



Addressing Long-Term Social Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Health and Health Disparities

Presented by
Amanda Alise Price, Ph.D.
NINR Program Officer

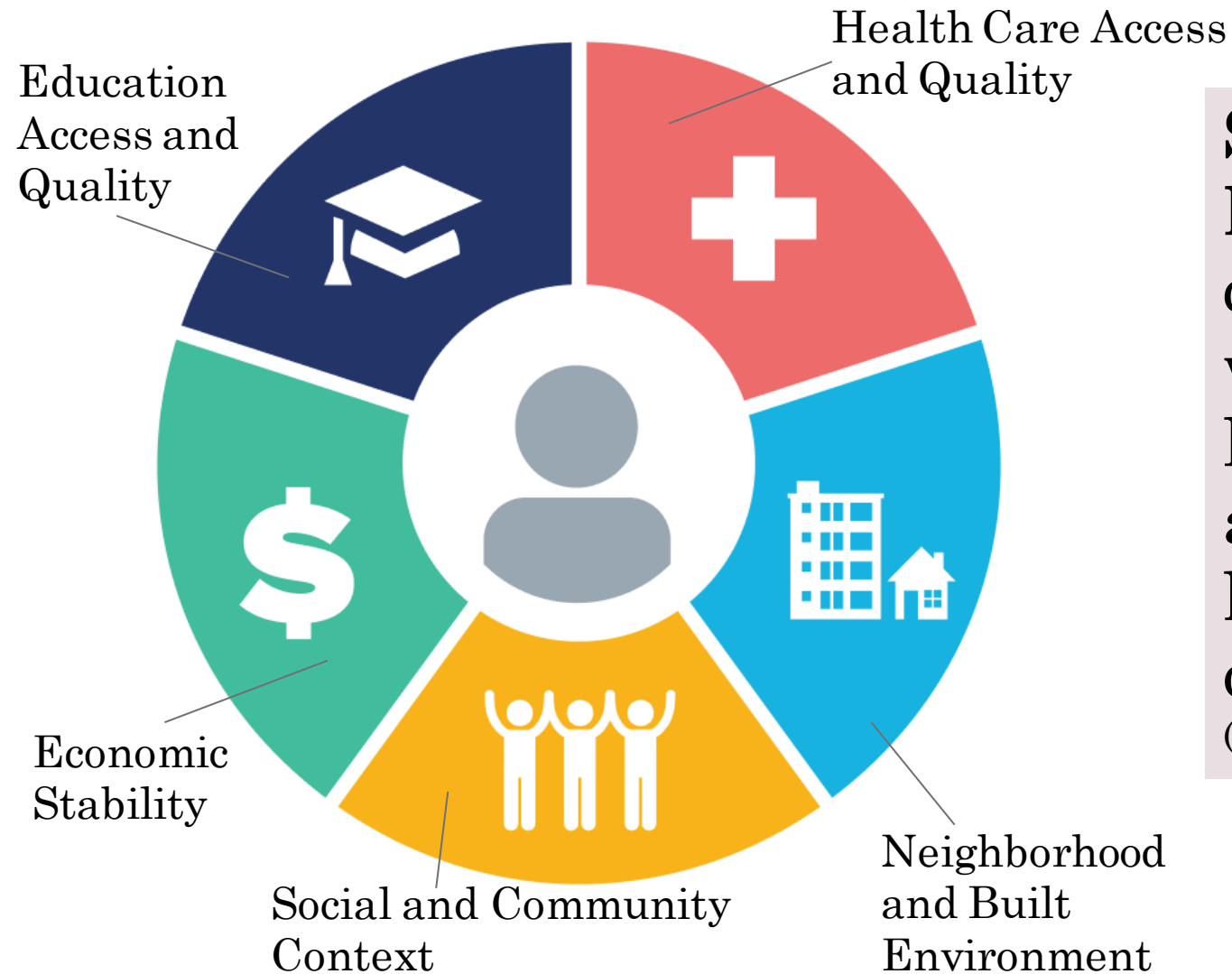
Concept developed in collaboration
with NINR Staff

