



**We are
Called**

TO HEAL. TO UNITE. TO JUSTICE.

Team Reflection - Huddle

No. 20 – Education and Health

Education and health are intertwining factors that impact both individual and population well-being. Hundreds of studies in the past forty years document a type of causal “gradient” that reflects how more schooling links to better health and longer life. Education plays a key factor in health disparities, which are the preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence or other opportunities to achieve human flourishing and optimal health. The CDC reports that good health is associated with academic success and dropping out of school is associated with health and social problems. [20.1]

Racial and ethnic disparities in education mirror the disparities in socioeconomic status, as well as those in health outcomes and health care. [20.3] African Americans and Latinos are more likely to attend high-poverty schools than whites and Asians. High school dropout rates are highest among Latinos, followed by African Americans and then whites. [20.2]

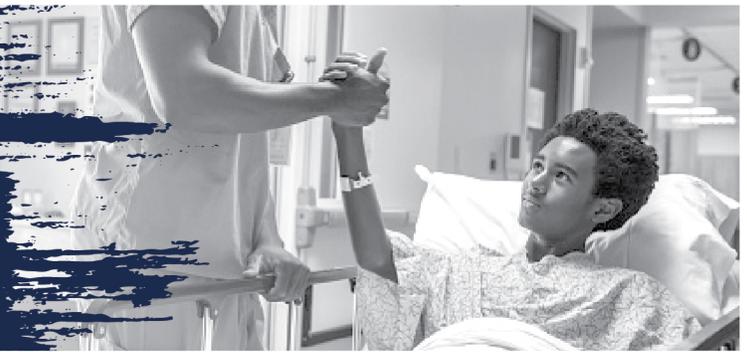
While matters of health and education are complex, they show that comprehensive health equity and population health strategies merit collaborations with education leaders. A century ago, communities of religious women and men ran schools and hospitals. The American saint known affectionately as Mother Cabrini (1850-1917) established schools, hospitals and housing, with dozens dotting the American landscape from New York to the Rockies. There was an implicit sense that education and caring for the sick are both essential to the unfolding of justice and peace in society. As professional specialization and credentialing necessarily took hold in 1900s, this drove a wedge between these ministries. While remnants remain, most sponsors of health ministries no longer span such vast differences across education and health together, but rather, pursue a holistic vision of human flourishing by cross-sector alignment and collaborative partnerships to advance health and education well-being in our communities.

Consider

How does my own educational attainment impact my opportunities for human flourishing?

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Let us pray together,

Divine Teacher and Source of health and life,

Fill us with a deep affection and concern to more fully care for one another.

May we walk with mercy alongside those entrusted to our care,

so that we may be sources of your healing presence in our communities today. Amen.

[20.1] <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/index.htm>

[20.2] <https://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/minorities>