

Education and the Promotion of Health Equity in the U.S.; Context and Trends

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Outline

1. Civil rights law since 1950 and the state of education for the black population in the U.S.
2. The current state of black access to social determinants of health and of health equity in the U.S.
3. Early childhood education as a key to progress.

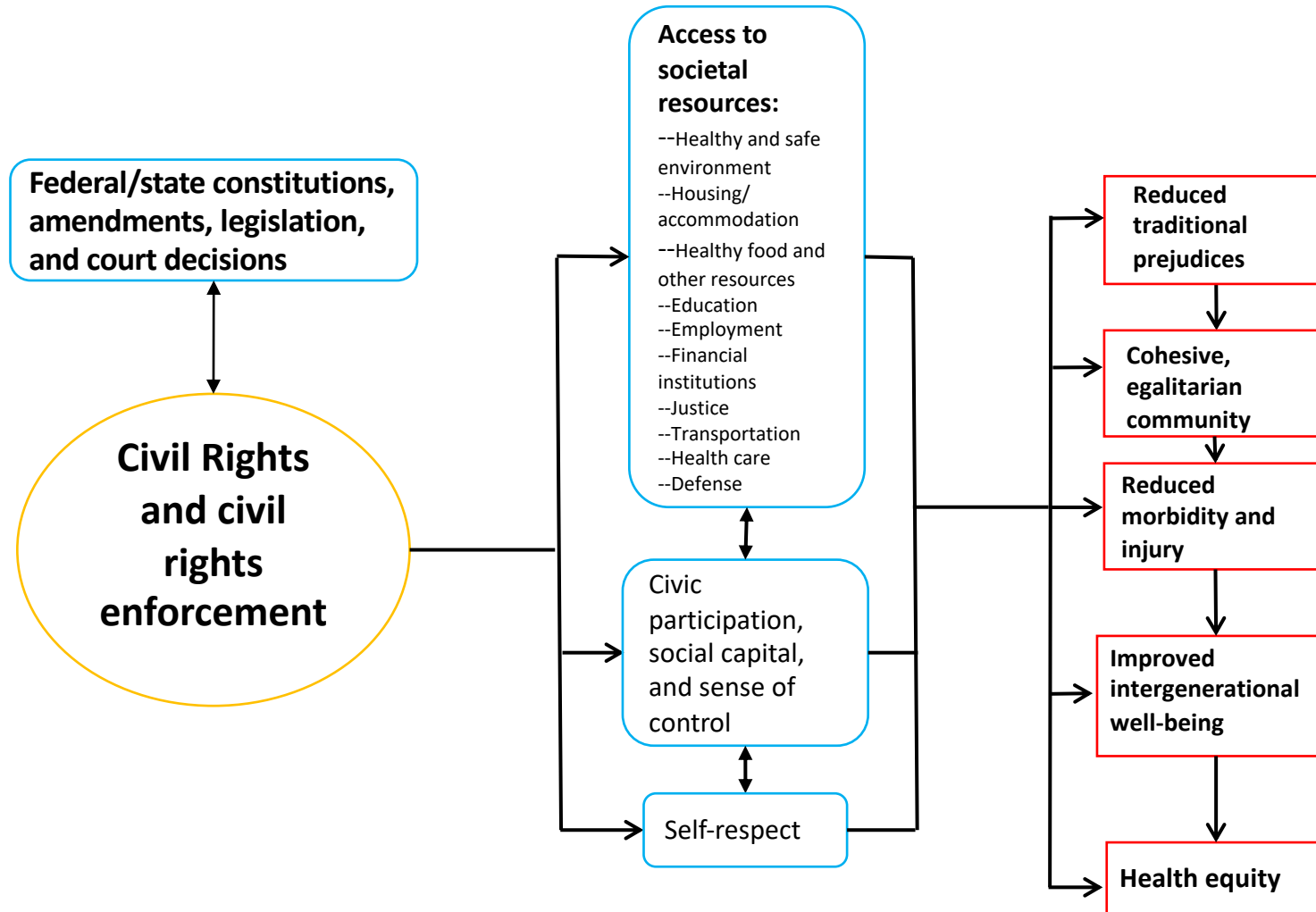
Civil rights law since 1950 and the state of education for the U.S. black population

1. What do civil rights have to do with health?
2. Why education matters
3. Brown vs. Board of Education (1954) AND the Civil Rights Act (1964)
4. Laws not enforced are promises unkept.
5. Desegregation of schools works
6. The state of education for the black population in the U.S.

What Might Civil Rights Have to Do with Health?

- Civil rights seek to assure that all citizens have equal access to society's goods and opportunities, including participation in societal decision-making.
- Early lack of civil rights by several racial/ethnic populations, women, the disabled, the poor, etc. have deprived these populations of resources that promote health and address ill health. Many of these deprivations were established by law and policy. It is only recently that many have been dismantled. Some persist.
- In addition to the deprivations themselves, lack of equal access may also promote a sense of inadequacy and inferiority, as well as anger. These negative emotions may in themselves have harmful effects.
- Civil rights often specifically address the populations that have suffered and continue to suffer deprivations in our society—racial/ethnic minorities.

How civil rights promote health equity



Hahn RA, Truman BI, Williams DR. Civil rights as determinants of public health and racial and ethnic health equity: health care, education, employment, and housing in the United States. *Social Science and Medicine-population health*. 2018 Apr 1;4:17-24.

What Are Civil Rights?

14th Amendment

- **Section 1.**

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Civil Rights Act (1964)

Title VII.

“To enforce the constitutional **right to vote**, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief **against discrimination in public accommodations**, to authorize the attorney General to institute suits to protect **constitutional rights in public facilities and public education**, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to **prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs**, to establish a **Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity**, and for other purposes.”

Titles of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Civil Rights Act 1964

Key Titles

Title I

Bars unequal voter registration requirements

Title II

Bars discrimination in public facilities engaged in interstate commerce

Title III

Bars government discrimination in access to public facilities

Title IV

Encourages desegregation of schools and advocates enforcement

Title VI

Bars discrimination by government agencies that receive federal funds.

