

# **POLICY LEVERS AND OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS STATES TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUITY**

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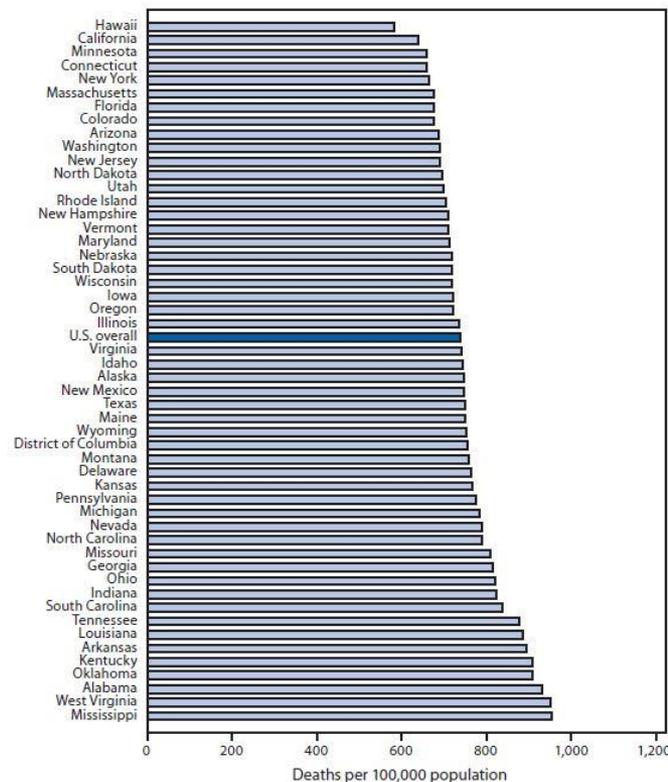
Invest Health  
Health Equity Session  
Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
New Orleans, LA

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End Health Disparities

# Background

- Across the US, health gaps persist
  - Health divide in age-adjusted death rates, by state

Age-Adjusted Death Rates,\* by State† — United States, 2011



\* Rates per 100,000 population were calculated based on postcensal populations as of July 1, 2011.  
 † U.S. residents only.

Source: National Vital Statistics System. Mortality public use data gap files, 2011. Available at:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data\\_access/vitalstatsonline.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/vitalstatsonline.htm).

# Background

- **Clinical factors, health behaviors, and social determinants affect health equity**
- **Growing evidence of policies that address determinants of health can have positive effects on health and reduce health inequities**
- **Widespread awareness of that evidence underscores the need for action**

## The Social Determinants of Health: Coming of Age

Paula Braveman,<sup>1</sup> Susan Egerter,<sup>1</sup>  
and David R. Williams<sup>2</sup>

By Rachel L. J. Thornton, Crystal M. Glover, Crystal W. Cené, Deborah C. Glik, Jeffrey A. Henderson, and David R. Williams

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## Evaluating Strategies For Reducing Health Disparities By Addressing The Social Determinants Of Health

## The Case For More Active Policy Attention To Health Promotion

To succeed, we need leadership that informs and motivates, economic incentives that encourage change, and science that moves the frontiers.

