

## LC2

### P&S 201 Assignment- Service Learning, Social Determinants of Health and Advocacy

#### Class- Physician and Society 201

Leah Barnes, Brianna Bangert, Patrick Breen, Brandon Cook, Velma Eduafo, Joseph Griffin, Phillip Holovach, Ryan Middleton, Vishan Ramanathan, Vaishnavi Ravipati, Michael Shu, Eric Wong

**Final Assignment Due date 10/16/22.** By 10/16 a 300-400word summary from each of the three subgroups will be combined to form a single LC group document of *approximately 900-1200 words with relevant images, tables and references.*

The completed document must be emailed to Dr. Kelly at [lisa.kelly@uc.edu](mailto:lisa.kelly@uc.edu) by 11:55pm on 10/16/22

A single group grade will be given.

Access to gainful employment is essential to a fulfilled life. Many residents of Avondale are single mothers in social welfare programs and find it difficult to achieve economic advancement due to the cliff effect. The cliff effect (fig. 1) is the reality that many people who receive federal benefits face as they have an increase in wages. As their wages increase, they exceed the threshold to receive their federal benefits. This loss in benefits is disproportionately greater than the increase in wages, resulting in an overall increase in poverty burden. The citizens of Cincinnati and beyond have been afflicted by lack of job procurement and security. Without opportunities to provide for themselves and the ones they love, this ubiquitous problem quickly finds itself at the intersection of the social determinants of health and the people they impact.

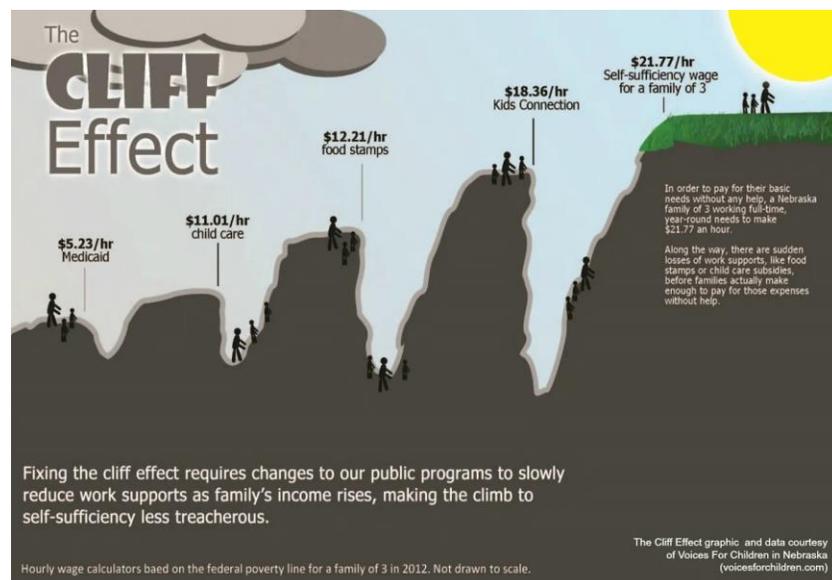


Figure 1. The Cliff Effect Explained. Each advancement in salary comes with increased costs of living because a lack of qualification for government subsidies once the salary increase happens. This results in a “cliff” of falling lifestyle quality even though wages have increased.

Many residents of the Avondale community specifically have experienced difficulties in accessing employment for a variety of reasons, from lack of childcare to lack of nearby hiring businesses. This makes it exceedingly difficult for them to support themselves and their families. While a lack of resources seems like a singular problem, it presents itself as a multifaceted obstacle. COVID only increased those difficulties, as businesses around the country closed their doors and laid off employees by the millions.

As the COVID pandemic has done significant economic damage to the area, the residents are undoubtedly affected by increased housing costs in the area. In order to combat this, residents may struggle to pay rent in the face of landlords raising the cost of rent.

The main SDOH that TCB wanted us to focus on was job access and career development. In order to achieve that goal, we assisted TCB in developing a workforce pipeline program that would train local community members and provide them with the skills necessary to find healthcare career opportunities within Avondale and the larger Cincinnati area. We felt that job access was an important determinant of health to address, as it plays an intrinsic role in other aspects of the women's lives such as mental health, socioeconomic status, and access to childcare and health insurance.