Title VII, amended as Equal Employment Opportunity Act (1972)

Prohibits discrimination by covered employers

Title VIII, amended as Fair Housing Act

Requires voting data in specified regions. Prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of homes

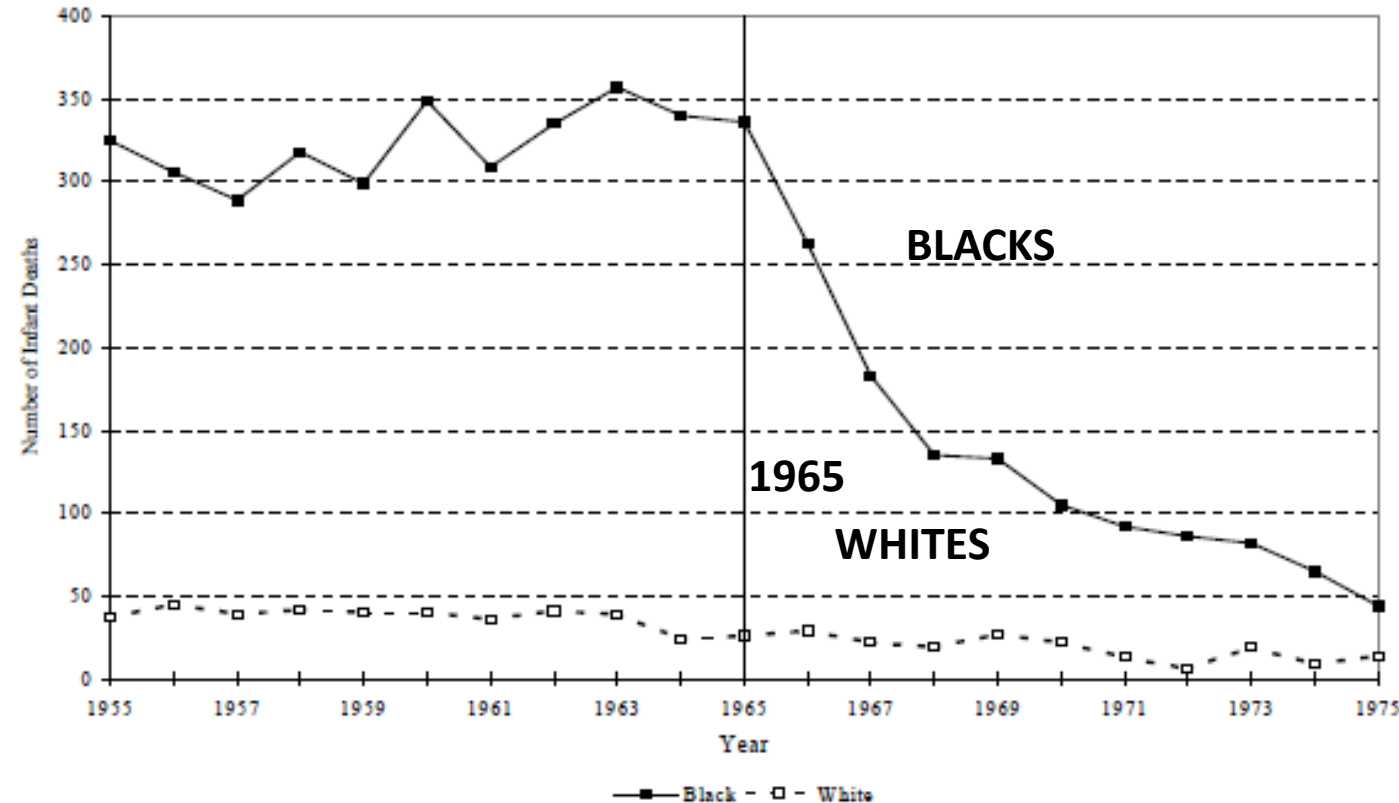
Title IX

Facilitates transfer of civil rights cases from prejudicial state courts to federal court, fostering more consistent application of laws.

Title X

Establishes the Community Relations Service to assist in community disputes regarding discrimination

Mississippi infant mortality, 1955-75.



Post-neonatal deaths due to diarrhea and pneumonia, black and white infants

Authors estimate that in the rural south:

1965 – 1975: additional 5,000 – 7,000 black infants survived

1965 – 2002: $\geq 25,000$ black infants survived

Almond D., Chay K., Greenstone M. (2006).
Civil rights, the war on poverty, and
blackwhite convergence in infant mortality
in the rural South and Mississippi. In MIT
Department of Economics Working Paper.

What Might Education Have to Do with Health?

What is education?

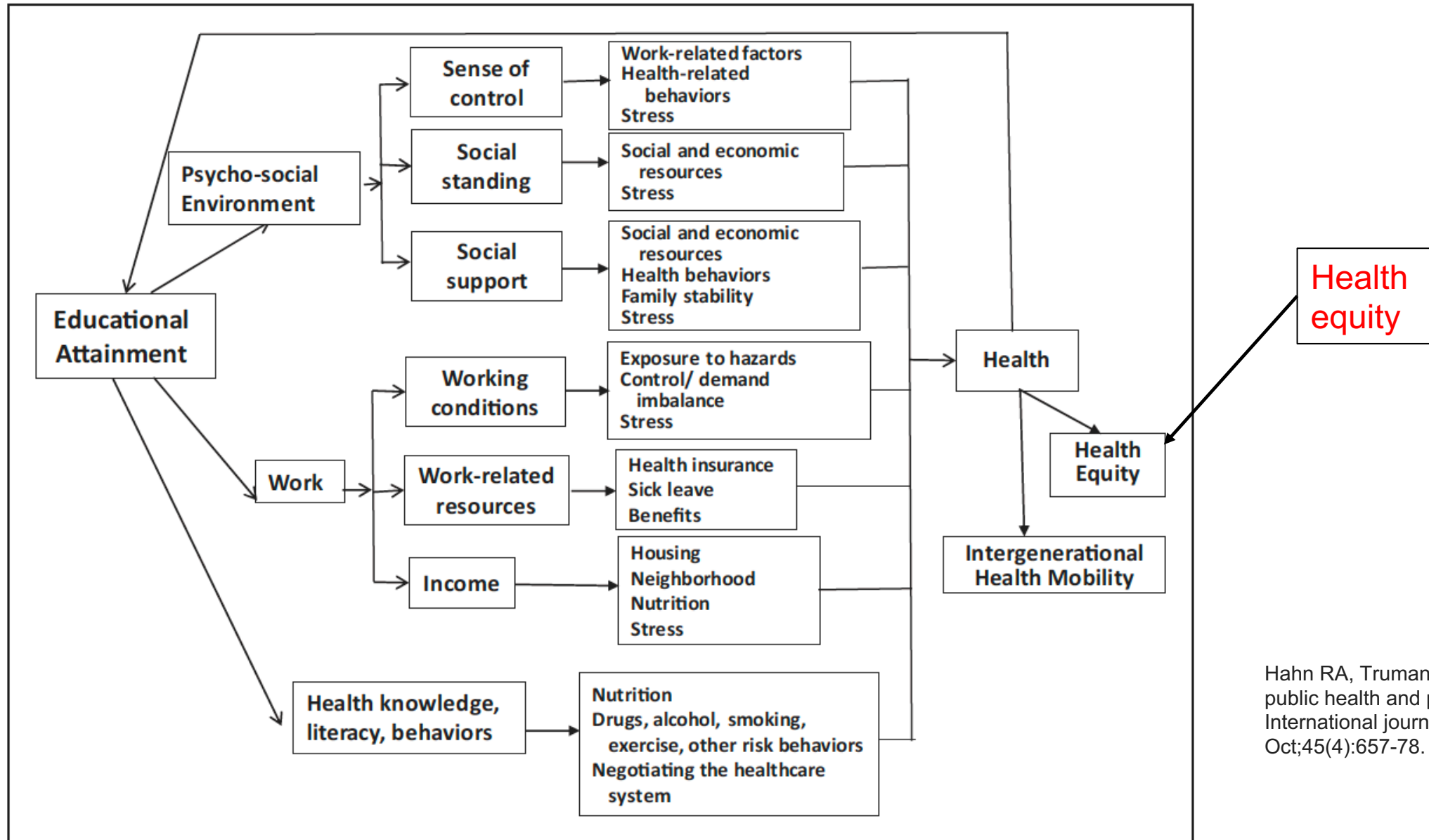
“Education teaches a person to use his or her mind: Learning, thinking, reasoning, solving problems, and so on are mental exercises that may keep the central nervous system in shape the same way that physical exercise keeps the body in shape.”