Impacts of the Pandemic

- The COVID-19 pandemic is a health crisis; however, it is also a human, economic, and social crisis (UN)
- Racial and ethnic minority populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic directly and indirectly
- Two unexpected consequences: Food and nutrition insecurity and housing instability



Social Determinants of Health



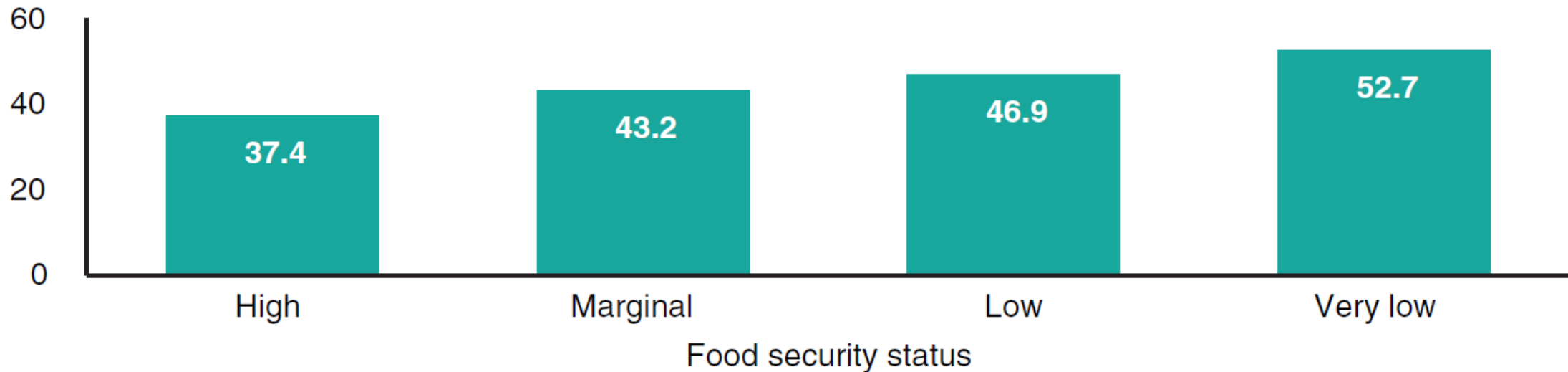
Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks
(Healthy People 2030)

Food and Nutrition Insecurity

- Health risk factor for both children and adults

Adults in households with more severe food insecurity are more likely to have a chronic illness

Predicted prevalence (percent)



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using National Health Interview Survey data 2011-2015.

Food and Nutrition Insecurity

During the pandemic:

- Food insecurity has risen sharply (Reimold et al.; Schanzenbach and Pitts)
- Food bank use has increased
- Supply chain issues have affected availability of foods



Housing Instability



Substandard housing increases:

- The risk of chronic diseases
- Reduces the availability of physical activity and nutrition resources
- Associated with reduced employment opportunities

(Gibson et al. 2011)

Housing Instability

During the pandemic:

- 51.7% of renters reported a high likelihood of being evicted in December 2020 (Census Bureau)
- Poor housing increases transmission, incidence, and mortality from COVID-19
- Stable housing is a critical part of the response to the pandemic (CDC)



Mitigation Efforts

Food insecurity and nutrition security interventions

- Changes in subsidized/free meal programs (e.g., in schools)
- Parents can pick up school meals for their kids to eat at home
- Additional funding for food assistance programs (e.g., SNAP, WIC)
- People can enroll in food programs remotely

Risky housing and housing displacement interventions

- Moratorium on evictions
- Emergency rental assistance and housing
- Elimination of single-family zoning
- Mortgage relief



Purpose

To identify and address the ongoing and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing specifically on policies and policy changes that address two specific social determinants of health: food/nutrition and housing security and the resulting effects on health

Scientific Objectives

- 1) **Analyze policy and programmatic interventions** aimed at reducing the pandemic's effects on health
- 2) **Quantify the health impacts of such interventions** as potential approaches to addressing long established determinants of health inequity



**Food insecurity and
nutrition security
interventions**



**Risky housing and
housing displacement
interventions**



Implementation and Collaborations

Proposed collaboration

- Other ICs
- COVID-19 SBE Intervention Working Group
- COVID-19 SBE Data Science Working Group



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