

Tackling Health Disparities in Children: Improving Outcomes for Children of Color

Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP

Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics and Child Health
Howard University College of Medicine

Adjunct Professor of Emergency Medicine and Health Policy
George Washington University Schools of Medicine and Public Health
Washington, DC

Congressional Allergy & Asthma Caucus
Congressional Black Caucus
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
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Faculty Disclosure

- In the past 12 months, I have not had a significant financial interest or other relationship with the manufacturer(s) of the products or provider(s) of the services that will be discussed in my presentation.
- This presentation will not include discussion of pharmaceuticals or devices that have not been approved by the FDA.



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Faculty Disclosure: Context

DC-Baltimore Research Center on Child Health Disparities



- The only such NIH-funded center focusing exclusively on health disparities in children, adolescents and young adults.

Demographic Trends in the US

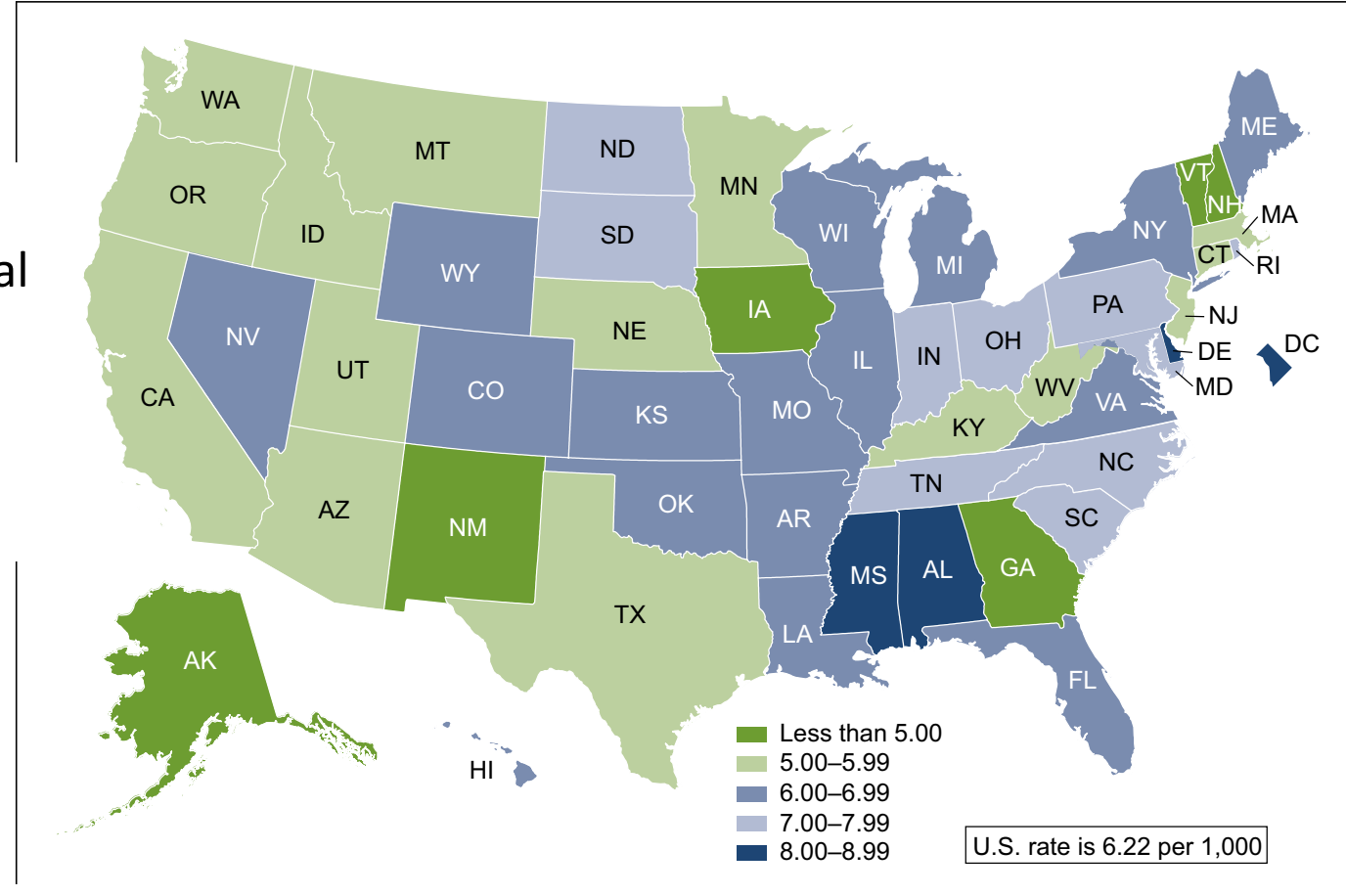
- 74 mil children (24%); projected to increase to 76.3 mil by 2030
- By 2020, more than half of children will be part of a minority race or ethnic group
- 22% of children are living in poverty compared to 18% in 2008
- Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented among the socially and economically disadvantaged:
 - **11%** of non-hispanic white children
 - **30%** of Hispanic children
 - **39%** of African-American children