by J. Michael McGinnis, Pamela Williams-Russo, and James R. Knickman

# Background

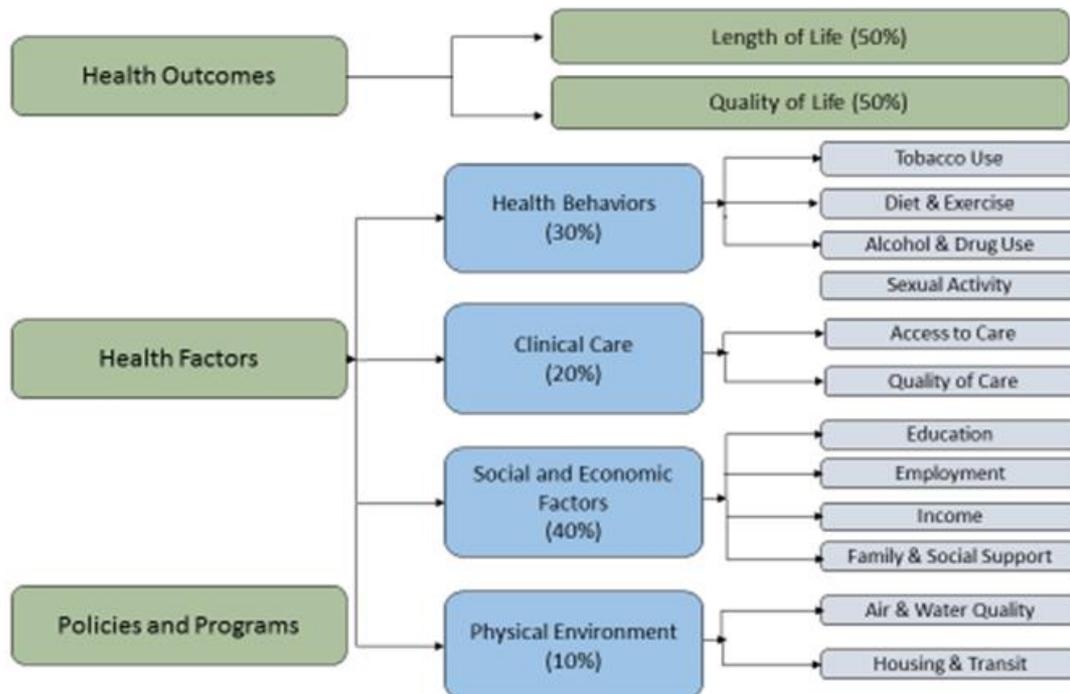
- **State policy changes impact population health and health equity**
  - **In Texas, pregnancy-related deaths doubled after state budget cuts in family planning spending**
- **What policy changes are states doing (or not doing) that can improve population health and achieve health equity?**
  - **“Do something  
Do more  
Do better”**
    - **Sir Michael Marmot**

# Study Aims

1. To identify the extent to which states have enacted evidence-based policies to address the domains that impact population health and health equity
2. To highlight promising, feasible approaches for states to make policy changes that can address health inequities

# Conceptual Framework

- Developed a scorecard of state policies to promote health equity
- Conceptual framework stems from a model of population health



