



Access to Home Energy and Health Equity: Tapping HIA's Potential to Articulate Consumer Voices in the Regulation of Residential Utility Service

2013 National Health Impact Assessment Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 24, 2013, Session 11:45 – 12:45



*Making connections
for healthier, more
energy efficient homes*





Weatherization Plus Health

Voluntary, national initiative to

- Nurture new partnerships and strengthen existing relationships between Weatherization and healthy homes
- Identify and leverage funding for projects to integrate healthy homes into Weatherization
- Offer steps to transform projects into sustainable programs

In order to improve health outcomes for clients and strengthen the U.S. Department of Energy's low-income Weatherization Assistance Program.

NASCSP implements Weatherization Plus Health on behalf of DOE, providing T&TA to network of 55 state, territorial, and tribal grantees and nearly 900 local agencies.

www.wxplushealth.org

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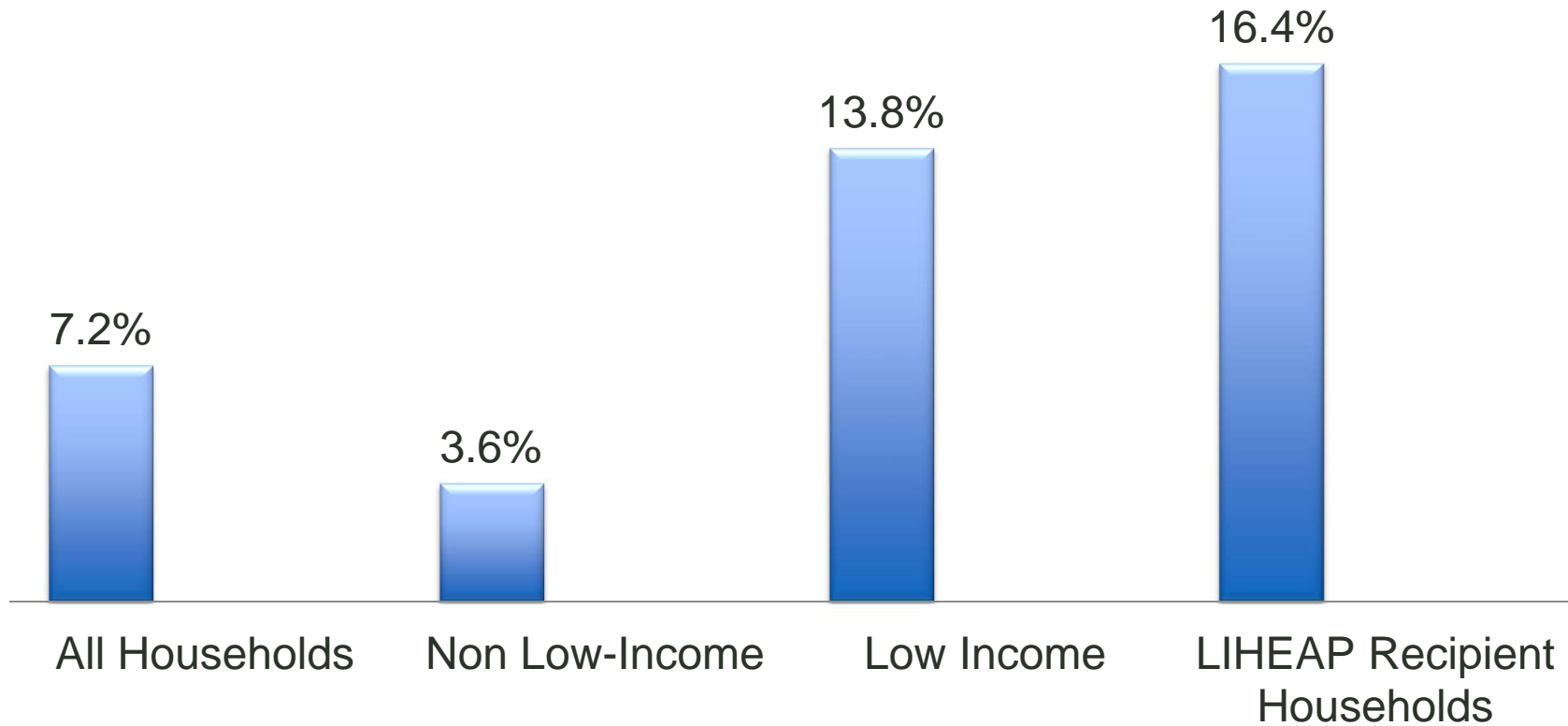
Access to Home Energy: A Social Determinant of Health

Decisions made in energy and housing have implications for population health

- Fuel poverty/energy insecurity: spending 6%+ of income on home energy
- Energy affordability:
 - Late with bills: 17.3% of low-income households have arrearages vs. 3.8% of households > 100% state median income
 - Shutoff for nonpayment: 5.8% of low-income households report service disconnects for nonpayment, vs 0.5% of households > 100% state median income
- 8.9 million households received LIHEAP (energy assistance) in fy2013, approx. 15% of income-eligible



Low Income Households Bear a Disproportionate Home Energy Burden (Cost/Income)



Low Income Households < 150% FPL. Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Division of Energy Assistance. LIHEAP Home Energy Notebook for FY2009.

