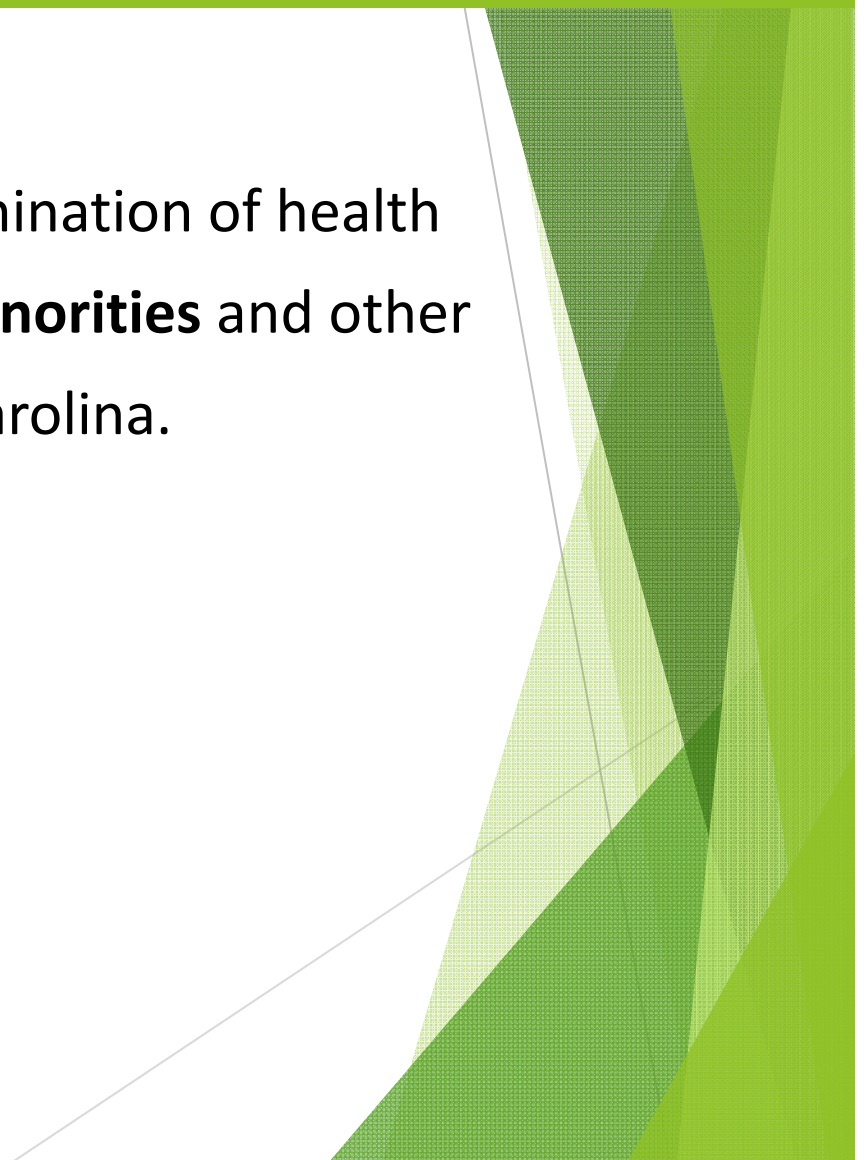
In response to this report, the 1992 North Carolina General Assembly established the **Office of Minority Health**, and the **Minority Health Advisory Council (MHAC)** in public law H.B. 1340, part 24, sections 165 and 166.

Under the leadership of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in 2001 the office name was changed to **Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD)**.



# Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities: Mission

To promote and advocate for the elimination of health disparities among all **racial/ethnic minorities** and other **underserved populations** in North Carolina.



# Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities: Vision

All North Carolinians will enjoy good health regardless of **race** and **ethnicity**, **disability** or **socioeconomic status**.





# What is Health Equity?



# Health Equity, as defined by: Healthy People 2020

Health equity is defined as the **attainment of the highest level of health for all people.**

Achieving health equity requires **valuing everyone equally** with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address **avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices**, and the **elimination of health and health care disparities.**





# Health Equity, as defined by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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**.

Health disparities or inequities, are types of **unfair** health differences closely linked with **social, environmental, or economic disadvantages** that adversely affect groups of people.





# Health Equity, as defined by: World Health Organization (WHO)

Equity is the absence of **avoidable or remediable differences** among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically.

