Equity at the Intersection of Poverty, Migration and Health

Deliana Garcia, MA

September 16, 2016
EQUALITY vs. EQUITY
Definition of Health Equity

Absence of avoidable or remediable difference
Health affected by:

- Employment
- Racism
  - Poverty
- Education
  - Access
  - Quality
- Health care
  - Access
  - Quality
- Public safety
- Food access
✓ Unequal distribution of and access to resources
✓ Failure to avoid or overcome the inequalities that infringe on fairness
Know the we can’t go it alone
Law reform

Economic capacity

Social relationships

Power

Wealth

Prestige
Why talk about complexity?
Young man comes to the clinic and is categorized as eligible for services as a homeless patient.

He has not accessed health care in the US.

Arrived from Honduras (Mexico?) five years ago.

Presumed to be an economic migrant.

Is HIV+.

Upon questioning indicates that he is a “sexual migrant.”
Missed opportunities
Why we don’t...

- It forces us to consider our own personal beliefs and experiences
- Emotionally charge conversations and our own individual cultures of discretion
- Example young man is asked if he uses condoms with every sexual encounter, and he asks “with women?” and the clinician responds “yes”. What is missing in this encounter
Its core is hidden in unconscious values
Globalization
244 million international migrants in 2015

There are 232 million people living outside their country of birth, including myself.

All of us are part of a productive global economy that benefits our world as a whole.

—BAN KI-MOON UN SECRETARY-GENERAL #IAMAMIGRANT
Rearticulate “cultural” formulations
Migration presents both...
Status of migrants is relevant to disease control, since it has been problematic for one government agency to pursue immigration control while another encourages undocumented migrants to utilize local health services.
What does the intersection of poverty and health look like?

Luis from Guatemala diagnosed with pulmonary TB at age 36. Moves 4 times during the course of a 9 month treatment for TB
What does the intersection of poverty and health look like?

An 18-year-old pregnant woman working as a farmworker in Arizona. Moves to Idaho for work. Has limited transportation, no English and very little money.
stigma
Missed appts led to discovery of recent trauma

Patient stated early on that she was not eating or drinking well

Every time HN called the patient was sad, numb, and confused

Saw therapist for a bit. Slowly improving. Regular communication from HN

Due to deliver in late February, 2016
Vulnerabilities

- Language and Culture
- Dangerous work
- Immigration Status
- Lack of Regulatory Protection
- Health Care Access
Impatience and annoyance may be your signal of an intercultural misunderstanding.

Personal questions asked of you by a patient may reflect a cultural need for trust and reassurance.

If patients repeat your instructions in exact form, there is a likelihood they do not understand. Rephrase and ask for recapitulation.

Hesitation may indicate you’ve hit a cultural wall.

Try to treat the way the patient likes to be treated rather than the way you like to be treated—be flexible.

Rena Gropper, 1996
2 Latino workers die every single day
Construction: 1 out of 4 workers are Latino
Worker crushed by 2,000 pounds of marble slab

Wesley Goheen
CBS46
July 17, 2015

Marietta, GA-A man is dead after the marble slabs he was unloading off a truck fell onto him. The incident happened Thursday at CLM Quality Marble and Granite on Airport Industrial Drive in Marietta.

Franco Sobrinho, 37, was unloading several slabs of granite off of a pick-up truck when he lost his footing and fell off the truck.

Two slabs of marble then fell on top of Sobrinho. The marble weighed an estimated 2,000 pounds. Sobrinho was pronounced dead at Kennestone Hospital.

OSHA is investigating the incident.

Police identify man killed in Union Township tractor accident

GoErie.com
May 24, 2015

Union City, PA-State police have identified a man killed when a tractor rolled over in Union Township on Saturday.

Police said at some point between 11:30 a.m. and 6:20 p.m. a Bobcat tractor operated by Goffredo Ianiro, 56, of Erie, flipped over on a steep grade, pinning Ianiro to the ground.

