2017-11-07


M. Lelinneth B. Novilla  
*Brigham Young University, len_novilla@byu.edu*

Michael C. Goates  
*Brigham Young University, michael_goates@byu.edu*

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub](https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub)

Part of the [Public Health Commons](https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub)

**Original Publication Citation**

**BYU ScholarsArchive Citation**
Novilla, M. Lelinneth B.; Goates, Michael C.; Calder, Spencer; Galvao, Laura A.; Ellis, Tabetha; Eppich, Kraymer; Quintana, Noyra Melissa; Mateos, David; and Doria, Russell, "Are Our Policymakers on Board? A Systematic Review of U.S. Policymakers’ Views on the Social Determinants of Health, Health Disparities, Health Equity, & Health in All Policies" (2017). *All Faculty Publications*. 2093. [https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/2093](https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/2093)

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

M. Lelinneth B. Novilla, M.D., MPH; Michael C. Goates, MS, MLS; Spencer Calder, BS Public Health; Laura Antillon, BS Public Health; Tabetha Ellis, BS Public Health; Kraymer Eppich, BS Exercise Sciences; Noyra Melissa Quintana, BS Public Health; David Mateos, BS Neuroscience; Russell B. Doria, BS Public Health

BACKGROUND

Policies shape our society and influence our health. Poor social policies and bad politics create a social milieu that result in health inequities. Closing the health gap in our nation will require tackling the root causes of ill health and health inequities. But how have U.S. policymakers addressed the social conditions perceived to be legislative priorities by U.S. policymakers and the factors that facilitated/hindered policymakers’ intent to act on the social determinants of health.

PURPOSE

• Research Question 1: Which social determinants of health (SDH) and health disparities/inequities-related issues were identified/perceived by policy makers as legislative priorities?
• Research Question 2: What were the characteristics of policymakers that have supported or acted on SDH/health inequities-related issues?
• Research Question 3: Which factors facilitate or hinder political action on SDH/health-inequities-related issues?

METHODS

Inclusion criteria
• Articles addressing the social determinants of health
• Focus on the United States
• Mention individual U.S. policymaker or U.S. policy-making group
• Written in English

Policymakers
• Elected and non-elected officials
• Individuals and organizations
• National and local political levels

Article Coding
• Major SDH themes
• Policymaker demographics
• Action/Policy impact

RESULTS

Major SDH Themes Identified in the Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical/Healthcare</th>
<th>Public Health</th>
<th>Governmental</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Three SDH Themes by Year of Article Publication

Key Policy Points
• U.S. policymakers focused mainly on healthcare access, cost, and quality but did not systematically integrate the broader root causes of health inequities in the discussion.
• U.S. policymakers lacked a comprehensive & collaborative “health in all policies” approach.
• U.S. policymakers need to break down complex SDH problems into politically actionable short- & long-term components achievable within their term of office.

Moving Forward
• Build a culture of shared accountability for health among legislators, public health, government and private sectors.
• Advocate for a “health in all policies” approach among legislators– a systematic framework that accounts for the impact of policies, programs, & sector decisions on health.
• Share data and establish common metrics for assessing community health to inform policy, practice, & research.
• Engage policymakers and increase political understanding & buy-in through joint training, cross-sectoral communication, and collaborative action.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

• Educate policymakers about the importance of addressing the root causes of health inequities.
• Highlight the role of policymakers in shaping policies that impact health.
• Encourage policymakers to integrate social determinants into their legislative priorities.
• Promote cross-sectoral collaboration to address health inequities.

• Build a culture of shared accountability for health among legislators, public health, government and private sectors.
• Advocate for a “health in all policies” approach among legislators– a systematic framework that accounts for the impact of policies, programs, & sector decisions on health.
• Share data and establish common metrics for assessing community health to inform policy, practice, & research.
• Engage policymakers and increase political understanding & buy-in through joint training, cross-sectoral communication, and collaborative action.