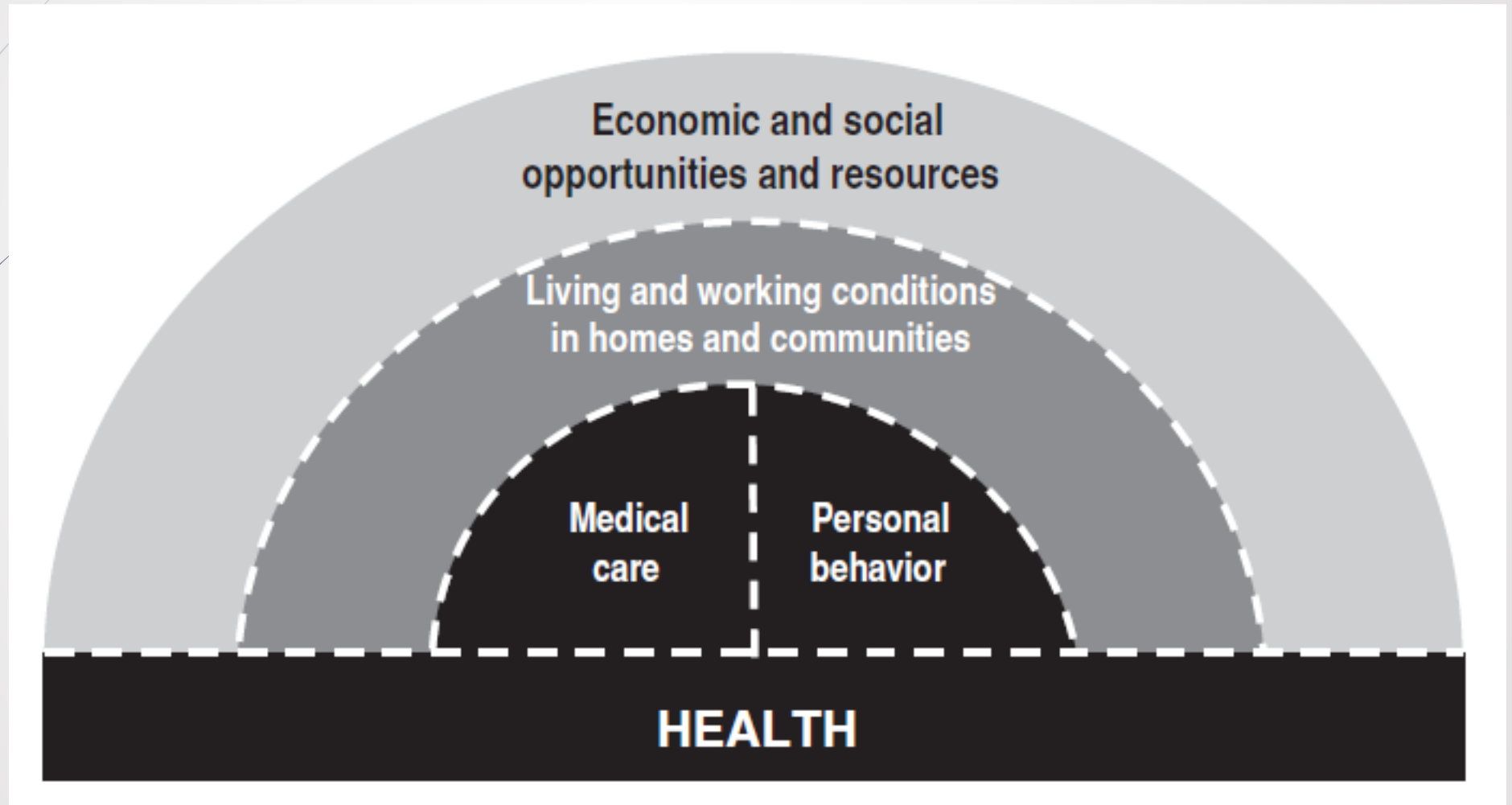




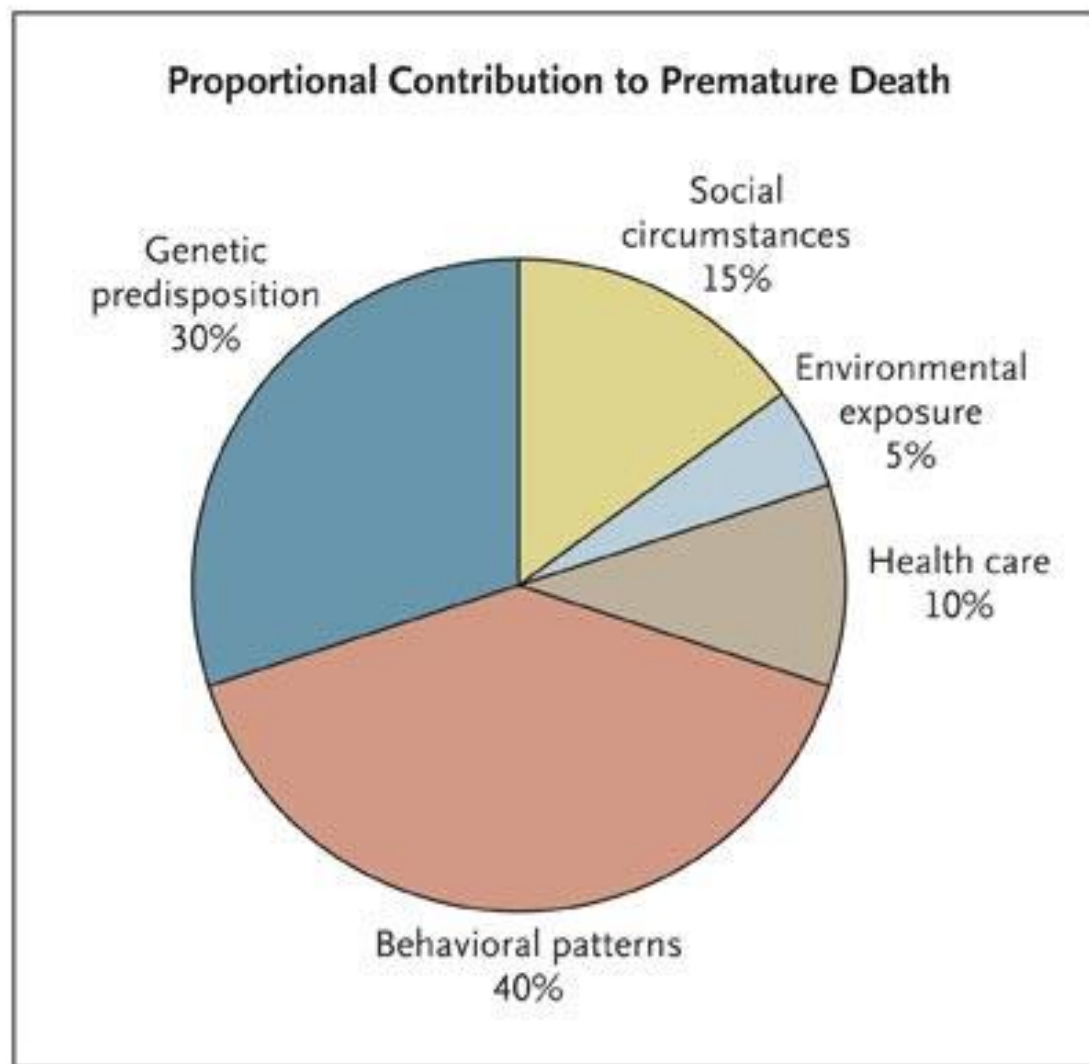
# Towards better health and social wellbeing in the Muslim Community