Ianiro was pronounced dead at the scene by Erie County Deputy Coroner John Maloney. Police said Ianiro’s death was accidental.

Workers Defense, OSHA investigating after death at East Austin job site

Lindsey Bramson
KXAN
July 14, 2015

Austin-On Tuesday, labor groups held a vigil for 28-year-old Ramiro Loa, a construction worker who died late last month. Loa fell three stories from the Eastside Station Apartments on East 4th street.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration confirms the incident is under investigation. More importantly, The Workers Defense Project wants to do whatever it can to make sure accidents like this don’t happen again.
Front desk staff

AA staff person who can recall that through segregation she could not get services at site as a child
Eligibility staff
Views use of benefits as a weakness
Lab staff
In a hurry and not focused on role of blood and removal of blood in some cultures
Medical Assistant
Speaks the language but from another region and does not know some of the nuances
Clinician

Feels patient should want the gold standard (The Spirit catches you and you fall down)
INTEGRATING SYSTEMS

Differences in care structure

Differences in payment structure

Safety net systems for which unauthorized migrants may not be eligible
Course of action?
An individual and organization-wide commitment to an ongoing process of working toward equity in multicultural contexts both internally and in partnership with communities.

| A defined set of values, policies, and practices | Building capacity to gain cultural knowledge and value cultural strength and diversity | Navigating the dynamics of difference | Addressing individual and organizational cultural biases |
Institution

- Conducts self-assessment
- Manages the dynamics of difference
- Acquires and institutionalizes cultural knowledge
- Adapts to diversity within cultural contexts of communities served
- Actively addresses imbalances of power and privilege
- Values diversity
Courage
- Be present
- Take risks
- Lower your defenses

Curiosity
- Have a flexible mind and an open heart
- Willing to accept alternative perspectives
- Have a desire to learn
# Structural Vulnerability Domains and Potential Sample Questions

| Financial Status | How do you make money?  
|                  | Do you have any difficulties doing this work?  
|                  | Do you have enough money to live comfortably—pay rent, get food, pay utilities and phone, basic living supplies?  
|                  | Do you run out of money at the end of the month?  
|                  | Do you receive any forms of government assistance?  
|                  | Are there other ways you make extra money or do you depend on anyone else for their income?  
|                  | Have you ever been unable to pay for medical care or medicines at the pharmacy? Do you have access to preventive and primary care? |
| Residence        | Where do you sleep?  
|                  | How long have you lived there?  
|                  | Is that a stable or reliable place for you to live?  
|                  | Do you feel the place that you live is safe and clean? |
| Risk Environments| Are you exposed to any toxins?  
|                  | Are you exposed to any violence?  
|                  | Are you exposed regularly to drug use? |
| Food Access      | Do you have adequate nutrition and access to healthy food?  
|                  | What does your regular diet consist of? |
| Social Network   | Which people make up your social network, family and friends? Is this network health or unhealthy for you?  
|                  | Do you have people who function as a social support system for you when needed? |
| Legal Status     | Do you have any legal trouble?  
|                  | Do you fear any repercussions related to your legal status?  
|                  | Are you eligible for public services? |
| Education        | Are you able to read? In what language(s)?  
|                  | What level of education have you reached? |
| Discrimination   | Have you experienced discrimination based on your skin color, your accent or where you are from?  
|                  | Have you experienced discrimination based on your gender or sexual orientation?  
|                  | Have you experienced discrimination for any other reason? |
| Presumed Worthiness | The clinician could ask themselves if this person is likely to be considered by others as someone not to be trusted because of aspects of their appearance, ethnicity, accent, addiction status, personality, or other traits.  
|                  | The clinician could ask themselves if other people are likely to assume that the patient deserves their plight in life or their sickness due to any of their traits.  
|                  | The clinician could ask themselves if other people are likely to assume that the patient does not deserve top quality health care due to any of their traits. |

Source: Unpublished article, Seth Holmes, MD, PhD
Any questions?

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