Social determinants of health: Meaning what exactly?

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The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age\(^1\) as well as the complex, interrelated social structures and economic systems that shape these conditions.\(^2\) Social determinants of health include aspects of the social environment (e.g., discrimination, income, education level, marital status), the physical environment (e.g., place of residence, crowding conditions, built environment [i.e., buildings, spaces, transportation systems, and products that are created or modified by people]), and health services (e.g., access to and quality of care, insurance status).\(^2\)
Social determinants of health: What is it about those pesky preconditions of disadvantage?

- Health, nutrition, stamina status are suboptimal
- Community and built environment more hazardous
- Less able to deter optional risks
- Fewer livelihood options outside high-risk areas
- Reduced political options
- Few resources to prepare for/ recover from disasters
- Chronic, overt racism
Guatemala: 1976 Earthquake
25,000 plus killed; >125K homeless
Welfare hotels

- Privately owned

- $1,500 - 3,000/month/room