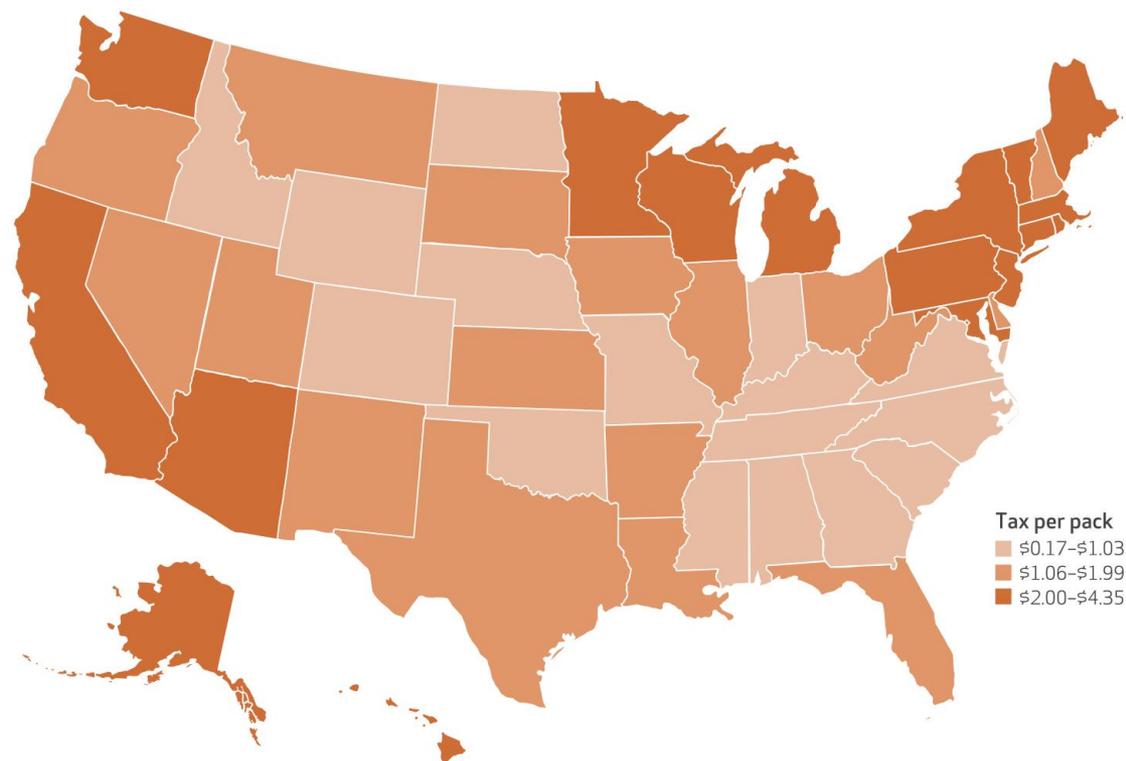
## Scorecard Measures

1. **Social factors: Percentage of four-year-olds enrolled in state-funded pre-K**
2. **Physical environment: Presence of a state-funded housing subsidy and a homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing program**
3. **Health behaviors: Cigarette excise tax**
4. **Clinical care: Medicaid expansion and the coverage gap**
5. **Economic factors: Minimum wage**

# Study Results

## Health behaviors: Cigarette excise tax

Cigarette excise tax per pack per US state, 2017

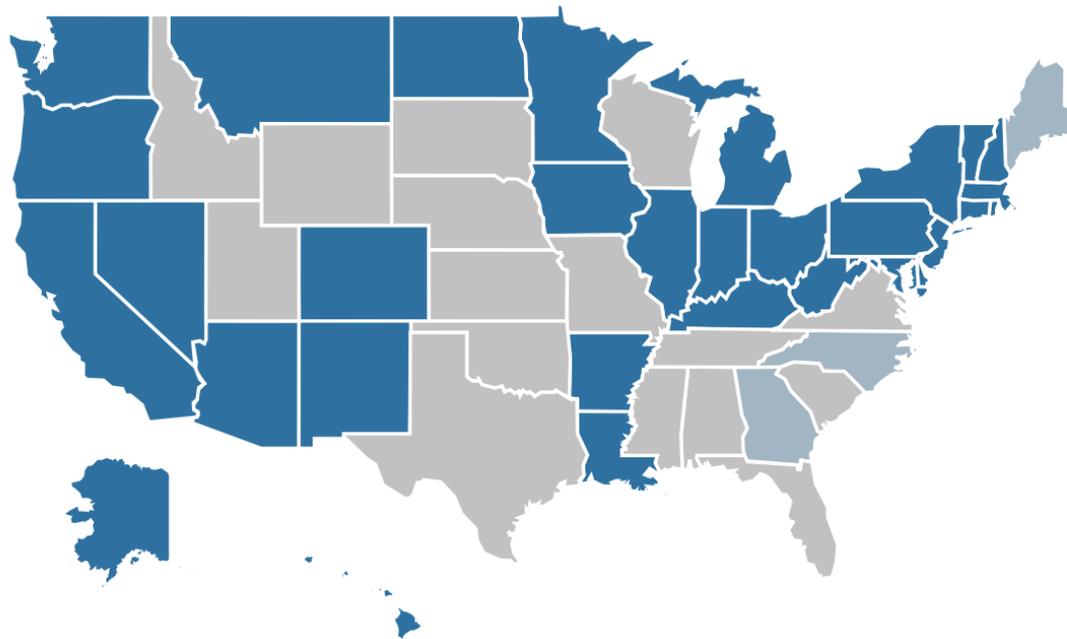


**SOURCE** Authors' analysis of data from Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. State excise and sales taxes per pack of cigarettes: total amounts and state rankings [Internet]. Washington (DC): The Campaign; 2017 Jan 3 [cited 2017 Apr 21]. Available from: <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0202.pdf>.

