

# Determinants of health, health as a public good

Social Care and Health Systems

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EVROPSKÁ UNIE  
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**MŠMT**  
MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

# Health as a public good

- A public good is a good that meets 2 criteria:
  - 1, non-excludable and
  - 2, non-rivalrous.
- Definition of public good (*Galea, 2016*):

as a “product (i.e. a good or service) of which anyone can consume as much as desired without reducing the amount available for others“

„benefits of good freely available to all or prohibitively costly to provide good only to people who pay for it and prevent or exclude other people from obtaining it“ (*Galea, 2016*)

# Health as a public good

**Why is healthcare not a public good in economics?** (*Institute of Medicine. 2010. Clinical Data as the Basic Staple of Health Learning: Creating and Protecting a Public Good: Workshop Summary. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press*)

- Goods and services necessary to provide and sustain health are rival and excludable (*Institute of Medicine, 2010*)
- One person's health status primarily benefits them (*Institute of Medicine, 2010*)
- Public good – nonrivalry means each unit is consumed by all consumers ( $\uparrow$  demand =  $\leftrightarrow$  quantity) (*Institute of Medicine, 2010*)
  - Market demand = vertical sum of demand curves (sum of price each consumer WTP for single unit)
- Healthcare is a non-excludable (when a patient uses up a hospital bed, they effectively prevent another person from using that hospital bed) but rivalrous good, a mixed good or quasi-public good (*Institute of Medicine, 2010*)

# Health as a Global Public Good

- Current discussion about health as a global public good (Inge Kaul and Ronald U. Mendoza)
- Global public goods are public goods that are accessible on global basis
- Global public good meets 3 criteria:
  - 1. the good must be non-rivalrous
  - 2. the good must also be non-excludable
  - 3. The good must also be available more-or-less worldwide.
- Global public goods are important concept to international policy
- For example global warming and carbon emissions

# Health as a Global Public Good

- Communicable diseases lead to change the healthcare systems
- These goods included global public health, world peace, global security, respect for national independence, fundamental human dignity, the harmonization of transport and communication networks across borders, etc.

(Source: Rafols, *INTERNATIONAL LAW AND GLOBAL HEALTH: AN OVERVIEW*, 2015)

