

AUGUST 2019



WASHINGTON
PHYSICIANS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY

INEQUITY & HEALTH

NEWS, EVENTS & DISPATCHES FROM WPSR ON ECONOMIC INEQUITY & HEALTH



WPSR'S ECONOMIC INEQUITY & HEALTH TASK FORCE:

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility's issue-area task forces are composed of healthcare professionals and other community members, who take the lead in setting WPSR's strategic priorities. They typically meet monthly and play a vital role in our program work.

WPSR's economic inequality and health task force works to support policies that reduce economic inequality (including tax reform) and improve the lives of those who are most deeply impacted by inequality. We invite you to visit wpsr.org to learn more, contact us to join the task force or get involved, and donate to support our work.

Thanks for all you do,
Dr. Mary Weiss, Co-Chair
Dr. Stephen Bezruschka, Co-Chair
Max Savishinsky, Executive Director

Fall Task Force Gathering Oct 11

Join us and other members of the Economic Inequality Task Force for a fall kick-off event, hosted by Task Force Co-Chair and WPSR board member Dr. Stephen Bezruschka. We will share food, conversation, games, and talk about the work of the task force in the months and year ahead. It will be a time to meet others and think collectively about our work to reduce inequality and improve health outcomes in our communities.

WHAT: EI+H Task Force Gathering

WHEN: October 11, 2019, 6pm

WHERE: 2030 Bonair Drive SW, Seattle, 98116

RSVP: wpsr@wpsr.org



Stay Connected & Involved

What have you been up to? We'd love to know what you've been doing around Economic Inequity & Health this summer. Email us at wpsr@wpsr.org to share successes, resources, or events you'd like to announce.

And...a great resource for anyone who cares about and wants to learn more about issues of inequity: www.inequality.org. We recommend checking it out & subscribing to their newsletter!

Economic Inequity + Health Task Force in Action

Congrats to EI+H Task Force Co-chair Dr. Stephen Bezruchka who delivered grand rounds at Virginia Mason's first-of-its-kind "It Takes a Village" June conference on addressing social determinants of health. Click [here](#) to learn more about the event, and his presentation on "Putting Health Back into Health Care."

In the News...

A curated selection of news items on Economic Inequity & Health. Click on any article to read more!

Seattle's homeless are getting sicker and shelters are struggling to keep up

In a survey of over 1,000 people struggling with homelessness in King County, 64% reported living with one or more health conditions. Another 27% called their health issues "chronic," and 23% said they had at least one physical disability, compared with an estimated 6.4% of the general population.

Appeals Court: Seattle Can Have Income Tax: Supreme Court Will Rule on Progressive Taxation

The Washington Court of Appeals released its ruling on the lawsuit against Seattle's income tax on the affluent. The court found Seattle to be completely within its rights to implement its own income tax.

Screening For Social Needs: What Do Parents Think?

New research shows that while many parents were receptive to social needs screening, they were often caught off guard by sensitive "nonmedical" questions about their family or community life.

How much should physicians be responsible for addressing social risks to their patients?

"Social determinants of health," are a hot topic in medicine. Of all factors that contribute to an individual's health, nearly 80% involve these determinants, while only 20% relate to health care services.



New Federal Bill Focuses on Social Determinants of Health

The Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2019

The new bill, introduced by Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D, Illinois) aims to assist state, local and tribal governments in improving health and social outcomes and the return on investment for health and social services programs through grants and technical assistance to overcome barriers to coordination of services. It would create a pipeline of state and locally designed, cross-sector strategies that will generate rigorous evidence about their impact. The bill would also establish a new Social Determinants Accelerator Interagency Council.

Join us! To donate to WPSR or become a member, visit www.wpsr.org/support