

## In This Issue:

### Childhood Development and Education

Omar A. Khan, MD, MHS<sup>1</sup> and Katherine Smith, MD, MPH<sup>2</sup>

1. Editor-in-Chief, Delaware Journal of Public Health
2. Publisher, Delaware Journal of Public Health

There is no question that education and health and wellbeing are linked. As a critical yet neglected determinant of health, education is associated with health behaviors, morbidity, and life expectancy, and educational attainment can determine income and employment in the future.<sup>1-3</sup> Healthy People 2030 has listed Education Access and Quality as one of its goals (to increase educational opportunities and ensure healthy children and adolescents do well in school),<sup>4</sup> and this education starts at an early age. The development of children includes biological, emotional, and psychological changes. These changes happen until the end of adolescence, and there is a growing consensus that early development – including access to education – influences a child’s success later in life.

In this issue, we delve into early childhood education in Delaware, with articles curated by our esteemed guest editors Madeleine Bayard, Senior Vice President at Rodell, and Matt Amis, Director of Communications. Dr. Ross Thompson begins the issue with a level setting article about brain development, and well-known authors throughout the state offer their support for the need for investment in early education in the state. Dr. Annette Pic describes a research study about young children experiencing homelessness, and several authors from the University of Delaware offer a glimpse into the education of our adolescent population.

As always, we welcome your input to the Journal.

## References

1. Lancet Public Health. (2020, Jul). Education: a neglected social determinant of health. *Lancet Public Health*, 5(7), e361. Doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(20\)30144-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(20)30144-4)
2. Tulane University. (2021, Jan 27). Education as a social determinant of health. Retrieved from <https://publichealth.tulane.edu/blog/social-determinant-of-health-education-is-crucial/>
3. Low, B. J., & Low, M. D. (2006, November 1). Education and education policy as social determinants of health. *The Virtual Mentor*, 8(11), 756–761. <https://doi.org/10.1001/virtualmentor.2006.8.11.pfor1-0611> PubMed
4. Healthy People 2030. (n.d.). Education access and quality. Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/education-access-and-quality>

---

Copyright (c) 2024 Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.