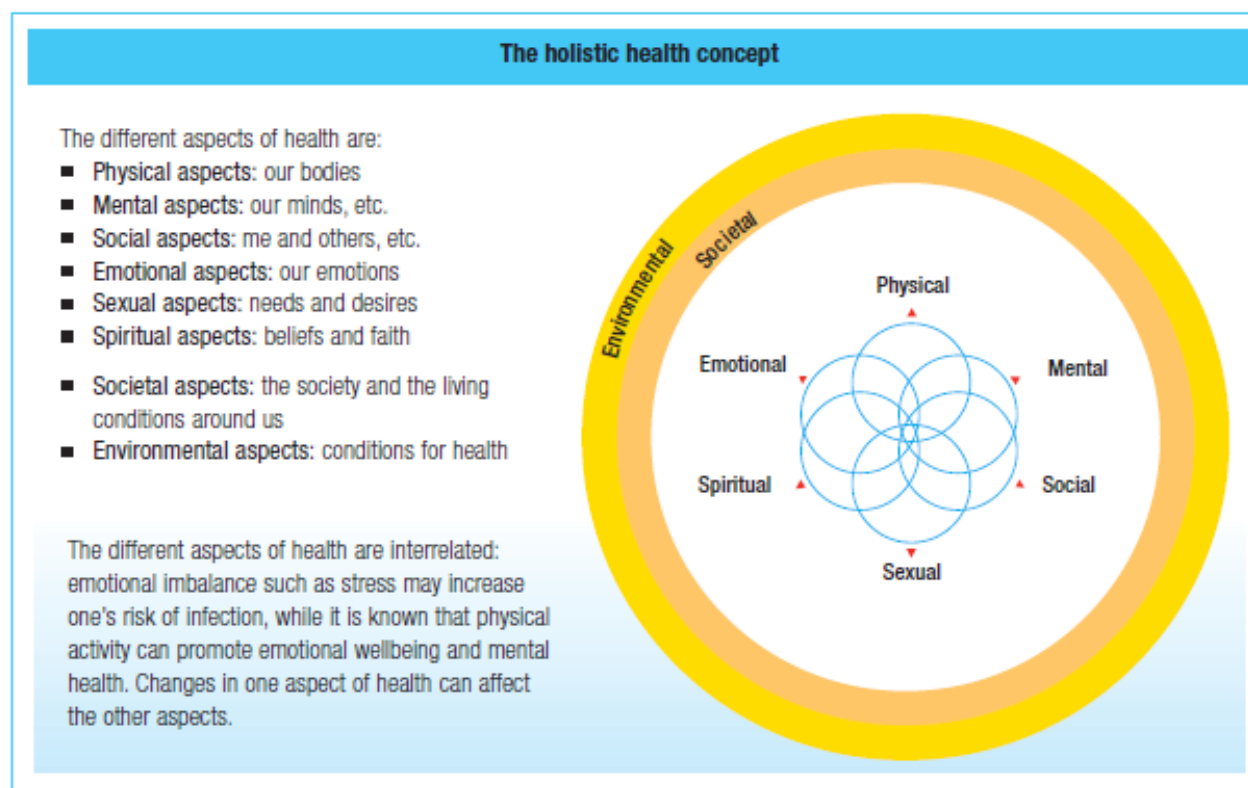
	Rivalrous	Non-rivalrous
Excludable	<b>Private goods</b> eg, pills, syringes	<b>Club goods</b> eg, patent protected knowledge
Non-excludable	<b>Common goods</b> eg, universal healthcare	<b>Public goods</b> eg, public information, pandemic preparedness

# Public goods financing

- Aspects of public goods are reason for government finance through:
  - Fees
  - Privatizing a public good through establishing property rights
  - Taxation
  - Other financial incentives/compensation - permits

# Health

- “Health is seen as a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living; it is a positive concept emphasising social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities.” (WHO, 1986)



## A positive health concept

- Ambiguity - The term “health” can be defined in many ways
- Intuitively, each of us understands exactly what it means to be healthy
- Definition from WHO: „Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not just the absence of disease or physical weakness“(WHO, 1986)
- The specific concept of health is also reflected in the practical creation and implementation of health policy



## A positive health concept

- However, focusing the definition on the various dimensions of well-being, not only the biological - physical, but also the mental or social dimension, is considered to be progress
- Health also includes emotional health, it relates to intellectual abilities and subjective evaluation of one's own state of health
- Social health

## Social health as a part of health

- Social health represents ability to form meaningful relationships with other people
- It includes interaction in healthy, the ability to make social contacts, develop satisfactory interpersonal relationships and manage social roles
- Social health impacts your physical health

