



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

CHILD WELL-BEING IS ASSOCIATED WITH SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION

A composite child well-being index should appropriately weight social determinants of public health.

A forum was held on the “Impact of the Economic Crisis on Children” at the New America Foundation. The keynote presenter was the researcher who developed the Child Well-Being Index. Presenters at the forum were economists and experts on policies that affect low income populations

Summary

There are seven domains with twenty-eight indicators that comprise the Child Well-Being Index (CWI). In all, there were nineteen of the twenty-eight items in the domains that were either measures of health or social determinants of health. These indicators were, 1) economics associated with poverty 2) health insurance and associated domains of poor health, 3) safe behavior (teen birth rates, violent crime, smoking, alcohol and drugs 4) effective social relationships such as healthy families and 5) emotional conditions which includes suicide. Most of the other indicators were associated with education attainment and outcomes.

Data indicates trends in the domain-specific summary indices 1975-2007 a steady decline of 30% of health but the safety behavioral domain load with lifestyle social determinant of health are up by 40%. Educational attainment trends were flat, but the community connectedness that is highly loaded with educational achievement was up 30%. Thus, education outcomes are not associated with educational cohorts and social determinants public health and safety appear to be unrelated to health outcomes.

Disability Prevention Issue

Indicators of the CWI, which include mostly social determinants, should be weighted and reflected in the composite index the CWI. The validity of the Composite CWI is important because it has been considered for policy considerations that can reduce resources for social determinants of health that are associated with prevention of diminished health and disability.

Intervention

A letter was written to the author of the CWI document concerning the validity of composite score of the Child Well-Being Index.

Recommendation

A composite child well-being index should appropriately weight social determinants of public health.