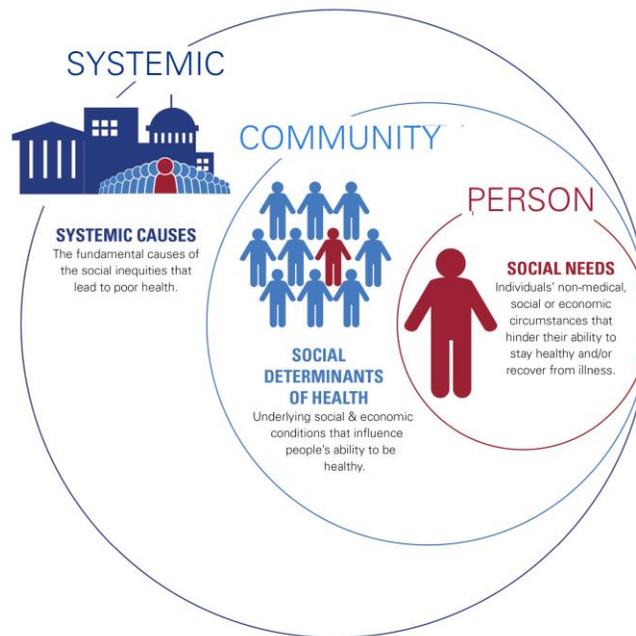


Figure 2. Social Determinants of Health Impact People at different levels. Specifically, we focused on personal, and community needs with job access.

The Community Builders received a grant in 2021 to fund their pipeline project. This funding was able to pay for 5-6 members of the Avondale community to train in entry-level healthcare positions and hopefully, gain job security. Notably, all the members chosen, officially dubbed

“Healthcare Champions”, were single, black mothers that were looking for opportunity. COVID may have had other impacts on the Community Builders but did not financially disadvantage their healthcare worker pipeline program.

In collaboration with The Community Builders (TCB), our focus for our service-learning project was providing healthcare employment opportunities for single mothers in Avondale. We want to advocate for these women to provide extra resources, connections, and paths for advancement in the field of health care. Our learning community researched potential health care occupations that would be available to community members and presented those opportunities to the community. Our goal was to not only help Avondale increase their security within their profession, but also to allow them to gain meaningful skills so that they may serve as a beacon for others in their community who need trustworthy medical information.

One goal was to directly interface with the community we were working with. COVID introduced many barriers to this goal, so we were not able to meet with community members as much as we would have liked. Nevertheless, we worked to build a relationship with our community partner and members. We presented our findings to a group of community members and healthcare champions, which introduced potential healthcare related careers to the healthcare champions and gave us a greater appreciation of the social determinants of health impacting the community.

To successfully advocate for the needs of the Avondale community to the Cincinnati city government, students should continue to be involved with organizations that positively influence the residents such as, The Community Builders. From our experience working with the residents last year, we found that the best way to support the community is by active involvement. Speaking and interacting with the women of Avondale allowed us to target their most pressing needs. Figuring out ways to help the women of Avondale to escape the cliff effect and find a path to financial stability is an area of focus that would be of benefit to the community. Finding career paths, subsidies, or incentives that can help make financial stability a viable prospect for the Avondale community and lead to gainful employment is the main the ideal we’re working to create. Having Cincinnati City Government help provide or connect members of the Avondale community to job opportunities, childcare services, reliable transportation, and access to higher education would all positively impact the goal of increased job security for Avondale residents.

Job accessibility is a determinant of upward mobility, but more specifically careers. These women desire more for themselves and their families, but their upward mobility is stunted without a job that provides substantial capital. This is one of the main ways that people who are in poverty remain in poverty. We discovered that most of these women do not know what opportunities are available to them, a gap that our group sought to address. We started by looking at other social determinants that fed into this issue of job accessibility. We have identified food deserts and community safety as other aspects that contribute negatively to job accessibility and security. The Community Builders have worked to address both determinants of health as well. Though there is work being done to address the determinants of health in Avondale, their existence still lingers and must be addressed. Government intervention on behalf of Cincinnati’s communities can work to diminish these determinants of health and move towards equity.

### Image Citations

1. "Bridging the Cliff Effect," *Kids Can Community Center*. 20221.
2. "Societal Factors that Influence Health" American Hospital Association, *Advancing Health in America*, 2022.

### Text Citations

1. Avondale. City of Cincinnati. <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/linkservid/B470BBBE-9866-80BE-F6BB6C36AE290FB0/showMeta/0/>.
2. *The power of home*. The Community Builders. (n.d.). Retrieved April 18, 2022, from <https://tcbinc.org/>
3. U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. Accessed 4/2022.