## A negative health concept

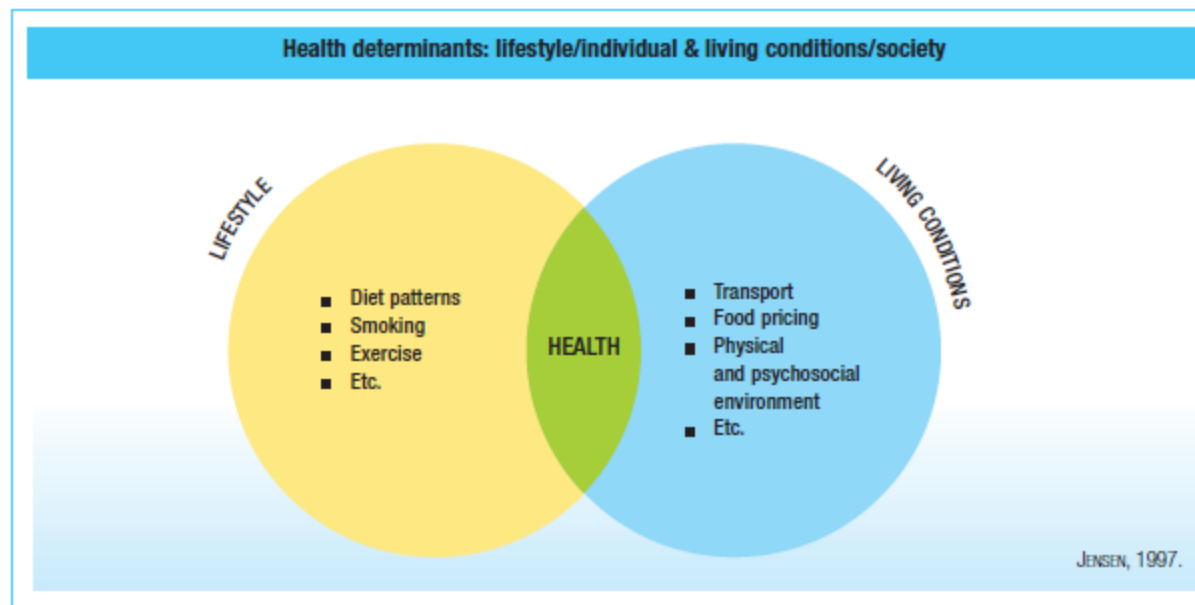
- negative definition in health: „is absence of an illness and disease“ (WHO, 1986)
- It is often stated that the medical model of health is a negative one: that is, that health is essentially the absence of disease. This is understandable because typically people turn to medicine in times of trouble, not when they are feeling well (WHO, 1986)
- human condition, “discomfort” (or “disease”) then refers more to the subjective perception of the individual
- The question arises of who we can actually consider to be sick and whether we should follow the objective or subjective concept of illness

# What is public health?

- Public health - try to protect health of people and their communities
- Concerned with protecting the health of entire populations
- Public health - try to prevent problems through implementing educational programs, research, etc.
- Regardless of the size of the populations
- The objectives of public health may be carried out through public or private endeavors

# Positive or negative health concept

- In the practical assessment of health, we mostly rely on negative definitions of health
- Health is thus defined as absence of illness or discomfort, where illness is usually considered to be an objectively defined, medically identifiable

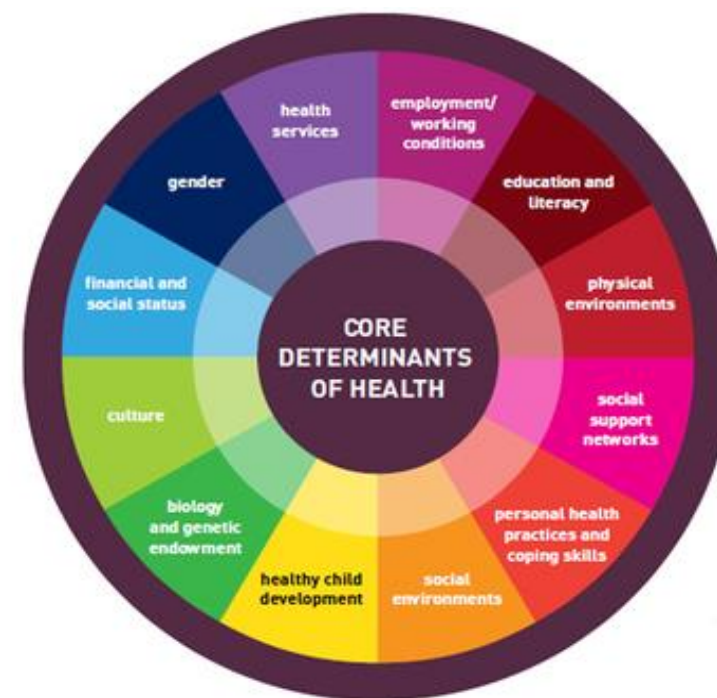


# Measuring the health status of the population

- Deciding whether to prioritize subjective and objective concepts of health and disease consequently influences the approach to measuring and assessing the health status of the population
- Data collection and data sources play an important role in assessing the health status of the population
- Data collection methods affect the final picture we create about the health status of a particular population
- The existence of a large number of indicators