Ross CE, Wu CL. The links between education and health.
Am Soc Rev. 1995;60(5):719–745.

“A person is unhealthy if he or she lacks basic knowledge, the ability to reason, emotional capacities of self-awareness and emotional regulation, and skills of social interaction.”

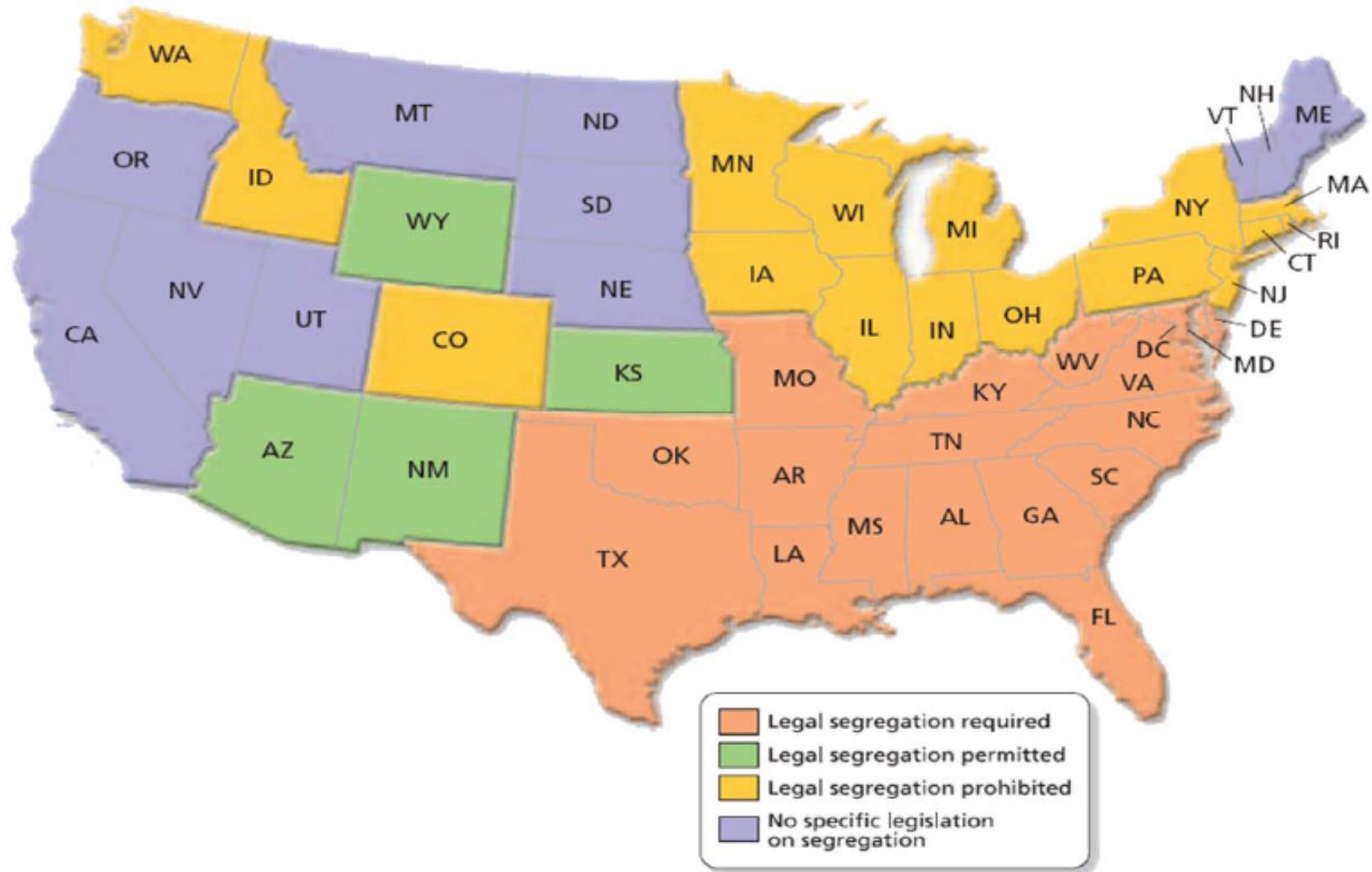
Hahn RA, Truman BI. Education improves public health and promotes health equity. International journal of health services. 2015 Oct;45(4):657-78.

How education promotes health and health equity



Hahn RA, Truman BI. Education improves public health and promotes health equity. International journal of health services. 2015 Oct;45(4):657-78.