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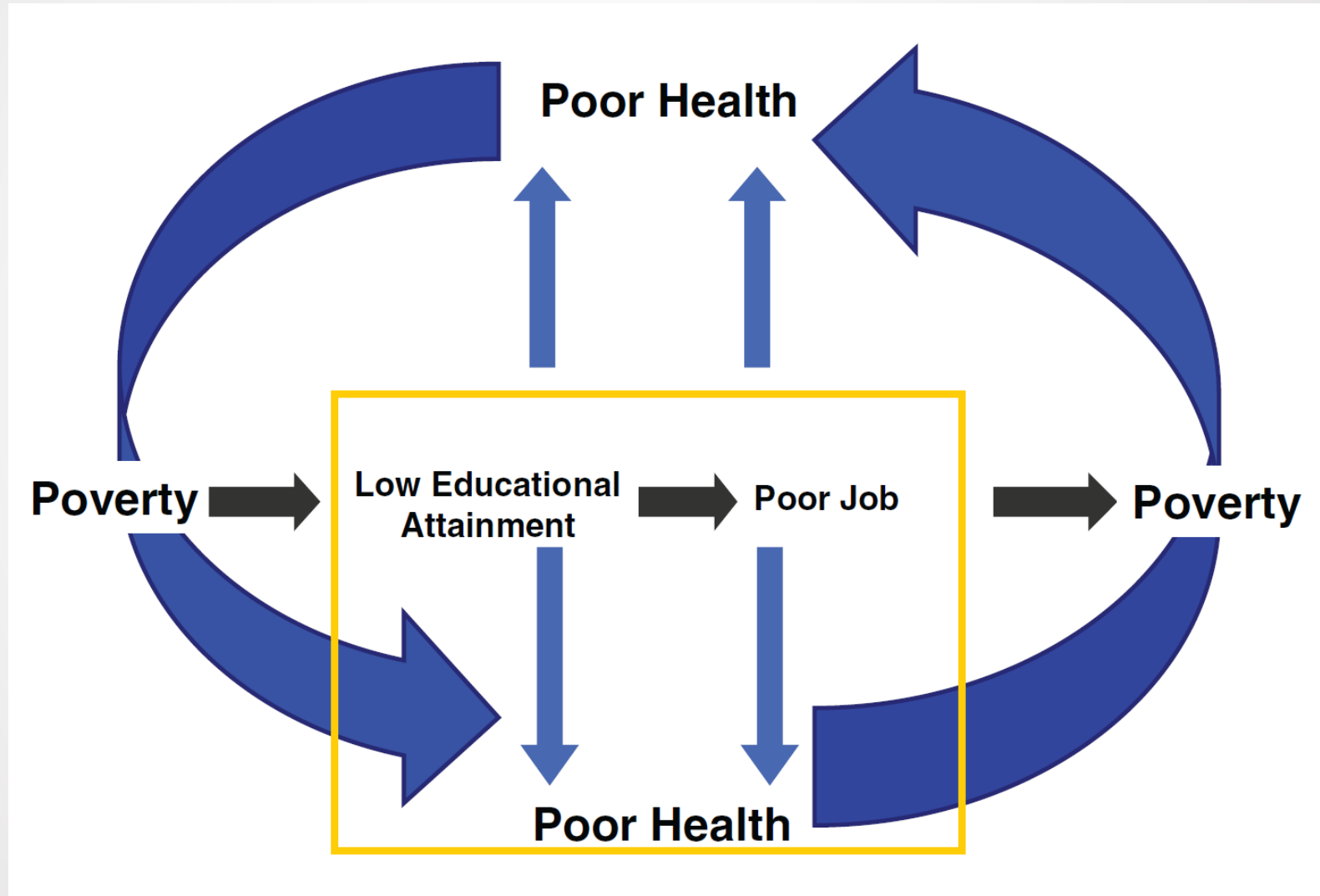
# What produces health?



