



Health Disparities in the Land of Equality

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Politics & Governance

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Abstract

This chapter argues that the political rights enjoyed by all U.S. citizens are used disproportionately by the better organized and better established. It explains why America has taken halting and ineffective steps to protect the health of its citizens and argues that business and interest groups wield disproportional power, the less advantaged do not participate, and workers are poorly organized. Medicare is a tribute to the powerful impact of the government in improving the lives and health of Americans; however, it is also a testament to the limitations of government actions owing to the disproportionate influence of the organized and better established.

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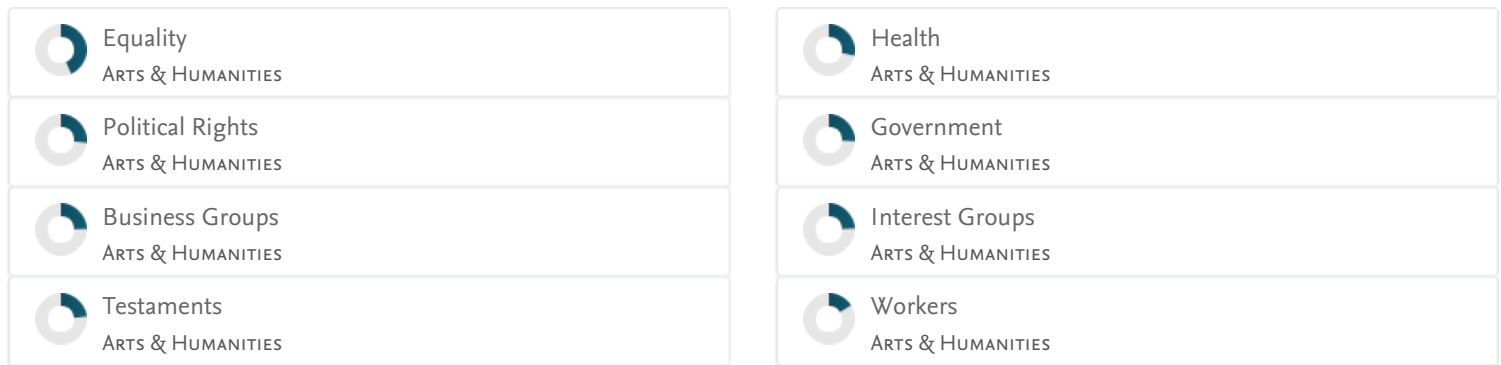
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Improving the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is a longstanding challenge for governments in Australia. While there have been improvements made in some areas since the 1970s (notably in reducing high rates of infant mortality¹) overall progress has been slow and inconsistent. b) What role should health issues play in the new arrangements for the administration of Indigenous Affairs? 7. Conclusion and recommendations. A steady, incremental approach will not reduce the significant health disparities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. There is a need for commitments to a course of action, matched with significant funding increases over the next 20-25 years, if there is to be real and sustainable change. Disparities in health, or the factors that shape health attainment or success, that are systemic and avoidable and, therefore, considered unjust or unfair are health inequities. California's population is the most diverse in the continental United States and one of the (the federal poverty level) families and neighborhoods; communities of color; the very young and the very old; and those who have experienced discriminatory practices based on gender, race/ethnicity, or sexual orientation. From this page, we invite you to pursue some of the most pressing questions regarding health disparities and inequities: Who is impacted by disparities? Portrait of Promise: The Statewide Plan to Promote Health and Mental Health Equity.