

Breaking Down Walls:

*Improving Health Outcomes by
Addressing Social Determinants of
Health*

Dr. Gail C. Christopher

Population Trends: Issues to be Addressed

- Diversity is increasing
- Farming no longer dominates
- High child poverty rates
- Limited access to health care

Rural communities must
have a seat at policy
tables.

Innovation is Key

- Maternal and Child Health
- Housing and Economic Strategies
- Primary Care Service Delivery
- Transportation

Innovation is Key

- Technology
- Food and Agriculture
- Racial and Community Healing

What is TRHT?

Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) is a national and community-based process to engage communities across the U.S. in racial healing and change efforts. Our goal is to unearth and jettison the deeply embedded belief in a hierarchy of human value, to recognize the historic and continued consequences resulting from that belief and to engage all sectors in creating community, policy and practice solutions that will generate and sustain needed healing and structural changes.

Housing & Homelessness

The lack of affordable housing and federal rental assistance means millions of children live in families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness with children of color disproportionately affected.

- In 2017, a person working (full-time, year-round at minimum wage) could not afford the monthly Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom rental unit in any state or the District of Columbia and still have enough money for food, utilities and other necessities; yet the lack of federal rental assistance means only 1 in 4 eligible households receive aid.
- Children comprised more than 1 in 5 of the nearly 550,000 homeless people living in shelters, transitional housing and on the streets on a single night in January 2016. Black families represented about half of homeless families with children and 49 percent of those who were sheltered that night.



THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR,

12 MILLION+
HOMELESS CHILDREN

WERE ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EXCLUDING YOUNGER CHILDREN AND YOUTHS NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

Child Health

Ninety-five percent of all children have health coverage but 3.9 million children under 18 still lack the coverage they need to survive and thrive.

- In 2016, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provided comprehensive, pediatric-appropriate and affordable health coverage to nearly 46 million children under 19.
- Special attention is still needed to enroll school-aged children, children eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and children in immigrant families.



Child Poverty

Children remain the poorest age group in America; children of color and young children are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 1 in 5 children were poor in 2016—more than 13.2 million children. Nearly 70 percent of poor children were children of color. About 1 in 3 Black and American Indian/Alaska Native children and 1 in 4 Hispanic children were poor compared with 1 in 9 White children.
- The youngest children are the poorest. Nearly 1 in 5 children under 6 were poor in 2016.



ABOUT 3 MILLION CHILDREN LIVE IN FAMILIES TRYING TO SURVIVE ON

\$2 / DAY
PER PERSON



"Darkness cannot drive out
darkness;
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that."

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Racial
Healing™