Segregation Laws in 1952

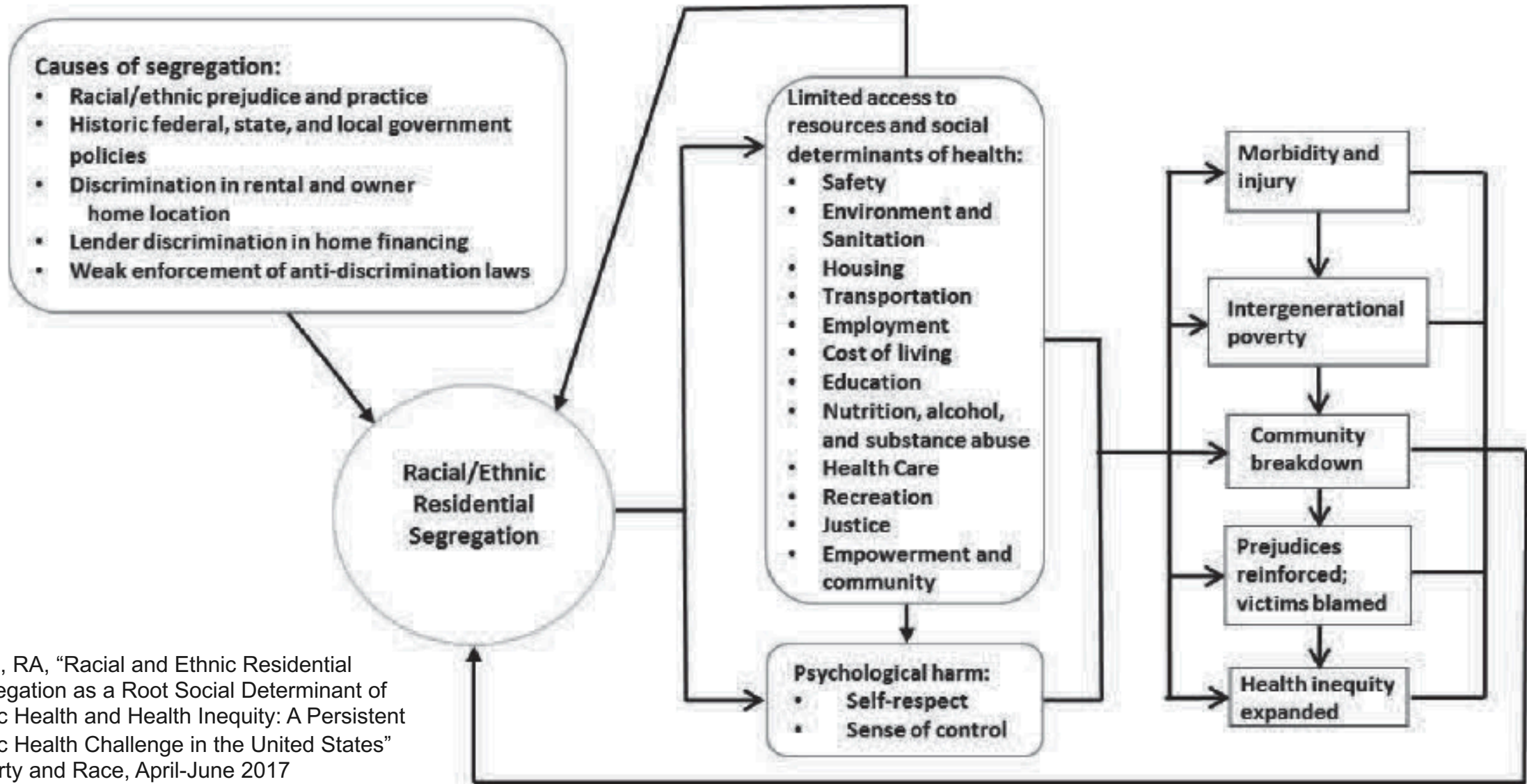


Brown vs. Board of Education (1954)

“We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of **"separate but equal"** has no place. **Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.** Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the **Fourteenth Amendment.**”

Transcript of Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

How Racial and Ethnic Residential Segregation Harms Well-Being and Promotes Health Inequity

