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Disparities in Child Health

A Solutions-Based Approach



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Preface

This book was written and co-edited by a group of academic pediatricians who share a common and passionate commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and ultimately eliminating health disparities among children. Our group strives to untangle the complex and multilayered factors influencing pediatric health disparities. We want others to understand the root causes of inequities in child health and strategies to ameliorate health disparities through clinical care, research, policy, and legislation. The intention of this first edition is to create a state-of-the-art resource for medical students, researchers, clinicians, health policymakers, administrators, and other groups invested in taking a solutions approach to addressing disparities.

Disparities in health and health care have received considerable attention over the past two decades. In 2002, the Institute of Medicine released the landmark report “Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care.” While health disparities as a field has made unprecedented progress, it has largely focused on adults. Less attention has been concentrated toward children.

In this book, readers will find relevant and practical information on the subject of health disparities among children. The objectives of this monograph are to (1) describe how children differ from adults and the relevance to disparities, (2) review current data on pediatric health disparities, (3) provide a framework for addressing disparities among children, (4) describe interventions with the potential to reduce or eliminate health disparities, and (5) outline future avenues for an agenda to address pediatric disparities. Our overarching goal is to provide readers with the tools to successfully engage in addressing pediatric disparities. We truly hope to advance the readers’ knowledge and interest in health disparities and child health outcomes. Thank you for your interest in reading our work.

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