



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH MAY PREVENT DISABILITY AND REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

The U.S. lags behind some underdeveloped countries in prevention of mortality and morbidity during early childhood.

A Senate Congressional briefing was held by the “Commission for a Healthier America” that described results of the cohorts of “length in education” and “family income” on the health of people in America. Presenters at the forum were staff from the “Commission for a Healthier America” and public health researchers.

Summary

The forum focused on family income and length of time in education as parameters that relate to poor health in America when compared to other developed and some underdeveloped countries of the world. While the amount of education and family income are cohorts of health in the U.S., they are not in some other countries. For instance, the World Health Organization reports that the prevalence of mortality, birth to five, is 8 per thousand in the U.S. and 5 per thousand in Cuba. Thus, a child born in Cuba has a 60% greater chance of reaching his or her 5th birthday than a child born in the U.S. even though family income in the U.S. is far greater than in Cuba. There may be a need to examine the full scope of effective public health on a healthier America rather than on isolated cohorts such as education and family income.

Disability Prevention Issue

Personal, cultural and institutional factors of social determinants of public health are relevant to population-based diminished health. In the event these factors of public health are overlooked in the implementation of effective public health, the consequences may be diminished health that could lead to a host of chronic health disorders and disability.

Intervention

A letter was written to an author of the “Commission for a Healthier America” report suggesting that the primacy of the full scope of effective public health on health in America be explored, rather than focusing on parameters that may be of relevance to America.

Recommendation

Effective public health to promote and protect the health of people in America should result, at a minimum, in childhood mortality and morbidity rates that are

comparable to the childhood mortality and morbidity rates of other industrialized countries of the world.