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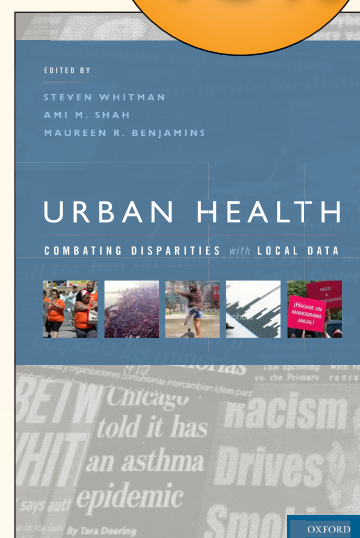
URBAN HEALTH

Combating Disparities with Local Data

Edited by **Steven Whitman, Ami M. Shah** and
Maureen R. Benjamins

The 1980s opened a discussion of the varying nature of health in different segments of the United States. Falling under the rubric of “health disparities,” a great deal of research has been published demonstrating the substantial differences in health status among groups within a population. The causes of health disparities are varied and not always clear but most researchers agree that disparities are a reflection of social and economic inequities and political injustice. One of the obstacles to addressing disparities is the lack of local health data, especially for vulnerable populations. This type of data is often nonexistent despite being a critical factor for informing health programs and policies.

This book describes how a landmark health survey in Chicago generated dramatic data that are allowing investigators throughout the city to move from data to action and from observation to intervention. More specifically, this book provides a new model for combating health disparities that includes the collection of local health information, the genuine engagement of community members and organizations, and the implementation of interventions to create evidence-based, sustainable change. Six case studies are provided to illustrate exactly how researchers worked with communities to identify and address health problems including smoking, obesity, asthma, and diabetes. In providing a detailed description of how the community-focused collection and analysis of health data can serve as an impetus for improved well-being, *Urban Health* is an invaluable resource for researchers, community groups, students and professionals.



September 2010 528 pp.
978-0-19-973119-0 hardcover
~~\$69.95~~ / \$59.45
PROMOCODE: **29010**

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