

William Julius Wilson

Distinguished Professorship in Sociology



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JUSTIN DENNEY

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Justin Denney is a leader in understanding the dynamic forces that shape and perpetuate social inequities. His research into health inequality and mortality disparities advances public recognition and efforts to address critical issues facing our society today.

Denney's teaching and research focus on the complex ways human environments create opportunities for some people and barriers for others—more specifically, how the social and physical characteristics of the places where children and adults live, work, and play impact child health, household food insecurity, and adult mortality. He also studies how family formations, race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status combine with place-based characteristics to affect overall health differences.

His work, appearing in numerous publications, often involves multi-disciplinary collaborations and has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Foundation for Child Development, among others. Graduate and undergraduate courses he teaches in medical sociology and health inequality facilitate links between sociology and other fields interested in health disparities, including medicine, nutrition and exercise physiology, community health, health communication, and prevention science.

Denney works to inspire and train the next generation of scholars interested in eradicating inequality and to promote policies toward healthier communities. He is a scientific co-director of WSU's Northwest Health Education and Research Outcomes Network and, in 2019, received a College of Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation Seed Grant to improve public health and healthcare and training for healthcare professionals across Washington state.



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