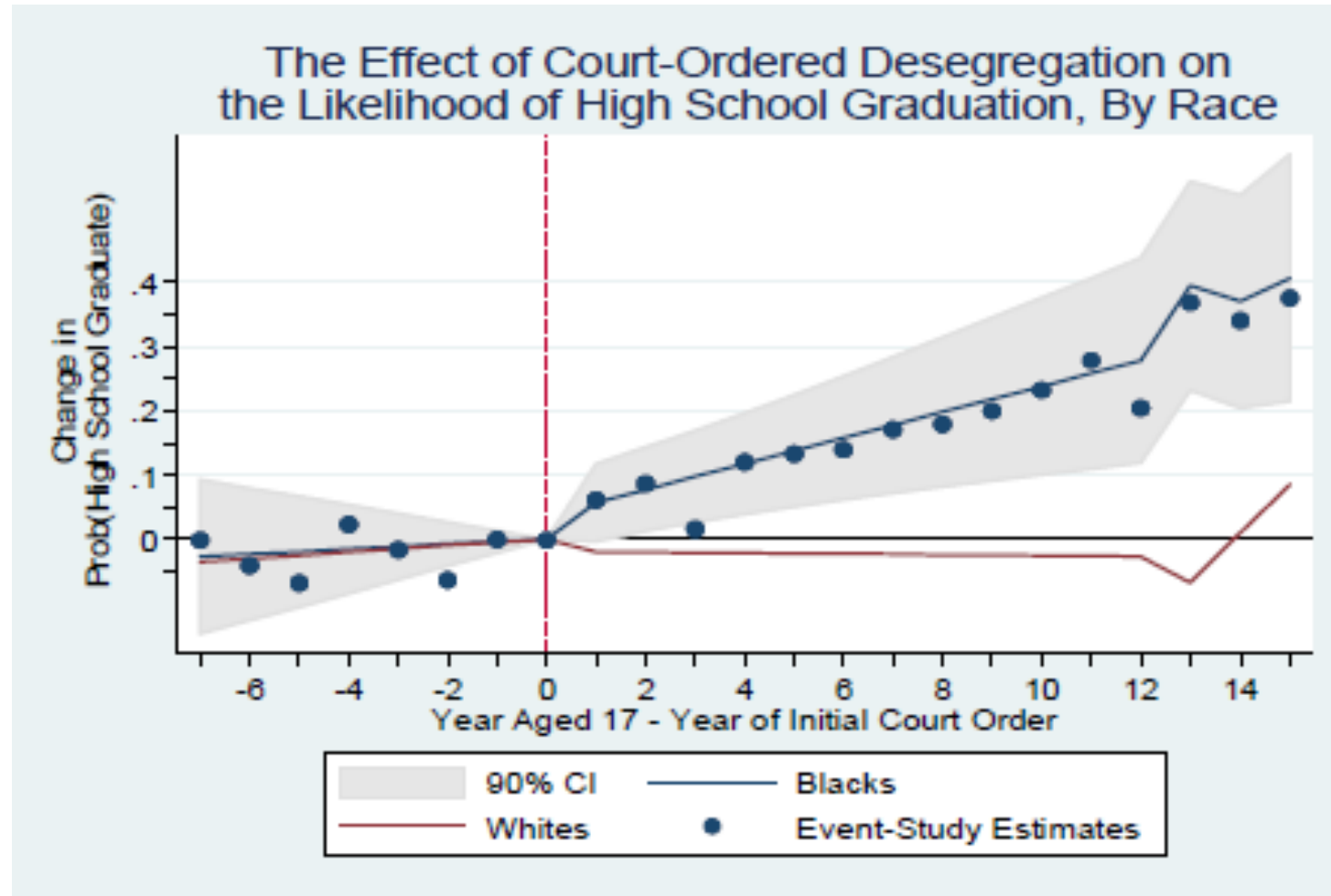


Hahn, RA, "Racial and Ethnic Residential Segregation as a Root Social Determinant of Public Health and Health Inequity: A Persistent Public Health Challenge in the United States" Poverty and Race, April-June 2017

Effects of Desegregation

- Each year in desegregated school increases likelihood of graduation by 1.3% - 2.9%
- For black men, early years in desegregated school reduces the likelihood of jail by 14.7% by age 30
- Five years in a desegregated school increases earnings by 25%

Consequences of court ordered desegregation on probability of high school graduation.



Johnson RC. Long-run impacts of school desegregation & school quality on adult attainments. National Bureau of Economic Research; 2011

Double Segregation in the U.S. – Segregation by Poverty (in Addition to Race), 2001 – 2010

	Poor Students Share of School Enrollment	Typical White Exposure to Poor Students	Typical Black Exposure to Poor Students	Typical Asian Exposure to Poor Students	Typical Latino Exposure to Poor Students
Nation					
2001-2002	37.8%	26.8%	55.5%	*	57.9%
2006-2007	42.8%	31.7%	59.0%	*	59.9%
2009-2010	47.8%	37.0%	63.8%	39.2%	63.5%

Trends in Exposure to Poverty for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics, 2001 - 2009

The state of equity in the U.S. in the early 20th century

Hahn RA. Access to Social Determinants of Health and Determinant Inequity for the Black Population in US States in the Early Twenty-First Century. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. 2020 Jun 29:1-6.

Indices of access and equity created by combining six social determinants of health

- high school non-completion
- incarceration
- non-home ownership
- poverty
- unemployment
- voter non-registration

Rates for blacks and whites ascertained in each state

Methods

Access: rate of each social determinant of health in each state for blacks and whites

Inequity: difference in rates of social determinants of health between blacks and whites in each state.

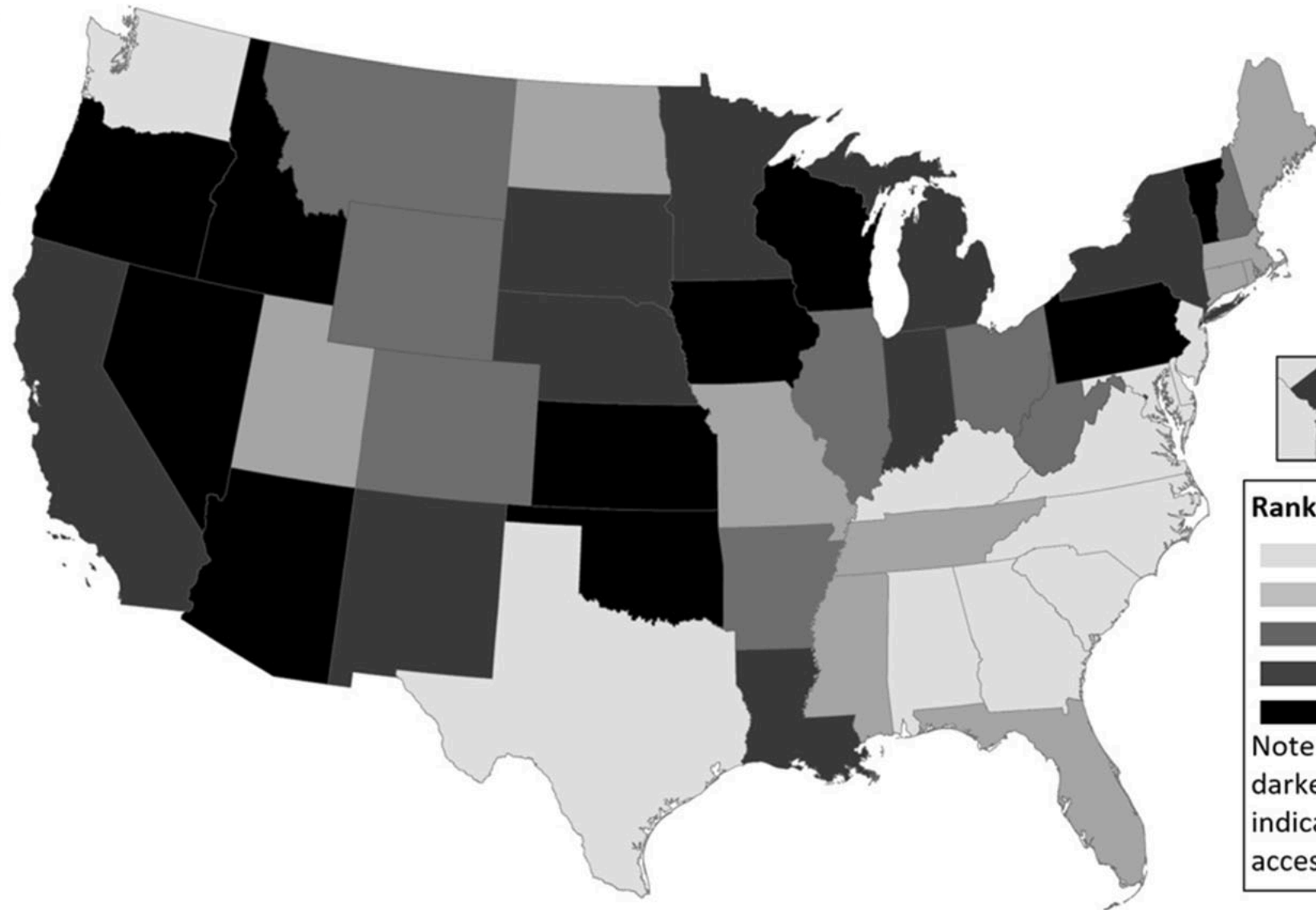
- Each state ranked on each determinant for access and inequity.
- Ranks summed for each state.
- Overall access and inequity ranks calculated.
- Ranks sorted by region and mapped.