Currently living in poverty

Figure 5. Perinatal mortality rate, by state: United States, 2010–2011

There are large differences in perinatal mortality rates:

- 3.65/1000 – VT
- 8.91/1000 – MS



Definition

- **Social Determinants of Health** – The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels and are mostly responsible for health inequities.

- World Health Organization (WHO)



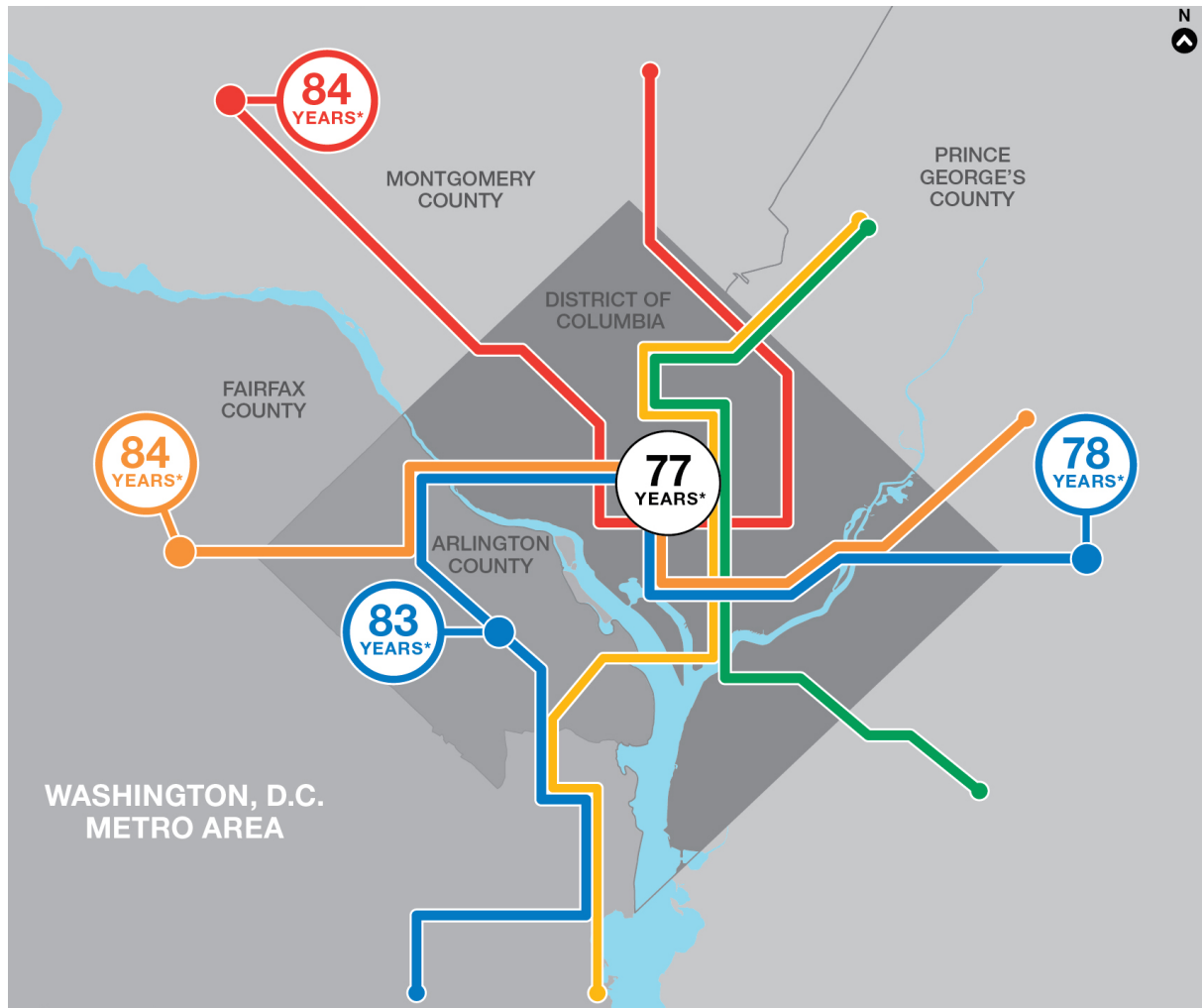
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Place Matters:

