

Shaping Health: Conducting A Community Health Needs Assessment in Israel's Northern Periphery

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INTRODUCTION

The impact of social determinants on health status and outcomes has been widely established. However, health systems' ability to address community health needs may be limited. To better understand the interrelation between social determinants of health and health outcomes, health systems need to understand the health concerns and needs of populations.

Aim: To map the perceived health needs of residents in the Galilee region, Israel's northern periphery through a community health needs assessment (CHNA).

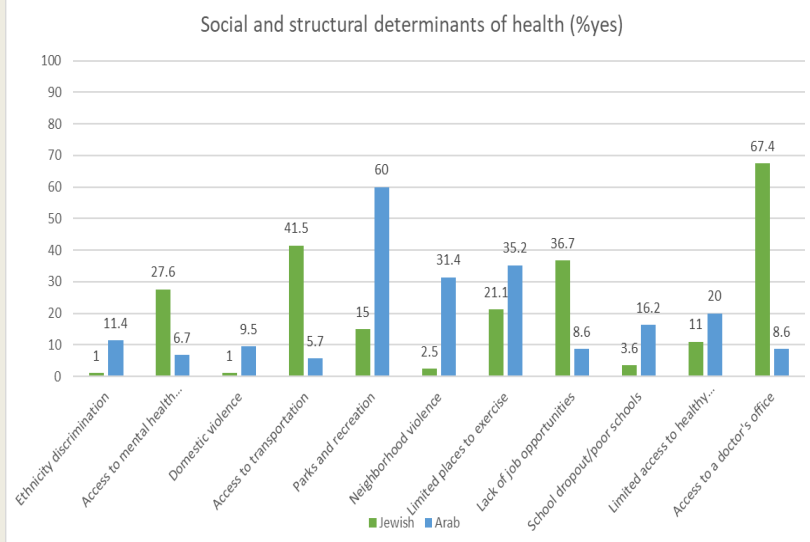
METHODS

The study employed a mixed-methods approach:

- The CHNA survey was conducted in the Galilee between November 2019 to January 2020 (n=750)
- Using design thinking methodology, Focus groups comprised of community and healthcare representatives addressed existing gaps (n=47).
- Quantitative data was analyzed using multiple logistic regressions and qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis

RESULTS

- Galilee residents perceived sense of community (78%) as the major strength while cancer (53%) was perceived as the major health problem followed by heart disease and stroke (28.4%).
- Adjusted odds ratios indicated that Arab respondents were more likely to report race/ethnicity discrimination, domestic violence, lack of parks and recreation, neighborhood violence, limited places to exercise, school dropout and limited access to healthy food, as determinants affecting health than Jews.
- Conversely, Jews more likely than Arabs, reported access to mental health services, access to transportation, lack of job opportunities and access to a doctor's office as determinants affecting their health.



P-values < 0.0012 derived from logistic regressions

- Qualitative analysis revealed residents felt a 'lack of health security' as a result of problematic access to specialty and mental health services, especially for elderly populations.

CONCLUSIONS

CHNA can inform the design of tailored interventions to improve health for Galilee residents. The study's findings raise the need to create tailored approaches to address not only the lack of health security felt by residents by improving health services provision but also the need to address the social determinants affecting their health.

