Framing the discussion of microorganisms as a facet of social equity in human health.

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Microbes and social equity

... wait, what?
Social equity is about fair access

https://www.voicesforvtkids.org/equity-learning-community
Social equity is about fair access
Nutrients in food select different microbes

Fiber selects for beneficial gut microbes

https://en.wikipedia.org/
Fiber selects for beneficial gut microbes

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Fiber selects for beneficial gut microbes

https://en.wikipedia.org/
Location determines microbial exposure

Absorption of air pollution chemicals across mucous membranes impacts host-associated microbes
Air quality tied to socioeconomic status and zoning

Birmingham, AL, 2018

Map is color-coded with median incomes
• Red = low
• Purple = high

Yellow markers identify potential major pollution emission sites

Heathcare helps maintain positive interactions with our microbiota
Access to preventative measures to avoid microbes

DO WE HAVE A RIGHT TO MICROBES?

UO-CHC 441H/431H: Microbes + Social Equity
Lecture 12
Dr. Sue Ishaq Pellegrini
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Next steps: broadening the conversation

Breastfeeding in public
Parental leave
Peri-natal health care and nutrition
Zoning residential near essential services and along transport routes
Overcrowding/lack of hygiene services in prisons and disease transmission
Foodborne illness in prisons and inadequate training
Agricultural runoff and water contamination/algae blooms
Public school lunch nutrition
SNAP benefits and healthy food access
Empowering home vegetable gardens
Supporting community gardens for microbial exposure/nutrition
Industrial pollution and low-income residential
Paid sick leave and infection disease transmission
Soil quality
Inequitable care burdens and stress
Disposable time and exercise/stress relief
Access to preventive health care
Chemical and microbial exposure in low-quality housing/buildings
PPE at work and chemical/microbial exposure
Work policies and access to hygiene/cleaning protocols
Next steps: ‘leveling the field’

https://www.voicesforvtkids.org/equity-learning-community
Microbes and Social Equity Part II

Special Collection in a scientific journal (in development for fall 2020)

Symposium in conjunction with UMaine Medicine and the Rural Health Initiative (in development for fall 2020)
Get Involved

Contribute open-access research

Design holistic city planning and neighborhood design

Support community gardens and urban greenspace

Participate with local government!
  • Run for office
  • Attend city council meetings to discuss civil planning
  • Use your 'social capital' to lobby for social equity

https://www.realchangenews.org/2016/09/07/garden-rooted-history
THANK YOU

Please submit questions or comments in the chat window

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