# Study Results

## Clinical care: Medicaid expansion and coverage gap

■ No Medicaid Expansion ■ Adopted Medicaid Expansion ■ Considering Medicaid Expansion

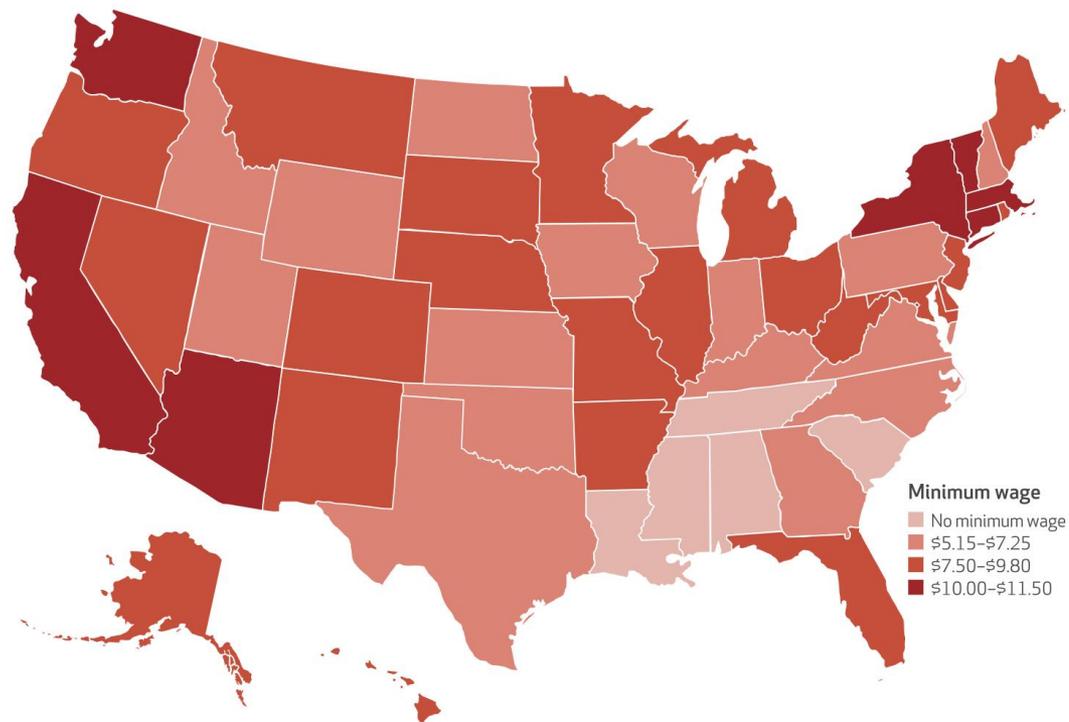


SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation, news reports  
Last updated: April 10, 2017

# Study Results

## Economic factors: Minimum wage

Minimum wage per US state, 2017



**SOURCE** Authors' analysis of data from the following items: (1) Department of Labor. Minimum wage laws in the states—January 1, 2017 [Internet]. Washington (DC): DOL; [last revised 2017 Jan 1; cited 2017 Apr 21]. Available from: <https://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/america.htm>. (2) National Conference of State Legislatures. State minimum wages: 2017 minimum wage by state [Internet]. Denver (CO): NCSL; 2017 Jan 5 [cited 2017 Apr 21]. Available from: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx>.

## Study Results

- States vary substantially in enacting each of the five evidence-based policies
- Few states excel in enacting all five policies
- There was no clear overall regional trend of high performance

# Policy Implications

- Do something
  - Louisiana: adopted Medicaid expansion
  - California: more than doubled its cigarette excise tax
- Do more
  - Arizona: raised its state minimum wage
- Do better
  - Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont: adopted Medicaid expansion and awarded funding from State Innovation Models initiative

## Policy Implications (Cont'd)

- Build partnerships
  - Some communities may be early gems that already have taken first steps, while others may be at the very beginning and require guidance
- Cross-sector collaboration is key
  - Multiple factors impact health that go beyond public health and health care systems – neighborhood and economic development
  - Limited funding, staffing, and other resources
- Encourage knowledge sharing
  - Meetings, webinars, and social media

# National Partnership for Action (NPA) to End Health Disparities

- National, one-of-a-kind initiative established by U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health in 2011
- Goal is to increase the effectiveness of programs that target the elimination of health disparities through the coordination of leaders, stakeholders, and partners committed to action
- Community driven, partnership based, multi-sector and multi-level involvement
- Social-determinants of health focused