Five hypotheses about determinant access and determinant equity

1. Black access to social determinants of health is lowest in southern states and highest in northern states, including the midwestern and northeastern states, and in western states.
2. Black-white inequity in social determinants is highest in southern states and lowest in northern states, including the midwestern and northeastern states, and in western states.
3. Larger proportion of blacks in a state is associated with a greater political and economic control of resources, thus with greater access to social determinants and greater equity.

Five hypotheses about determinant access and determinant equity

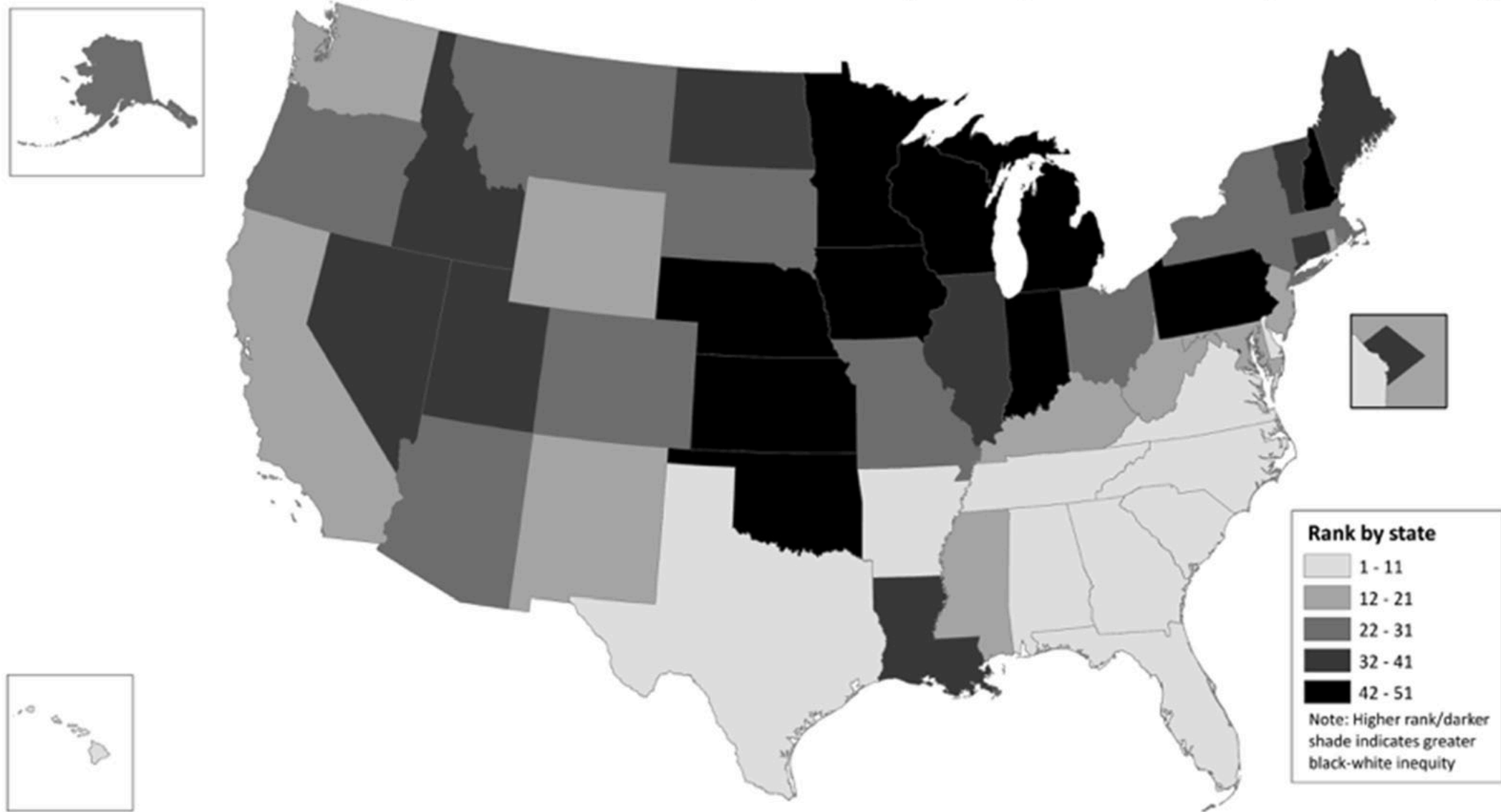
4. Social determinant access and access inequity are associated with self-rated black health in states—the greater the access, the greater the self-rated health; in addition, the greater the equity, the higher the self-rated health.
5. Social determinant access and access inequity are associated with black age-adjusted mortality rates in states—the greater the access, the lower the black mortality; in addition, the greater the inequity, the higher the black mortality.



1-11
12-21
22-31
32-41
42-51

Note: Higher rank/
darker shade
indicates less
access

Black-white inequity in social determinants,* ranked by state (darker shades = greater inequity)



*High school completion, incarceration, poverty, employment, homeownership, voter registration

Five hypotheses about determinant access and determinant equity

1. **FALSE:** Black access to social determinants of health is lowest in southern states and highest in northern states, including the midwestern and northeastern states, and in western states.
2. **FALSE:** Black-white inequity in social determinants is highest in southern states and lowest in northern states, including the midwestern and northeastern states, and in western states.
3. **TRUE:** Larger proportion of blacks in a state is associated with a greater political and economic control of resources, thus with greater access to social determinants and greater equity.

