Health Working Group

Marcia K. Brand, Ph.D.
New Data Informs Our Decision-Making

CREATING A CULTURE OF HEALTH IN APPALACHIA
Disparities and Bright Spots

HEALTH DISPARITIES IN APPALACHIA
The first report in a series exploring health issues in Appalachia

Photo: Brian Stansberry
Key Findings

Of 41 indicators, the Region performs **better** than the nation on 8.
Key Findings: better than U.S. as a whole

- HIV prevalence
- Travel time to work
- Excessive drinking
- Student-teacher ratios
- Chlamydia prevalence
- Percentage of population under age 65 that is uninsured
- Diabetes monitoring for Medicare patients
- Social association rate
Key Findings

Widening gap between Appalachia and the nation as a whole on many measures.
Key Findings

• Higher mortality rate for 7 of the 10 leading causes of death in the U.S., including:
  • Obesity
  • Smoking
  • Physical inactivity
Why It Matters to the Transition

• Some examples:
  • Social determinants of health
  • Oral health
  • Reproductive health
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Environment
- Access
- Gender
- Control of resources
- Culture
- Jobs
- Housing
- Home
- Early childhood education
- School
- Justice
- Self-determination
- Languages
- Away from home
- And much more
Reproductive Health

Why invest in reproductive health?

LONG-TERM BENEFITS

Women who are able to plan their births...
- are better able to complete their education
- participate more fully in the labor force
- have increased productivity and earnings
- enjoy higher household savings and assets
Next Steps

• Monitor the emerging “Bright Spots”
• Ohio meeting
• Meeting to bring attention to oral health challenges and best practices.
• Join us!