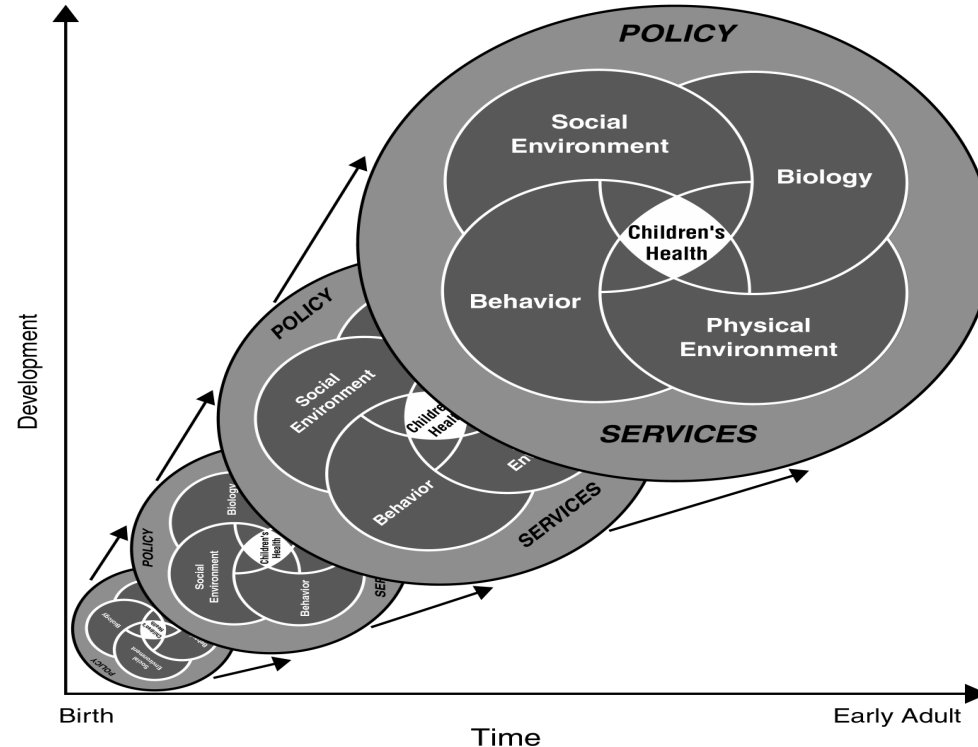
Life Expectancy by County

- Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation (RWJF)



Disparities: A Life Course Perspective

Model of Children's Health and Its Influences



Children's Health, the Nation's Wealth. Institute of Medicine.
DC: National Academies Press, 2004.



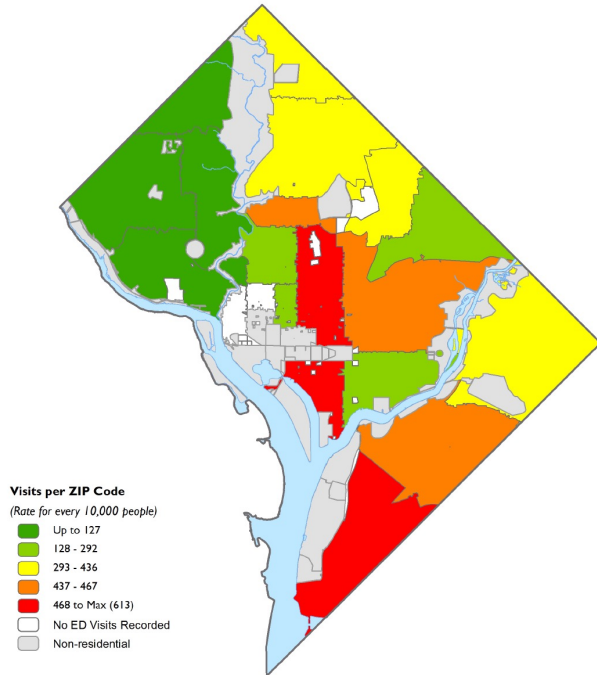
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Coverage Does Not Equal Access

