

Closing the gap in a
generation –
from report to policy

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Commission on
Social Determinants of Health

Closing the gap in a generation

Health equity through action on
the social determinants of health



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:

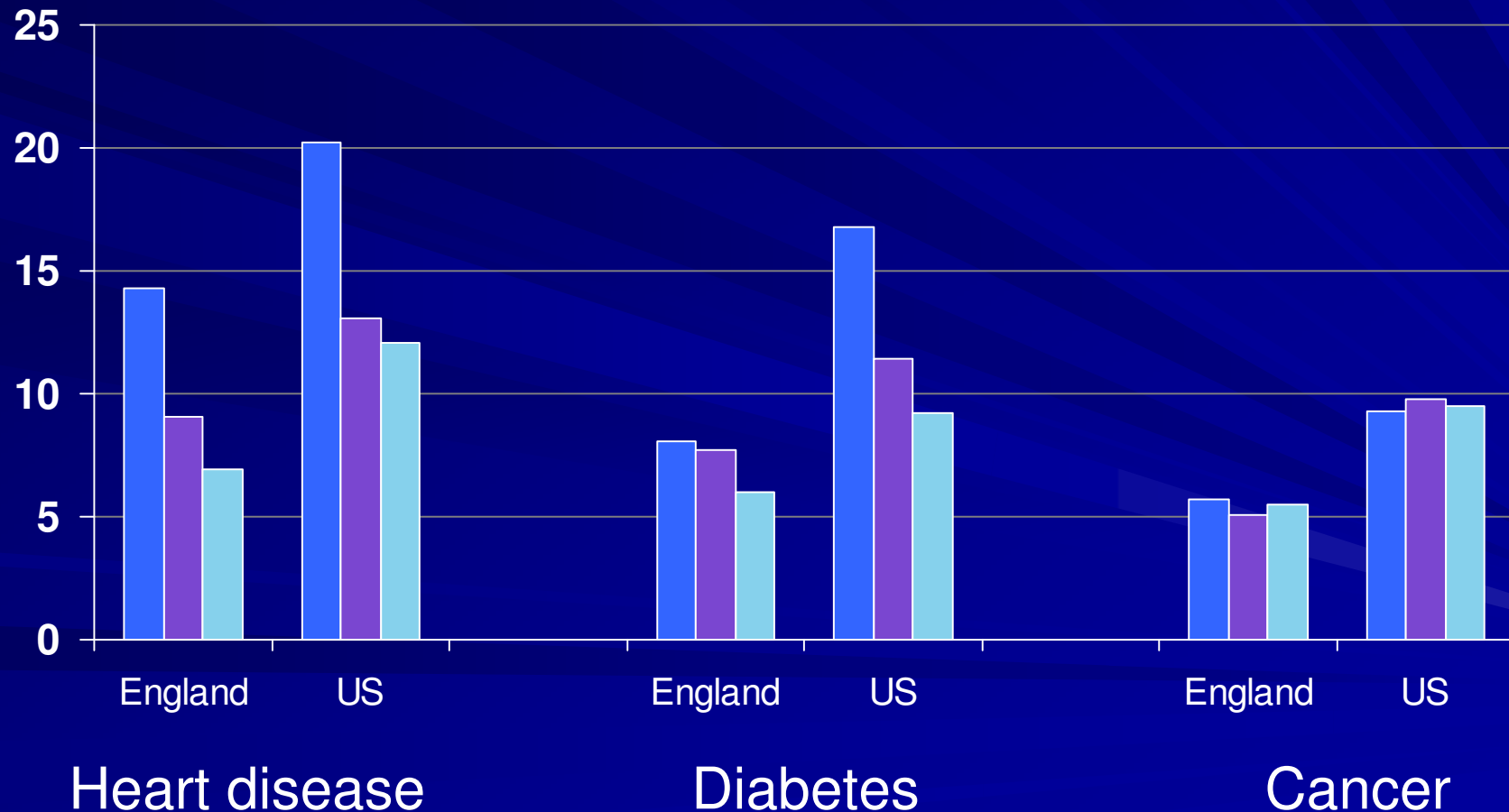
 - US\$ 2164 (adjusted for purchasing power)

(Human Development Report 2005)

DIFFERENCES IN SELF REPORTED HEALTH BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE US

55-64 year olds

Low income Middle income High Income



Source: Banks, Marmot, Oldfield and Smith; JAMA 2006

'It's Poverty'

- Need a richer understanding of poverty

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

	MALE	FEMALE
INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN*	59.4	64.8
NON INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN*	76.6	82.0
INDIA**	61.8	65.0
RUSSIA**	59.0	72.1

(*<http://www.hreoc.gov.au>, Social Justice Report 2005;**Human Development report 2005)

INFANT MORTALITY/1000 LIVE BIRTHS

	INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS
INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN (NORTHERN TERRITORY)*	15.4
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RATE*	4.69
SIERRA LEONE**	166
ICELAND**	3

(*<http://www.hreoc.gov.au>, Social Justice Report 2005;**Human Development Report 2005)

■ Money?

Life expectancy and GDP per capita in \$US (PPP) (2005)

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

(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**

Commission on Social Determinants of Health FINAL REPORT | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Closing the gap in a generation

Health equity through action on
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- *“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*



Photo: WHO/Chris Black

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

Guardian

Poor die 30 years before wealthy just a few miles away

Daily Telegraph

Poorest 'will die 30 years before rich'

Metro

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

Times

Politicians blamed for health inequalities that kill the poor

The Independent

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

Daily Mail

Closing the chasm

Guardian

Canadian Public Health Association response to CSDH report

- 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

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