Health inequities therefore **involve more than inequality** with respect to health determinants, access to the resources needed to improve and maintain health or health outcomes.

**They also entail a failure to avoid or overcome inequalities that infringe on fairness and human rights norms.**



World Health  
Organization

# Equality is a good thing, but...

## Equality $\neq$ Equity

Equality refers to equal inputs, though the outcomes can still be unequal.



With equity, inputs may need to be different to achieve equal outcomes.



Equality refers to **inputs**, equity to **outcomes**.



# What Influences Health Equity?

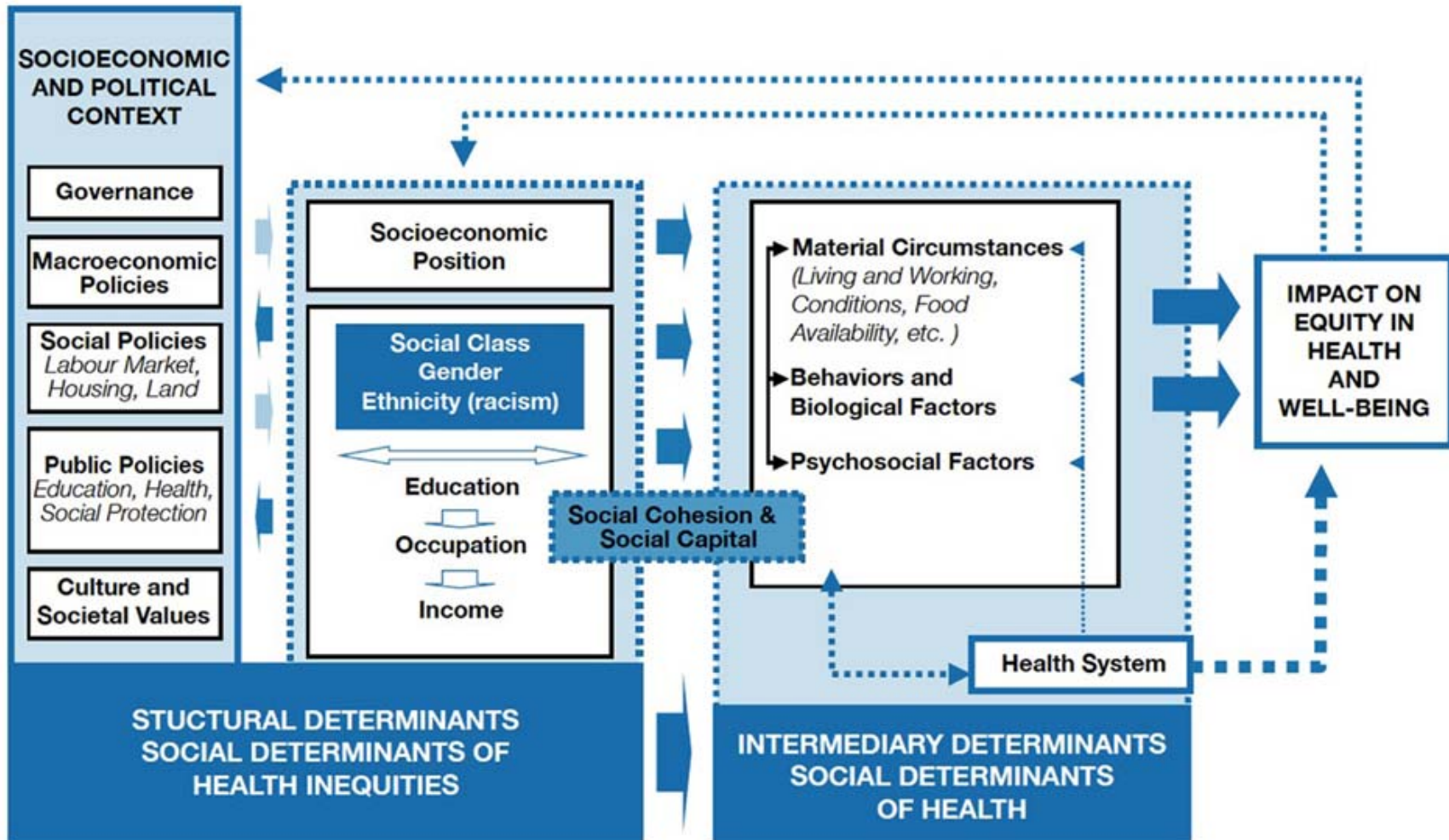
## Social Determinants of Health

- ▶ Where we **live, learn, work** and **play** has a tremendous impact on health.
- ▶ Social factors such as **housing, education, income** and **employment** greatly influence the health and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities.