# What produces health: in numbers....



# The vicious circle of poverty and health



# Bottom-line: Social disadvantage kills!

**TABLE 3—Calculation of the Number of US Deaths in 2000 Attributable to Each Social Factor**

Social Factor and Age Group	RR (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	Prevalence, % <sup>b</sup>	PAF, % <sup>c</sup>	Total Deaths, <sup>d</sup> No.	Deaths Attributable to Social Factor, <sup>e</sup> No.
<b>Individual-level factors</b>					
<b>Low education</b>					
≥25 y					244 526
25-64 y	1.81 (1.64, 2.00)	16.1	11.5	972 645	112 209
≥65 y	1.23 (0.86, 1.76)	34.5	7.4	1 799 825	132 317
<b>Poverty</b>					
≥25 y					133 250
25-64 y	1.75 (1.51, 2.04)	9.5	6.7	972 645	64 692
≥65 y	1.40 (1.37, 1.43)	9.9	3.8	1 799 825	68 558
<b>Low social support</b>					
≥25 y					161 522
25-64 y	1.34 (1.23, 1.47)	21.0	6.7	972 645	64 819
≥65 y	1.34 (1.16, 1.55)	16.7	5.4	1 799 825	96 703
<b>Area-level factors<sup>f</sup></b>					
Area-level poverty	1.22 (1.17, 1.28)	7.8	1.7	2 331 261	39 330
Income inequality	1.17 (1.06, 1.29)	31.7	5.1	2 331 261	119 208
Racial segregation	1.59 (1.31, 1.94)	13.8	7.5	2 331 261	175 520

Note. CI = confidence interval; PAF = population attributable fraction; RR = relative risk.

**Goal, 'Fardh Kafa'i': Address the social determinants of health in the Muslim community**

## Proposal: A Muslim Social Services Unit

- ▶ Working in tandem with healthcare activities- The Muslim Mercy Clinic
- ▶ Working together with Majids for:
  - ▶ Refer to and from health screenings and medical care
  - ▶ Proactively screening for social problems
  - ▶ Providing direct financial assistance and counseling, from *zakat* and *sadaqat*
  - ▶ Job-related assistance, such as assistance with building resumes, career advice, and training in starting small businesses, building business models, and entrepreneurship,
  - ▶ Educational assistance- linking with potential scholarship opportunities- our own scholarship!

## **Proposal: A Muslim Social Services Unit**

- ▶ Working in tandem with healthcare activities- The Muslim Mercy Clinic
- ▶ Working together with Majids for:
  - ▶ Assistance to sign up for public programs, such as unemployment benefits, food stamps, energy assistance, Medicaid and CHIP insurance
  - ▶ Professional family and marital counseling,
  - ▶ Foster care coordination for Muslim children (such as creating a network of Muslim families willing to take on Muslim foster children)
  - ▶ Assistance to refugee families



# A Muslim Social Services Unit

## Features

- Faith as a conscious motivation and possible procedural component
- Masajid as anchors
- Unit as
  - A coordinating center
  - A logistic resource
  - Service provider

## Practical Steps:

**Needs Assessment**: a deliberate, systematic needs assessment to identify “hot spots” that need priority intervention and the frequency of these interventions.

- ▶ **Community Survey**: pilot community-wide survey asking community members about the services they wish to see provided in the community and the frequency of these services.
- ▶ **Existing Efforts**: Characterize, coordinate with, and capitalize on existing efforts.

## Practical Steps:

- **Partnerships**: identify key potential partners and build partnerships with them
- **Workforce**: identify key professionals who need to be involved, from the local Imams to individuals trained in social work and public health and bring them *all* up to speed on the mission and approach of this effort.
- **Training**: on how to compassionately and nonjudgmentally work with our struggling brothers and sisters.
- **Developing materials** for our specific needs is thus an important undertaking.

## Practical Steps:

- ▶ **Learning from Other Experiences**: Numerous communities around the country are building a culture of health in their local settings, with efforts similar to the one proposed here. It is important to learn from those experiences and use them as a guide for the planning and implementation of this project.
- ▶ **Timeline**: need to come up with a **timeline with milestones** and **concrete deliverables** to follow, so that we do not lose track of what we are doing.