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INTRO & BACKGROUND

- There is a significant difference in the quality and access of care people are receiving when it relates to income.
- Higher-income areas are receiving a higher quality of care and better access to health care than lower-income areas (Disparities in Health and Health Care, 2020).
- As a result, poor health is perpetuated in low-income areas (Bitely, 2021)

PICO QUESTION

Is there an association between Income and Health Care Quality and Access in the United States?

MICHIGAN SPOTLIGHT

- Health factors and outcomes were disproportionately better in Michigan counties with greater levels of wealth (County Health Rankings, 2020)
- 1 in 5 Children in Michigan live below the poverty line (Bitely, 2021)
- Poverty increases the risks for diseases and overall poor mental health (Bitely, 2021)
- 43% of the population in Michigan can not afford needs such as health care (Bitely, 2021)

Children Living in Poverty in Michigan



Figure 4: Overall percentages of children living in Poverty in Michigan



Figure 1: Average differences in quality of care by state

Gaps Between Average Annual Income of Richest and Poorest Households in the United States, 2018

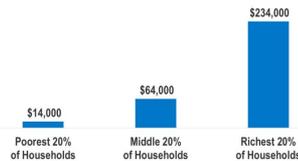


Figure 2: Differences between income levels in the United States

QUICK FACTS

- Figure 1 demonstrates the quality of healthcare for each state in the United States. States highlighted in gray have the best quality of healthcare and states highlighted in blue have the lowest quality of healthcare (2016 National Healthcare, 2017).
- Figure 2 demonstrates average income levels in the United States. The poorest households bring \$13,000 in annually and the richest households bring in \$214,000 (Semega, 2017).
- Figure 3 demonstrates the percentage of quality in different insurance groups. The uninsured experienced worse quality of healthcare while the privately insured experienced better quality of healthcare (2016 National Healthcare, 2017).

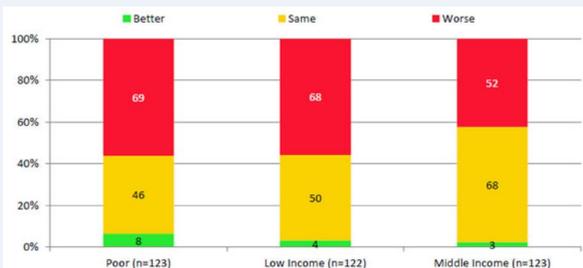


Figure 3: Percentage of quality of healthcare in different insurance groups

OUTCOMES

- Income levels are an effective method of predicting health care quality
- Low-income counties have poor health outcomes
- Low-income areas are at high risk for chronic conditions (Kincaid, 2015)
- Income is a social determinant of health

SUMMARY

- Income levels in the United States are a determinant of health in any given area.
- As income levels increase, access to high-quality health care improves, directly impacting the health of the people in the surrounding area.
- Those who live in higher-income areas report overall better physical and mental health, as well as higher quality of life, as a direct result of their access to high-quality health care.
- This health disparity that results from income levels is a clear indication that the health care system needs improvement.

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