# Determinants of health

- **Determinants of health** (*Braveman P, Gottlieb L. The Social Determinants of Health: It's Time to Consider the Causes of the Causes. Public Health Reports. 2014;129(1\_suppl2):19-31.*)
- Many factors contribute to the health
- Conditions or circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age
- These conditions are shaped by political, social, and economic forces



(Source: Braveman P, Gottlieb L. *The Social Determinants of Health: It's Time to Consider the Causes of the Causes. Public Health Reports. 2014;129(1\_suppl2):19-31.*)

# Determinants of health - developement

- FIRST, a biomedical approach dominated (including genetic predisposition)
- Pathology transformation added - there was a gradual management of infectious diseases, prolonged life expectancy and the on set of non-communicable diseases
- A new perspective on the health of Canadians (*Lalonde, M. (1974). A new perspective on the health of Canadians. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Supply and Services Canada.*)
  - Gain a better understanding of global public health
  - The concept of the "health field", as identified in the Lalonde report (1974), is considered to be composed of four interdependent fields determined to influence individual's health



# Determinants of health - developement

- New Perspective on the Health from Lalonde (1974)
- 4 “health fields”:
  1. lifestyle,
  2. environment,
  3. health care organization,
  4. human biology
- Major improvements in health would result primarily from improvements in lifestyle, environment and our knowledge of human biology
- NOW – dedicated a broad view of factors affecting health

# Determinants of health - developement

- A broad view of factors affecting health bring several discussion and more studies (*Islam MM (2019) Social Determinants of Health and Related Inequalities: Confusion and Implications. Front. Public Health 7:11*)
- The socio-politico-economic conditions in a society should be such that its citizens enjoy a favorable set of social resources, and that these resources are distributed fairly (*Islam MM (2019) Social Determinants of Health and Related Inequalities: Confusion and Implications. Front. Public Health 7:11*)
- The quality, quantity, and distribution of these resources, together, to a large extent, determine citizen's health and well-being
- Opportunities to have an education, a healthy living environment, nutrition, healthcare and employment are some of those resources

# Determinants of health

## 1. Biological determinants of health (

*(Bortz WM. Biological basis of determinants of health. Am J Public Health. 2005;95(3):389-392)*