# What Influences Health Equity?

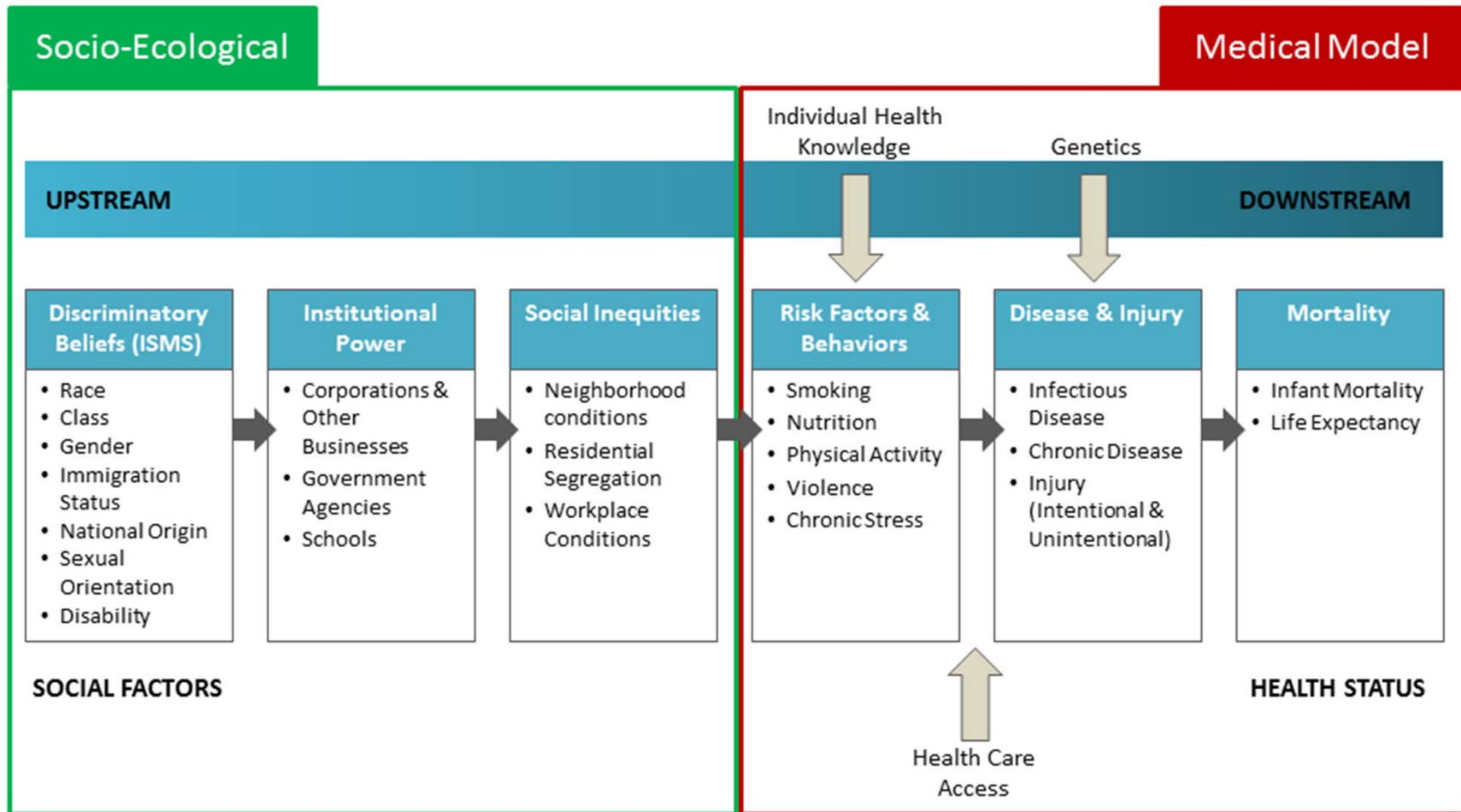
## Social Determinants of Health





# How do we address Health Inequity?

## A Framework for Health Equity



# Contact Information

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