Table 1. Examples of Social Structures and Economic Systems that Shape Communities

- Institutional neglect and disinvestment in a community leading to mistrust of those institutions;
- Over-policing in certain areas;
- Buildings, density of living conditions, and public spaces that disincentivize community life. This includes housing segregation as seen on Indian reservations, and red-lining resulting in concentration of Blacks and Latinos in poorer neighborhoods.
- Lack of access to public transportation systems, which makes it harder to commute to shopping and employment;
- Insurance status and quality of health insurance coverage, which can limit access to preventive, primary, and specialty care;
- Food deserts and concentrated fast food outlets in certain areas, which lead to poor nutrition and food choices;
- More tobacco advertising in some locations, leading to higher rates of tobacco use;
- Community exposure to violence;
- Community exposure to alcohol use and abuse;
- Environmental exposure to lead and other environmental pollutants;
- Low wages or unemployment, resulting in chronic stress and food/housing insecurity;
- Fewer recreational opportunities and park spaces, leading to fewer opportunities for exercise;
- Fewer convenient clinics and hospitals, and pharmacies that are poorly stocked, both resulting in reduced access to high-quality and timely healthcare;
- Reduced opportunity for a stable relationship with a primary care provider who can bridge the cultural and linguistic gaps;
- Lack of professional language interpreter services in healthcare settings; limited patient health education resources, especially written in the patient’s language and in a culturally appropriate way.