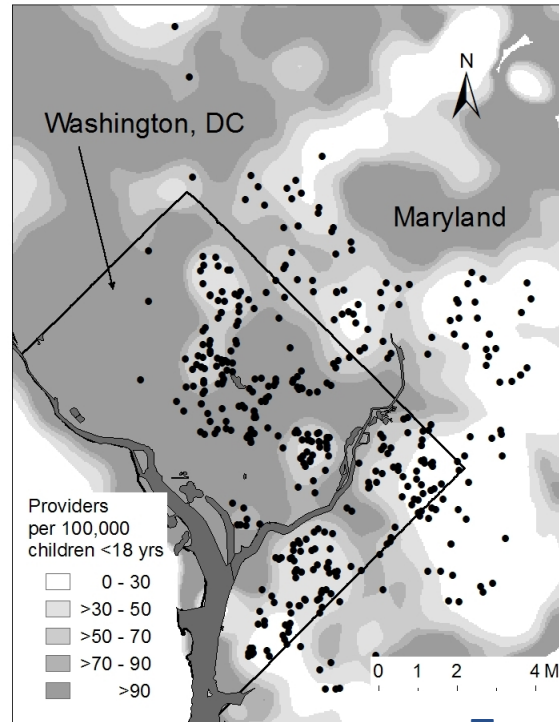
- Despite high levels of insurance coverage, many barriers keep children from receiving primary and specialty health care in community-based settings.
- Uneven distribution of primary and specialty care providers significantly impede access to care.
- Many children rely on the Emergency Department for care and are treated for conditions that could otherwise be prevented (***ambulatory care sensitive***)

Asthma in the District of Columbia: Tale of Two Cities

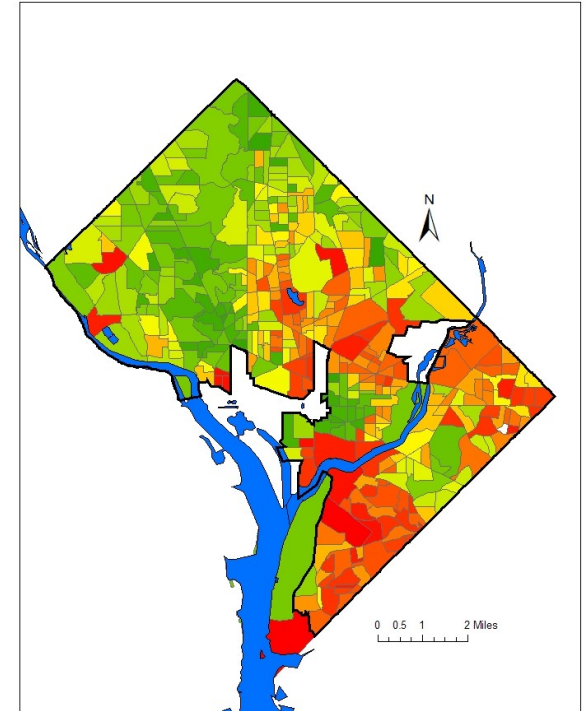
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS IN WASHINGTON, DC - 2010
Asthma as Primary, Secondary or Tertiary Diagnosis (5 - 14 years)



Primary Care Access



Poverty



Behavioral Health Resources are not located where children live in D.C.