## NPA (cont'd)

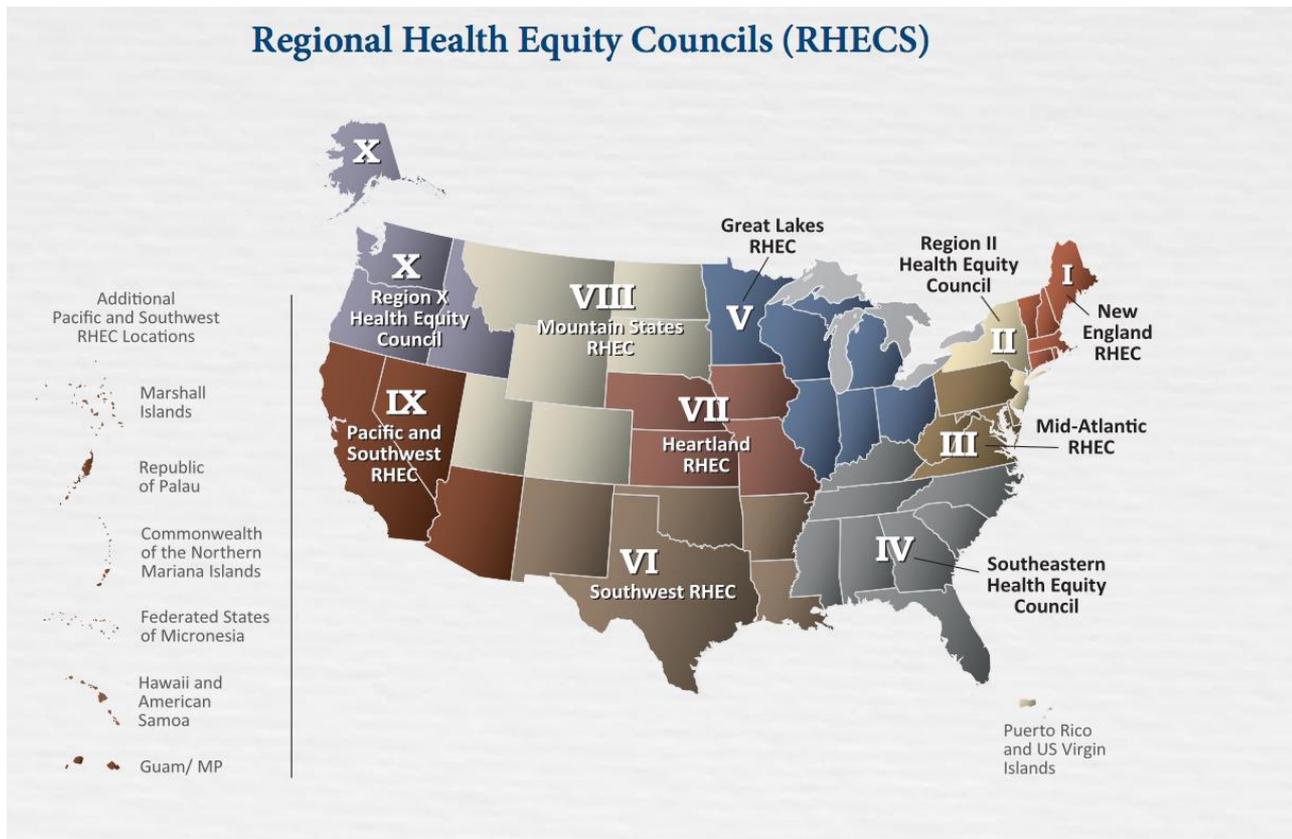
- National, regional, state, and local partners across multiple sectors share knowledge and resources to take action on health disparities
  - Federal Interagency Health Equity Team (FIHET)
  - 10 Regional Health Equity Councils (RHECs)
  - State Offices of Minority Health (SOMHs)
  - Local and national partners, including the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), National Indian Health Board (NIHB), and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Regional Health Equity Councils



## NPA (cont'd)

- Mid-sized cities awarded by Invest Health align with the ten RHECs



## Concluding Remarks

- States can make policy changes that can create healthier and more equitable communities
- Studied only some of the policies; rankings do not definitively indicate overall performance in enacting policies to achieve health equity
- Scorecard aims to start a dialogue about what states can feasibly do to reduce health inequities
- Partnership, cross-sector collaboration, and knowledge and resource sharing will critical for states to take action

# Concluding Remarks

- Questions?

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