Closing the gap in a generation – from report to policy
Michael Marmot
UCL
Chair of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health

World Congress of Epidemiology
Porto Allegre, Brazil
Symposium
September 2008
Social Justice
Empowerment
• Material
• Psychosocial
• Political

Creating conditions for people to lead flourishing lives
Policy Entry Points

- Social stratification – people’s social position related to their health
- Differential exposure to health damaging conditions
- Differential vulnerability
- Differential consequences of ill health

Level

- Global
- Regional
- National
- Local
- Household
- Individual
What needs to change to make a difference?
Inertial Positions on Health Inequalities

- It’s for the health service
- It’s poverty
- Rich country focus on smoking
EXPENDITURE ON MEDICAL CARE PER CAPITA IN US AND UK

- **UNITED STATES:**
  - US$ 5274

- **UNITED KINGDOM:**
  - US$ 2164 (adjusted for purchasing power)

(Human Development Report 2005)
DIFFERENCES IN SELF REPORTED HEALTH BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE US

55-64 year olds

Heart disease

Diabetes

Cancer

Source: Banks, Marmot, Oldfield and Smith; JAMA 2006
‘It’s Poverty’

Need a richer understanding of poverty
# LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INDIGENOUS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIAN*</td>
<td>59.4</td>
<td>64.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIGENOUS</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIAN*</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>82.0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INDIA</strong>**</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61.8</td>
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<td><strong>RUSSIA</strong>**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>72.1</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Infant Mortality Rate/1000 Live Births</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Australian (Northern Territory)</td>
<td>15.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian National Rate</td>
<td>4.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
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Money?
# Life expectancy and GDP per capita in $US (PPP) (2005)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LE at birth (both sexes)</th>
<th>GDP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>31,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>35,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>32,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>27,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>30,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>79.0</td>
<td>33,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>78.9</td>
<td>23,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>10,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>12,027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>77.9</td>
<td>41,890</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Human Development Report 2007/8)
SMOKING?
THE CAUSES OF THE CAUSES
Who Smokes?

DEPRIVATION

- Lower social class
- No access to a car
- Rented housing
- Crowded accommodation
- Unemployment

Jarvis, 1996
Who Smokes?

STRESS

Lone parents
Divorced/separated
History of mental illness
Current tranquilliser use

ALCOHOL

Heavy drinkers

Jarvis, 1996
Final report of the CSDH launched by WHO in Geneva 28th August 2008
“This ends the debate decisively. Health care is an important determinant of health. Lifestyles are important determinants of health. But it is factors in the social environment that determine access to health services and influence lifestyle choices in the first place.”

Dr Margaret Chan, the DG of the WHO, at the launch of the CSDH Final Report in Geneva 28th August 2008
Why is CSDH report significant?

- New avenues for prevention
  - escalating health care costs,
  - AIDS epidemic,
  - rise of chronic diseases.
- Responsibility - political leaders and policy-makers. “Social deprivation is not a matter of fate. It is a marker of policy failure.”
- Health is determined by factors outside the health sector.
- Lessons for overall development – redistribution

(Chan 2008)
UK trailing on ill-health and life expectancy, UN says

Poor die 30 years before wealthy just a few miles away

Poorest ‘will die 30 years before rich’

Living longer? It’s more likely in India than poorer parts of Glasgow

Politicians blamed for health inequalities that kill the poor

Living in the wrong part of town can cut your life by 28 years

Closing the chasm
Canadian government will take whole of government approach

Formulate in consultation a ‘made in Canada’ approach to tackle social determinants of health

Learn from experiences of NGOs in Canada and abroad

Measure progress in Canada

CPHA, 3rd Sept 2008
India

Meeting with Indian Prime Minister
Manmohan Singh
‘Brussels moment’ – EU Commission

WHO SEARO

WHO EURO

WHO PAHO

WHO EMRO
Nutcracker effect

Civil society
- Prime shakers and movers

Courtesy: Fran Baum
“Let us not forget that visionaries have been the realists in human progression.”

Dr Halfdan Mahler
Former Director-General of WHO
Address to the 61st World Health Assembly
20th May 2008