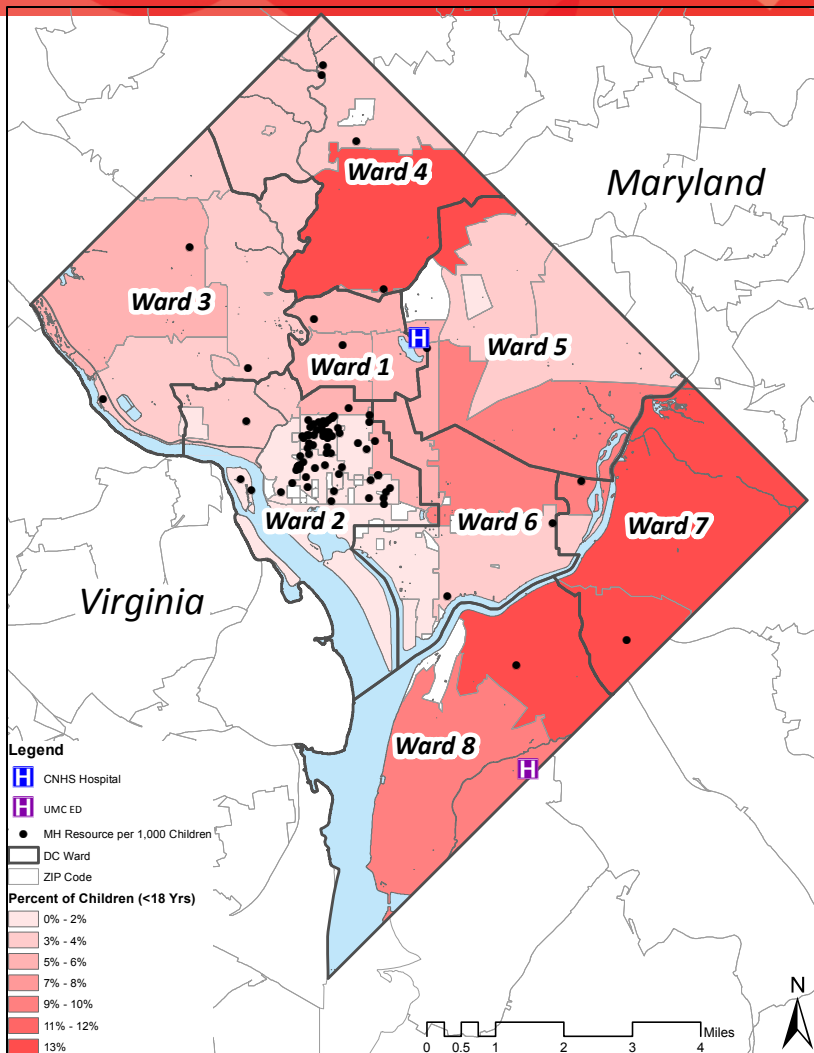
- DC Health Matters, courtesy
Child Health Data Lab