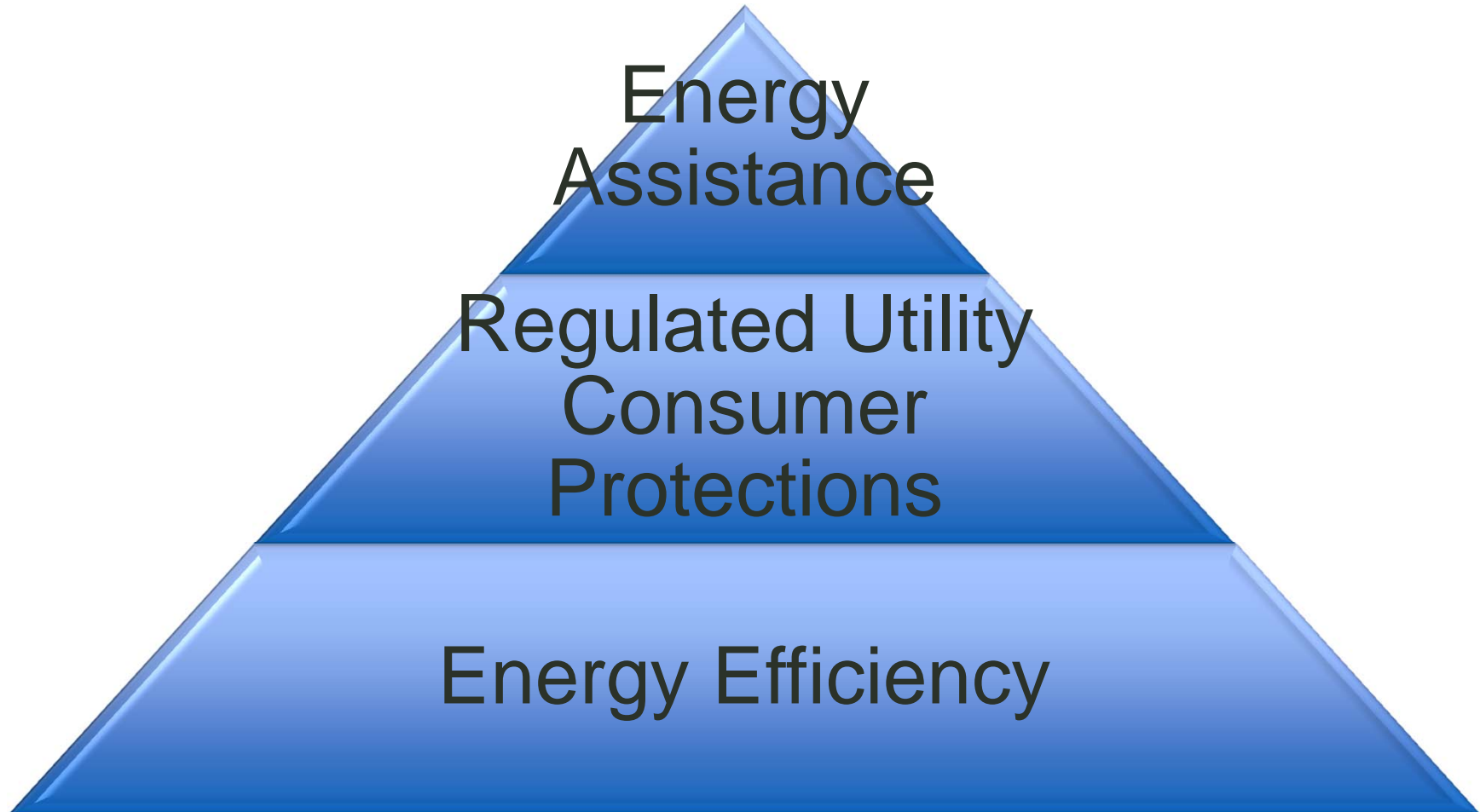


Scoping Pathways, Home Energy to Health

- Affordability: Energy Insecurity, Heat or Eat, Stress
- Housing Quality: Indoor Air Quality and Temperature, Moisture, Unintentional Injuries/Premature Deaths
- Outdoor Air Pollution:, linked with power generation and energy efficiency
- Economic Impacts: Days School/Work Missed, Jobs/Energy Efficiency Supply Chain

If your household is income-eligible for WAP, your health is likely to be influenced by your home

- Heat/cold: heart attack/stroke, worsening of diabetes, kidney disease, Parkinson's
- Respiratory disease: asthma, COPD, lung cancer
- Lead poisoning: development, education, criminal justice, chronic disease in adults
- Unintentional injuries/deaths: fire, carbon monoxide poisoning



Where Are These Decisions Made?

Statute, Regulation, and Funding

- State legislatures, ex. Energy Efficiency Resource Standards
- State public service commissions, ex. Utility ratepayer residential EE, health and safety consumer protections
- Public power, ex. municipal, rural co-op

State/Local Administrative and Funding

- State/local revenue for residential EE, affordable housing
- Federal pass-through funds with flexibility to include healthy homes: HUD, CDBG, CSBG
- Private/corporate fuel funds, ex. Washington Area Fuel Fund

- Non-energy benefits and costs (i.e., state Medicaid) typically not taken into consideration during rule-making
- Limited voice and role for consumers, especially low-income and at-risk (elders, infants and young children, those living with disabling conditions)
- No systematic way to consider health and safety implications of decision-making about access to home energy
 - Funding for crisis assistance
 - Efficacy of regulated utility protections
 - Priorities for weatherization measures



Our Speakers

- Megan Sandel, MD, MPH, National Center for Medical Legal Partnerships
- Ellen Tohn, Tohn Environmental Strategies
- Michael Gurecka, New Opportunities, Inc.
- John Howat, National Consumer Law Center