

## **Investments in Health I: Achieving Health Equity**

**Weight of the Nation Conference  
Washington, D.C.  
July 2009**

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health  
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

## **Investments in Health I: Achieving Health Equity**

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## **Investments in Health I: Achieving Health Equity**

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## **What Are Health Disparities?**

- Differences in the incidence and prevalence of health conditions and health status between groups

## **Social Determinants of Health**

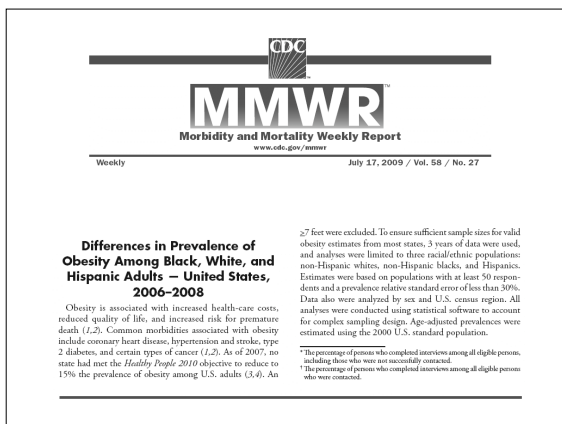
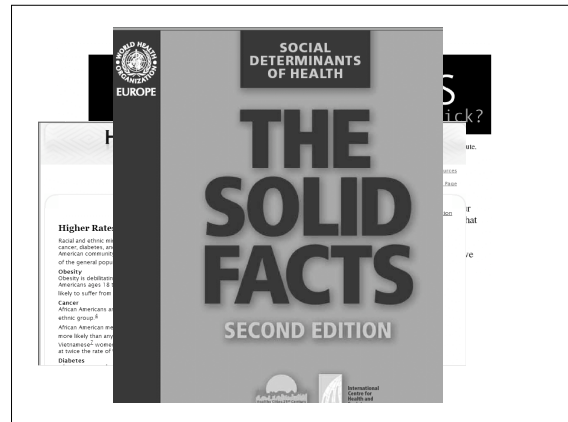
- Social determinants of health are life-enhancing resources, such as food supply, housing, economic and social relationships, transportation, education, and health care, whose distribution across populations effectively determines length and quality of life”

## **What Are Health Inequities?**

- Health disparities are referred to as health inequities when they are the result of the systematic and unjust distribution of these critical conditions (social determinants)

## What is Health Equity?

- Health equity is the fair distribution of health determinants, outcomes, and resources within and between segments of the population, regardless of social standing



## Disparities In Obesity

- CDC analyzed data from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) surveys conducted during 2006–2008
- Overall, for the 3-year period, 25.6% of non-Hispanic blacks, non-Hispanic whites, and Hispanics were obese

## Disparities In Obesity

- Non-Hispanic blacks (35.7%) had 51% greater prevalence of obesity, and Hispanics (28.7%) had 21% greater prevalence, when compared with non-Hispanic whites (23.7%)

## Disparities In Obesity

- However, state prevalences varied substantially, ranging from 23.0% (New Hampshire) to 45.1% (Maine) for non-Hispanic blacks, from 21.0% (Maryland) to 36.7% (Tennessee) for Hispanics, and from 9.0% (District of Columbia [DC]) to 30.2% (West Virginia) for non-Hispanic whites

### **Disparities In Obesity**

- Given the overall high prevalence of obesity & the significant differences among non-Hispanic blacks, non-Hispanic whites, and Hispanics, effective policies & environmental strategies that promote healthy eating and physical activity are needed for all populations and geographic areas, but particularly for those populations and areas disproportionately affected by obesity

### **Question to Expert Panel**

- We have briefly reviewed new data from CDC which highlights health disparities relative to obesity. What is the mindset needed by our leaders to implement and sustain policy and environmental changes to eliminate these disparities and achieve health equity as it relates to obesity prevention and control?

### **Question #2**

- To what degree do you feel that the public health community has the necessary understanding and/or comfort level to address the complex surrounding health inequities?

### **Question #3**

- What particular social determinant(s) are the most difficult to address in the elimination of health disparities relative to obesity?

### **Question #4**

- What are some of the most promising developments at the local, state or national level that you feel move us toward the elimination of obesity health disparities and the achievement of health equity?

### **Question #5**

- How critical a role must the achievement of health equity play in the current discussion and implementation of Health Reform?