



Does Your Zip Code Determine Life-Expectancy?

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OH – Montgomery County ADAMHS invites the public to join a thought-provoking webinar called “Changing the Odds for Health Equity; Does Your Zip Code Matter?” Nationally known expert Dr. Anthony (Tony) Iton will share information about how an individual’s zip code can determine life expectancy and how those numbers can differ vastly.

In August 2023, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio released a [Behavioral Health Equity Roadmap Assessment](#). The report concluded that an individual living in the McCook Field neighborhood in Dayton had the lowest life expectancy in Montgomery County, 61.1 years. While just 18 miles away, an individual residing in Washington Township could expect to live 86.2 years. That is a 25.1-year difference.

“When we looked at this data together with our ADAMHS Board of Trustees, we were very concerned,” said Helen Jones-Kelley, Executive Director of Montgomery County ADAMHS. “We wanted to learn more about what was happening in these communities to create such a wide gap in life expectancy. Dr. Iton is the leading expert in building healthy communities, so we must learn the best practices from his work.”

Dr. Tony Iton is a Lecturer of Health Policy & Management at UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health. He is also a Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities at the California Endowment. Dr. Iton’s work centers around disadvantaged populations and the contributions of race, class, wealth, education, geography, and employment to an individual’s health status.

Dr. Iton was recently featured speaking about the [decreasing life expectancy in America](#). “The major driver of the poor health status of Americans is that we create unnecessary stress in people’s lives. That stress essentially shortens those lives in a variety of different ways. The absence of universal healthcare, universal childcare, and paid sick leave are policies virtually every other Western developed country has put in place since WWII, and the United States has not,” said Dr. Iton. “We call that policy-related stress, and it shortens our lives across the economic spectrums.”

Dr. Iton has asserted that in every public health area of endeavor, be it immunizations, chronic disease, HIV/AIDS, STDs, obesity, or even disaster preparedness, public health practitioners must recognize that they are confronted with the enduring consequences of structural poverty, institutional racism, and other forms of systemic injustice.

All are invited to participate in this virtual discussion on March 27, 2024, at 4:00 pm. [Register today!](#)

To schedule interviews or for more information, please contact Tina Rezash Rogal at trezash@mcadamhs.org.