- **1.1 Genetic**

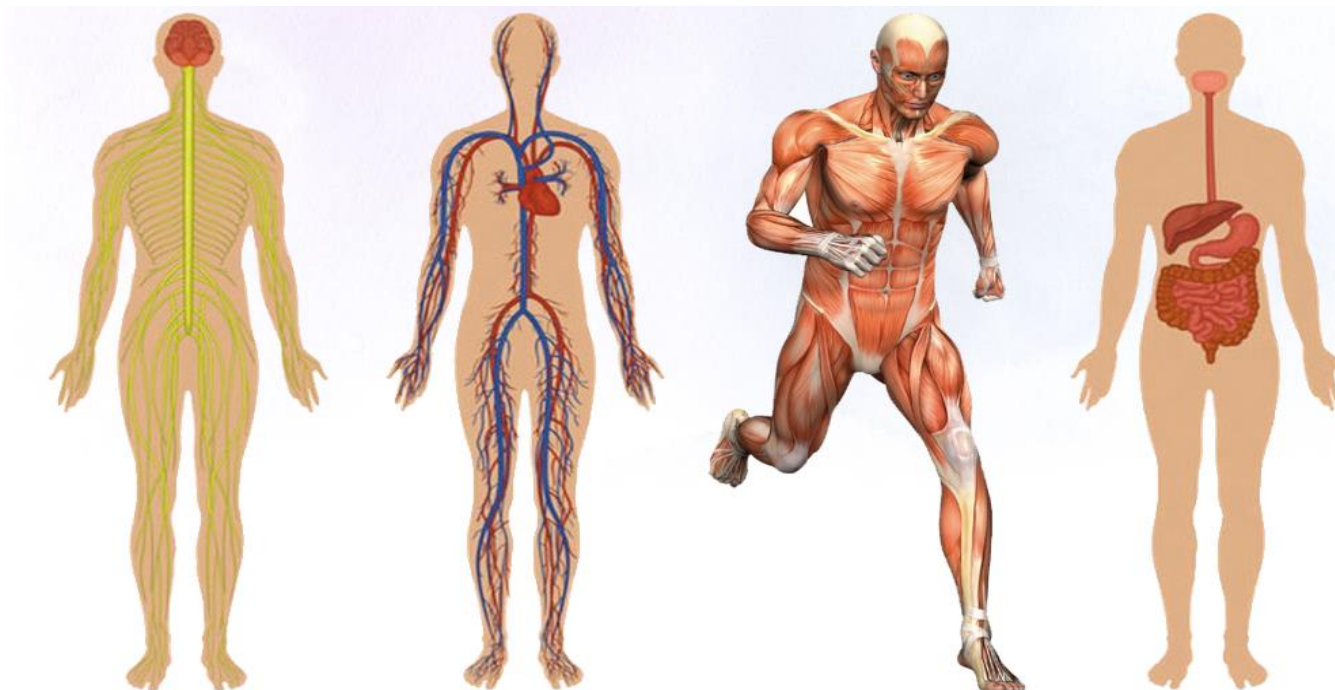
- Single-gene
- Chromosomal
- Multifactorial

- **1.2 Body structure**

- Height and weight
- Waist-hip ratio
- Bone density

- **1.3 Body functioning**

- Blood pressure
- Nutritional status
- Biochemical function
- Sensory function
- Movement and balance and Fitness
- Strength and robustness

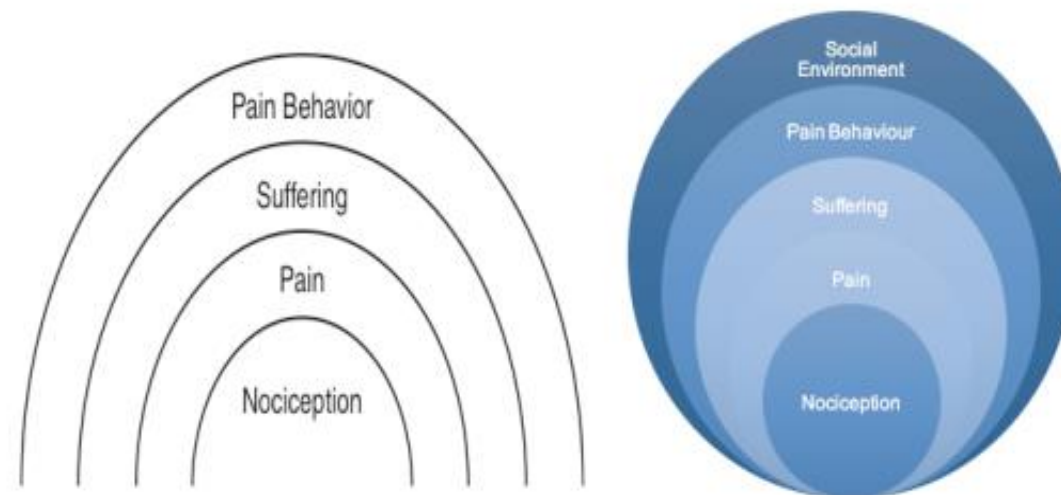




# Determinants of health

## 2. Behaviour determinants of health (Sutton, 2004)

- 2.2 Responses to health problems
  - Care seeking
  - Compliance with medical treatment
  - Health care service use behaviours
  - Pain behaviours
  - Response to illness



# Determinants of health

## 3. Environmental determinants of health (Source: WHO, Social and environmental determinants of health and health inequalities in Europe: fact sheet, 2012)