Five hypotheses about determinant access and determinant equity

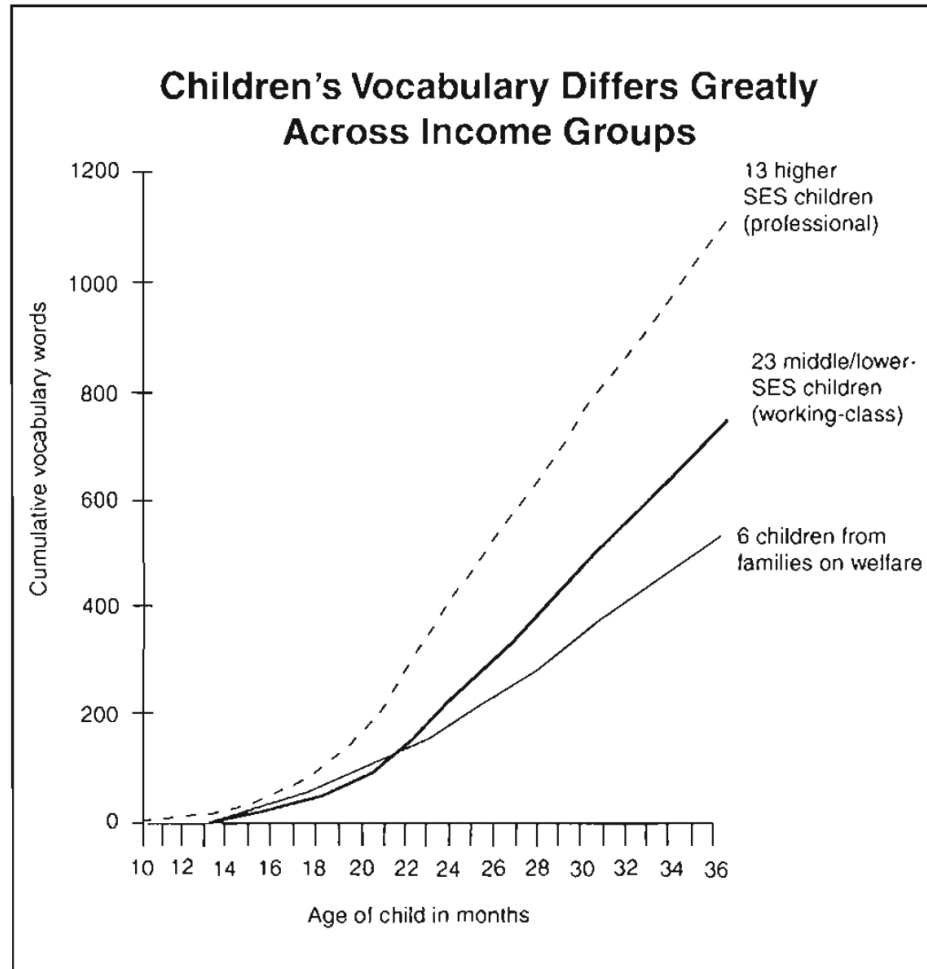
4. **TRUE:** Social determinant access and access inequity are associated with self-rated black health in states—the greater the access, the greater the self-rated health; in addition, the greater the equity, the higher the self-rated health.
5. **FALSE:** Social determinant access and access inequity are associated with black age-adjusted mortality rates in states—the greater the access, the lower the black mortality; in addition, the greater the inequity, the higher the black mortality.

Early Childhood Education Promotes Health Equity

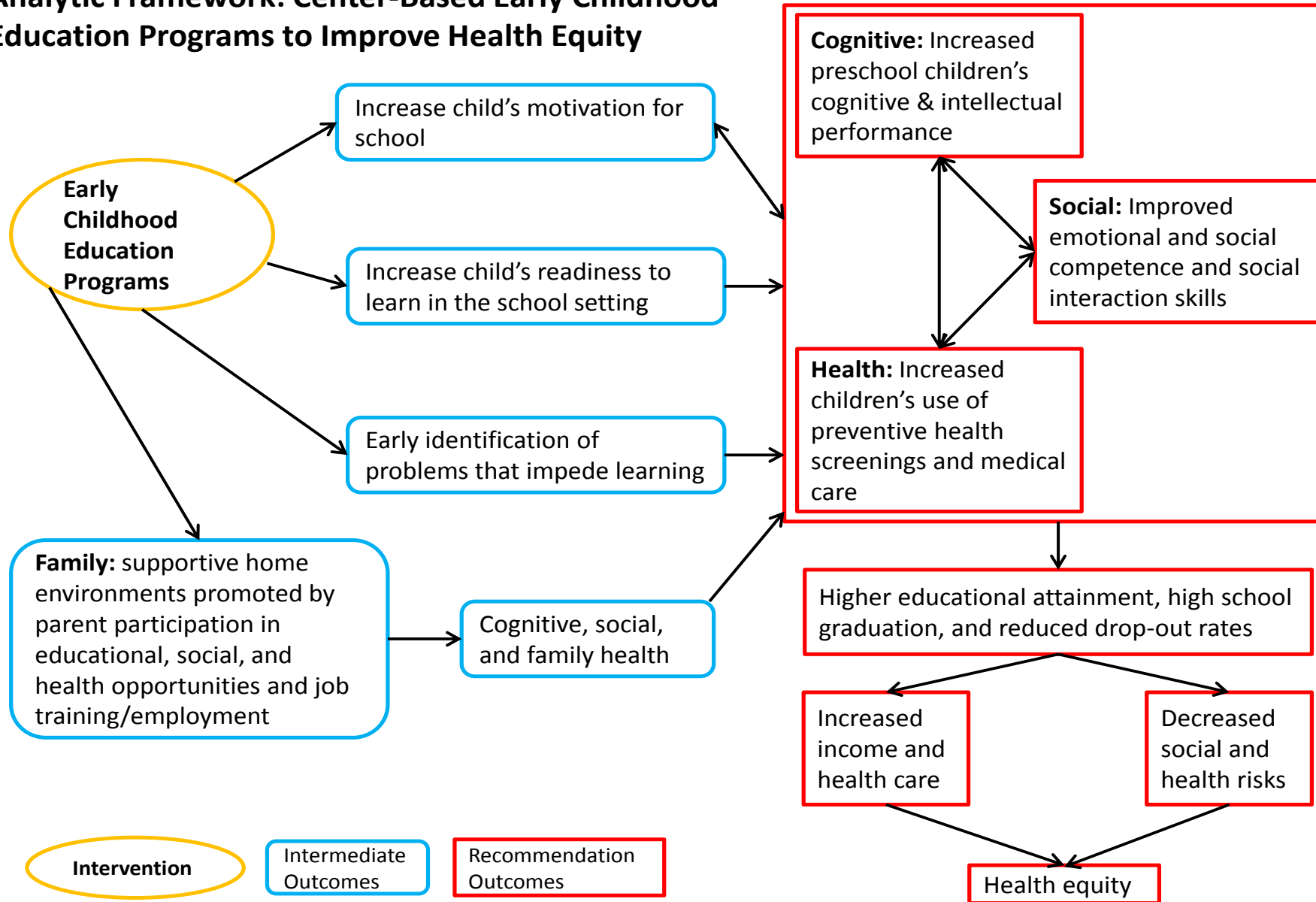
Early Childhood Learning by Socioeconomic Class

Kansas City region, researchers Hart and Risley systematically recorded thousands of hours of verbal and nonverbal interactions with caregivers for 7 months old infants of professional, working-class, or parents who receive welfare.

Data collection continued on a regular basis for 3 years.

