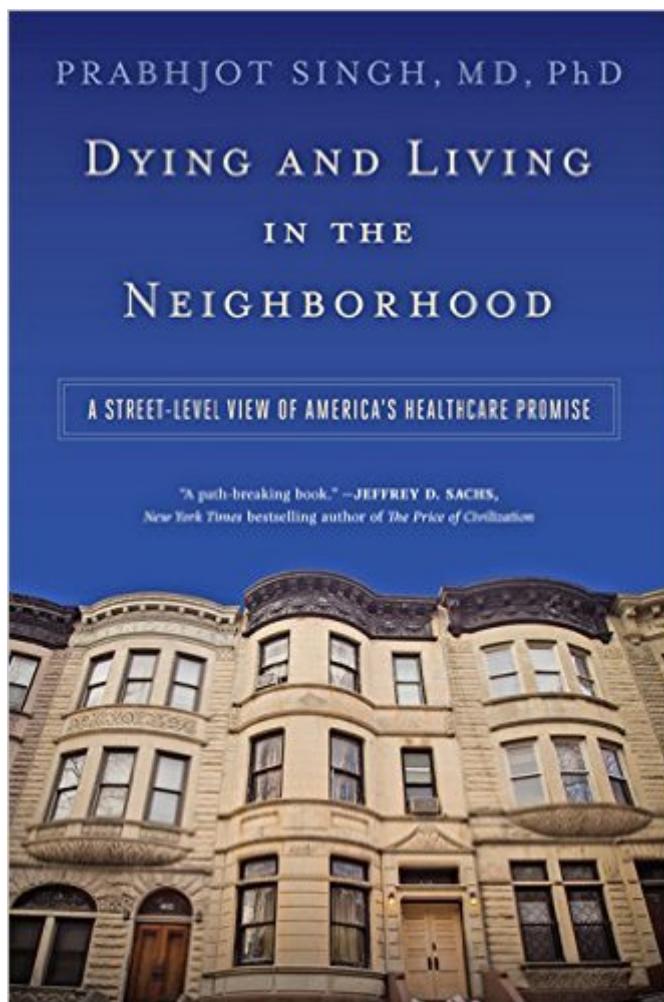


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Dying And Living In The Neighborhood: A Street-Level View Of America's Healthcare Promise



Synopsis

Even as US spending on healthcare skyrockets, impoverished Americans continue to fall ill and die of preventable conditions. Although the majority of health outcomes are shaped by non-medical factors, public and private healthcare reform efforts have largely ignored the complex local circumstances that make it difficult for struggling men, women, and children to live healthier lives. In *Dying and Living in the Neighborhood*, Dr. Prabhjot Singh argues that we must look beyond the walls of the hospital and into the neighborhoods where patients live and die to address the troubling rise in chronic disease. Building on his training as a physician in Harlem, Dr. Singh draws from research in sociology and economics to look at how our healthcare systems are designed and how the development of technologies like the Internet enable us to rethink strategies for assembling healthier neighborhoods. In part I, Singh presents the story of Ray, a patient whose death illuminated how he had lived, his neighborhood context, and the forces that accelerated his decline. In part II, Singh introduces nationally recognized pioneers who are acting on the local level to build critical components of a neighborhood-based health system. In the process, he encounters a movement of people and organizations with similar visions of a porous, neighborhood-embedded healthcare system. Finally, in part III he explores how civic technologies may help forge a new set of relationships among healthcare, public health, and community development. Every rising public health leader, frontline clinician, and policymaker in the country should read this book to better understand how they can contribute to a more integrated and supportive healthcare system.

Book Information

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Dr. Singh's book presents a unique and valuable perspective about contemporary US healthcare from a vantage point few others could provide. Trained as a physician-scientist who carried his expertise into public health and health systems engineering, Dr. Singh builds poignant and nuanced stories of individual patients and practitioners and effectively elucidates their meaning and essential importance to the larger story of contemporary health care. Dr. Singh writes in a manner that is one part literary writer, one part social scientist, and one part systems engineer. The solutions presented in Part III of this book provide an outstanding topology of the methods and means by which innovators in public health will create more dynamic and robust health systems in the coming years and decades. If you're interested in a look at burgeoning US public health transformations in the post-Affordable Care Act age--in a manner that is accessible and enjoyable to read--this book is a great place to start.

Dr. Singh has finally written the story so many in healthcare have long wanted to tell: how the problems in this country's health go so far beyond problems with hospitals or health insurance, and deep into the roots of our communities and neighborhoods. If we in the healthcare sector truly want to improve health, we have to be partners to communities, both sharing our expertise and learning with a beginner's mind from the rich wisdom of our neighbors. By highlighting the extraordinary stories of how this work is already being done, from Louisiana to Minnesota, Dr. Singh not only describes the root problems of health in this country, he shows us the path forward to a healthier nation. This is a must-read for anyone concerned about the health and future of their children, neighbors, or patients.

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