Socioeconomic inequalities in mortality and longevity

Peter Goldblatt

Taking action on the Social Determinants of Health

12 March 2013

Thanks to Ruth Bell

www.instituteofhealthequity.org
The Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) – Closing the gap in a generation

Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England:
The Marmot Review – Fair Society Healthy Lives

Key principles

- Social justice
- Material, psychosocial, political empowerment
- Creating the conditions for people to have control of their lives

www.who.int/social_determinants
Social determinants of health

CSDH (2008)

Life course stages

Accumulation of positive and negative effects on health and wellbeing
“Fair Society, Healthy lives” themes

A) Give every child the best start in life.
B) Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.
C) Create fair employment and good work for all.
D) Ensure healthy standard of living for all.
E) Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
F) Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.

Life expectancy in countries in the WHO European Region, 2010 (or latest available)

Source: WHO Health for all database, 2012
Male life expectancy – WHO European Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Life expectancy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>Iceland</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>Lowest</td>
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<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
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<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>2009</td>
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</table>

Source: WHO HFA database

Female life expectancy – WHO European Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest</td>
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<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: WHO HFA database
LIFE COURSE STAGES

MACROLEVEL CONTEXT

WIDER SOCIETY

SYSTEMS

Accumulation of positive and negative effects on health and wellbeing

Perpetuation of inequities

Prenatal Early Years Working Age Older Ages

Family building
Accumulation of positive and negative effects on health and wellbeing

Perpetuation of inequities

UCL Institute of Health Equity
MACROLEVEL CONTEXT

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LIFE COURSE STAGES

Prenatal | Early Years | Working Age | Older Ages

Perpetuation of inequities

Absolute inequality in males death rates by level of education

Mackenbach et al 2008
Life expectancy (at age 30) trends in Sweden 2000-2010, by education, women

Trends in probability of survival in men by education: Russian Federation

45 p20 = probability of living to 65 yrs when aged 20 yrs

Source: Murphy et al 2006
Early child care and education

- Parenting and family support
  - Perinatal services
  - Care before and during pregnancy
  - Help for new mothers
- Pre-school education and care
- Primary, secondary and tertiary education and training

Differences in PISA scores by attending preschool for more than one year before and after accounting for socioeconomic background

OECD PISA 2009 database
Child poverty rates <60% median before and after social transfers 2009

Source: EU SILC

Children achieving a good level of development at age five, local authorities 2011: England

Good level of development at age 5

Source: LHO (2012)
Birmingham Brighter Futures

- Aims to improve the lives of all the city's children and young people;
- Focus on improving children’s physical health, literacy and numeracy, behaviour, emotional health, social literacy, and job skills.
- Specific programmes relevant to early years include: Family Nurse Partnership (FNP), Incredible Years Parenting Programme, Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS), Triple P Parenting Programme.

Per cent 5 year olds achieving ‘good development score’,* Birmingham LA, West Midlands & England

* in personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy

Source: Department for Education; preliminary data
Work and employment are of critical importance for population health and health inequalities

- Participation in, or exclusion from the labour market determines a range of life chances

- Wages and salaries provide the major component of the income of most people in employment

- Exposure to hazards at work, demanding or dangerous work, long or irregular hours, shift work, and prolonged sedentary work can all adversely affect health

- Psychological and socio-emotional demands and threats evolving from an adverse psychosocial work environment have become more widespread
Unemployment rates by education and country of origin in selected countries

Source: Eurostat database

Figure 2.29 Mortality of men in England and Wales in 1981–92, by social class and employment status at the 1981 Census

Source: Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study 229
Psychosocial stress and occupational class

SHARE - 11 European Countries
Wahrendorf, Dragano and Siegrist 2011

Risk of poor health by effort-reward imbalance at work: European countries

Salavecz et al 2010
Accumulation of positive and negative effects on health and wellbeing

Perpetuation of inequities

Wider Society

- Social exclusion
- Social protection across the life course
- Communities
Relation between social welfare spending and all cause mortality in 18 EU countries, 2000

Stuckler D et al. BMJ 2010;340:bmj.c3311

Social spending per capita (purchasing power parity)

Social Protection

Each 100 USD per capita greater social spending reduced the effect on suicides by:
- 0.38%, active labour market programmes
- 0.23%, family support
- 0.07%, healthcare
- 0.09%, unemployment benefits

Source: Stuckler et al 2009 Lancet
Obesity and education level, males, Eurothine study

Source: Roskam et al.

UCL Institute of Health Equity

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Perpetuation of Inequities

Family building
Macrolevel context:

Economic Issues
Sustainability and environment

Changes in self-reported health and access to health care in Greece between 2007 and 2009, adjusted estimates

Source: Kentikelenis et al, 2011
Accumulation of positive and negative effects on health and wellbeing

Perpetuation of inequities

• A Fair Society