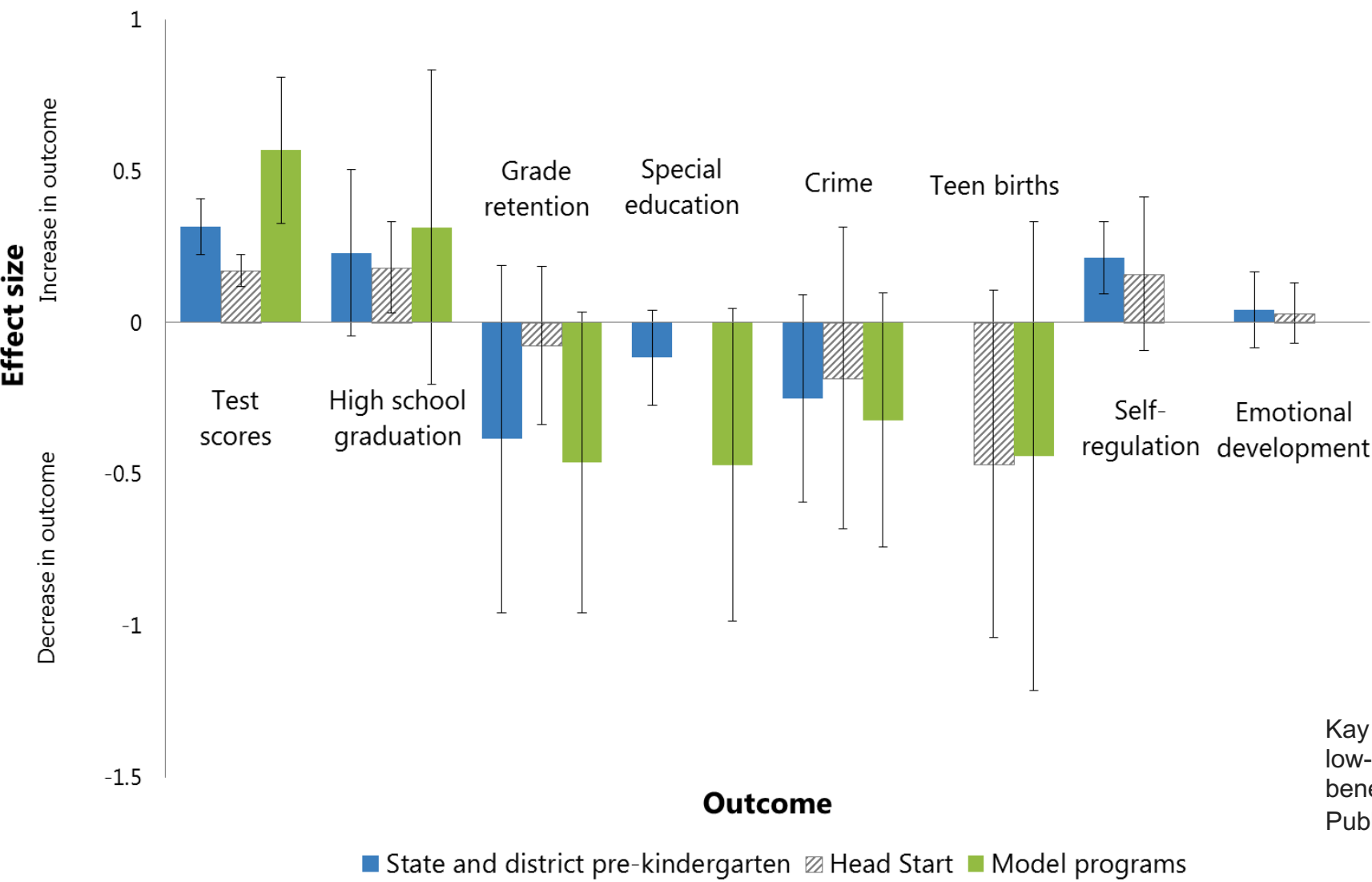


Analytic Framework: Center-Based Early Childhood Education Programs to Improve Health Equity



Hahn RA, Barnett WS, et al. Early childhood education to promote health equity: a community guide systematic review. *Journal of public health management and practice: Journal Public Health Management and Practice*. 2016 Sep;22(5):E1.

Meta-Analytic Results: Early Childhood Education for Low-Income Three- and Four-Year Olds



Kay N, Pennucci A. Early childhood education for low-income students: A review of the evidence and benefit-cost analysis. Washington State Institute for Public Policy; 2014.

Cost–Benefit Studies for State and District Programs

Author (Year)	Intervention	Cost per child	<u>Intervention Benefit</u>		<u>Benefit–Cost Ratio</u>		Net Benefit
			Earnings only	Total benefit	Earnings only	Total benefit	
Kay et al. (2014)	WSIPP ECEAP	\$7191 *	\$26,791	\$30,119	3.73	4.19	\$22,928
Kay et al. (2015) ^a	WSIPP National Estimates	\$5719	\$25,128	\$30,491	4.39	5.33	\$24,771
Cascio et al. (2013)	OK/GA Pre- school	\$4086	\$24,094	-	5.90	-	\$20,008
Bartik et al. (2012)	Tulsa, Full- day	\$9118	\$27,897	-	3.06	-	\$18,779
Bartik et al. (2012)	Tulsa, Half- day	\$4559	\$16,683	-	3.67	-	\$12,124

Ramon I, et al. Early childhood education to promote health equity: a community guide economic review. Journal of public health management and practice: 2018 Jan;24(1):e8.

Putting it all together

- Racist system, pervasive
- Slow dismantling, resisted
- Racial and ethnic segregation
- Education,* a path out
- Early education, an early path out

*“Education teaches a person to use his or her mind: Learning, thinking, reasoning, solving problems, and so on are mental exercises that may keep the central nervous system in shape the same way that physical exercise keeps the body in shape.”

Actions

- Speak up, teach others about the roots of inequity
- Work to end racial/ethnic residential segregation
- Advocate for universal, center-based early childhood education
- “Find a way to get in the way” (John Lewis)

Thank you!

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References

- Almond D., Chay K., Greenstone M. (2006). Civil rights, the war on poverty, and blackwhite convergence in infant mortality in the rural South and Mississippi. In MIT, Department of Economics Working Paper.
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- Kay N, Pennucci A. Early childhood education for low-income students: A review of the evidence and benefit-cost analysis. *Washington State Institute for Public Policy*; 2014.
- Ramon I, et al. Early childhood education to promote health equity: a community guide economic review. *Journal of public health management and practice*: 2018 Jan;24(1):e8.