Child Health
AdvocacyInstitute



Children's National™

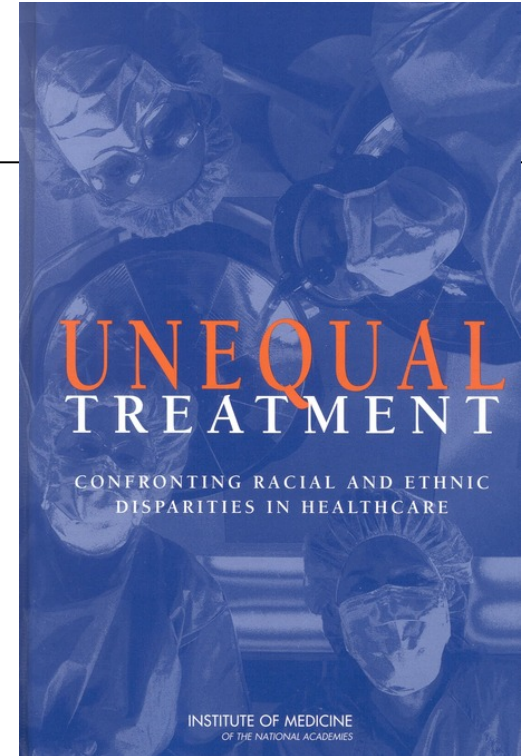
<http://www.dchealthmatters.org>



Reframing the Disparities Agenda: A Time to Rethink, a Time to Focus

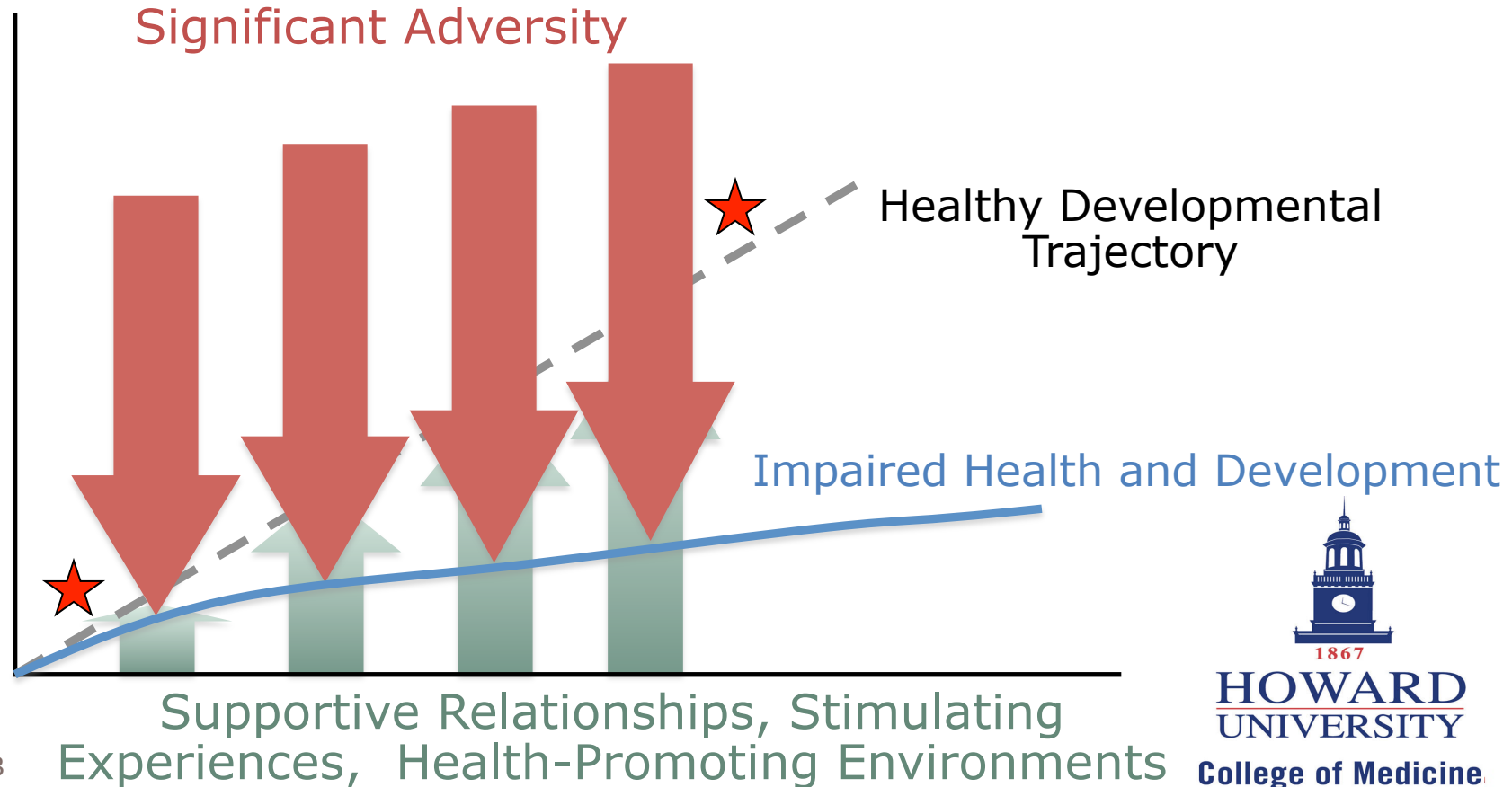
Ivor B. Horn, MD, MPH; Fernando S. Mendoza, MD, MPH

- Local, “high touch” community participatory efforts not-with-standing, at the macro level, little measurable change has occurred.
- Leveraging the ACA to focus efforts on eliminating systemic inequities in quality of care.



Childhood Developmental Trajectories

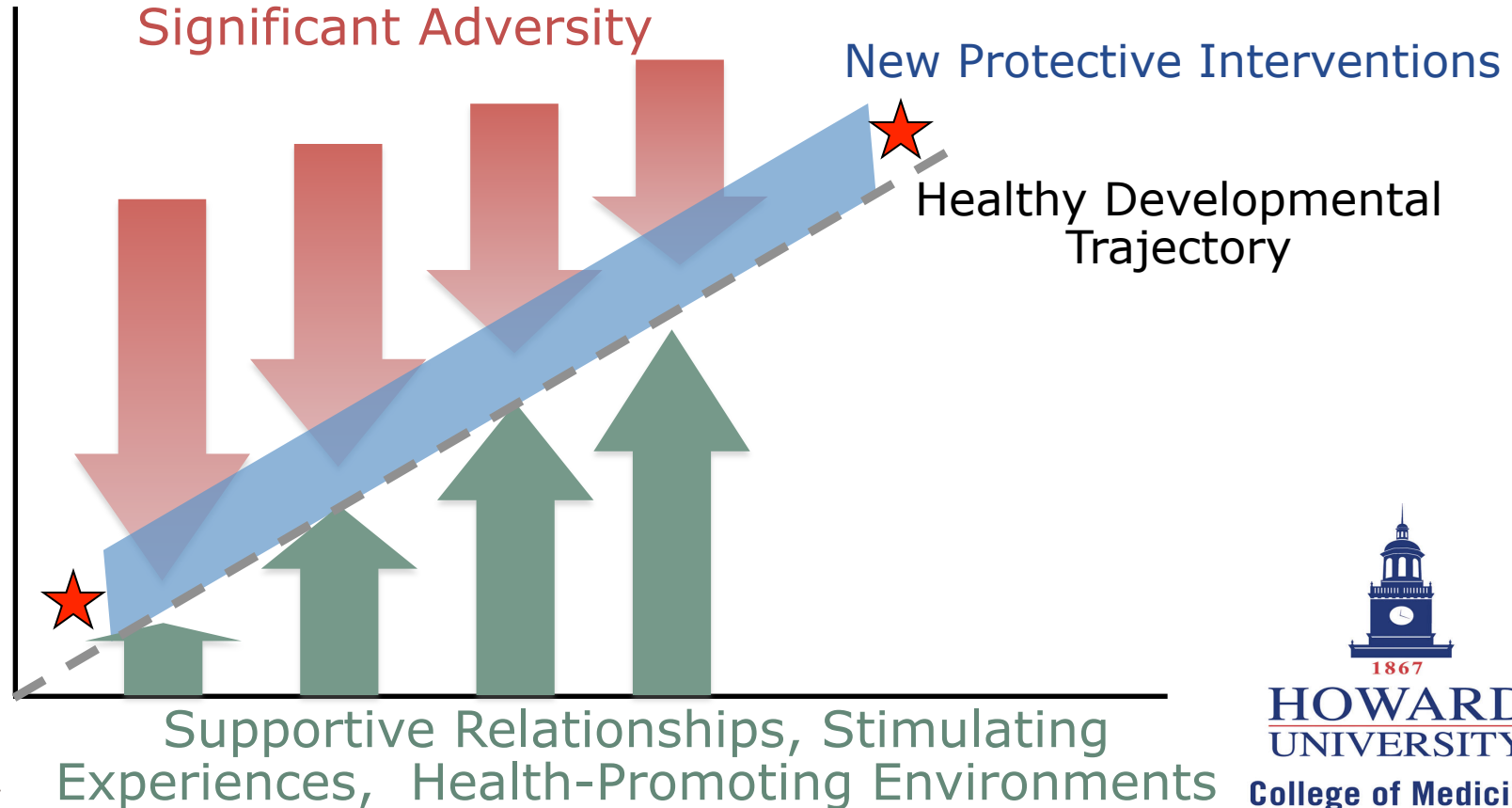
Adapted from Harvard
Univ. Center on the
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Protective Interventions: Building Resilience

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Public Health Parable

A man is standing by a river when he hears a cry for help. He sees someone struggling in the water, on the verge of drowning. Being an expert swimmer, he jumps in and rescues the victim. Before he has time to rejoice in his success, however, he sees someone else floating by, also crying for help. As soon as he rescues this person, he discovers a third....then a fourth and a fifth. More and more victims float by, taxing his swimming stamina. Finally he walks away. When asked where he is going, he replies, "I'm going up the river to try to stop people from falling in."



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Equity Does Not Always Mean Justice