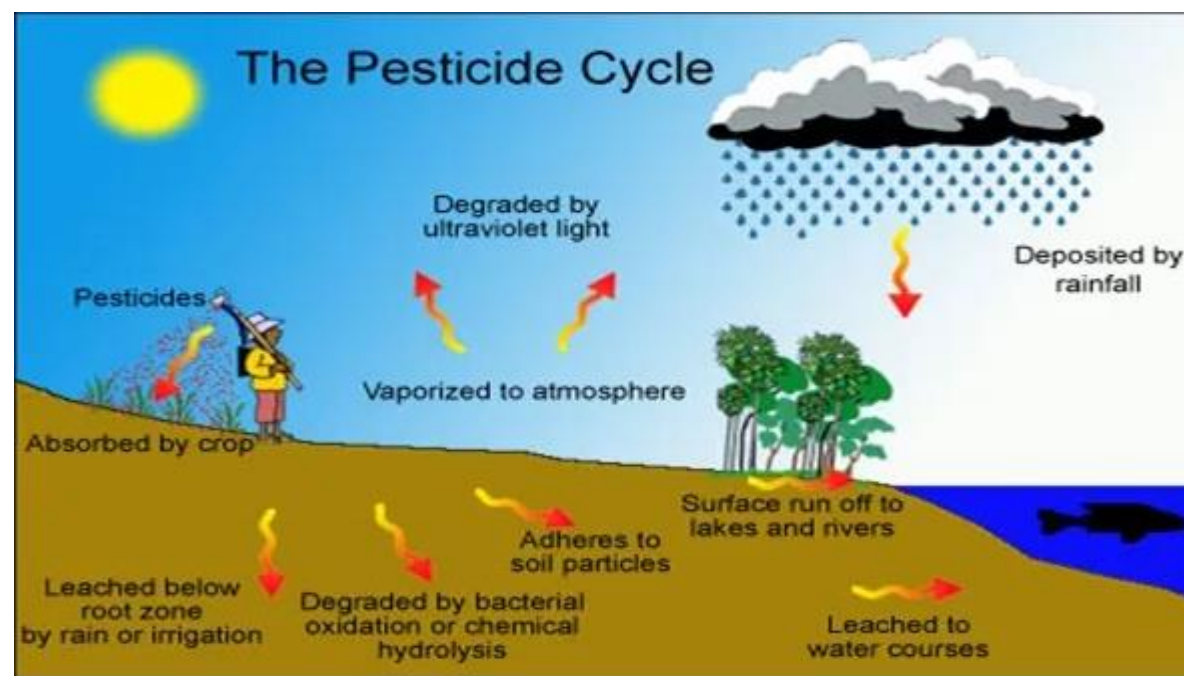
- 3.1 Water quality
  - Drinking water quality
  - Recreational water quality
  - Recycled water quality
- 3.2 Air quality
  - Ambient air quality
  - Indoor air quality
- 3.3 Climate and geography
  - Solar radiation
  - Temperature
  - Rainfall
  - Fire
  - Severe weather events
  - Salinity
  - Sea level rise



# Determinants of health

## 3. Environmental determinants of health (Source: WHO, Social and environmental determinants of health and health inequalities in Europe: fact sheet, 2012)

- 3.4 Built environment
  - Road traffic accidents
  - Public open space
  - Noise
  - Biological hazards
  - Material hazards
  - Housing quality
  - Chemical hazards
  - Radiological hazards
  - Electromagnetic hazards
- 3.5 Food safety
  - Contamination and quality
- 3.6 Land and soil quality
  - Contamination and pesticides



# Determinants of health

## 4. Socio-economic determinants of health (Source: WHO, Social and environmental determinants of health and health inequalities in Europe: fact sheet, 2012)

- 4.1 Social
  - Attitudes
  - Community involvement, civic engagement, bridging social capital
  - Culture
  - Ethnicity
  - Gender
  - Health cognition
  - Language
  - Religious belief or spirituality
  - Safety and security
  - Social class
  - Social and support
  - Trust

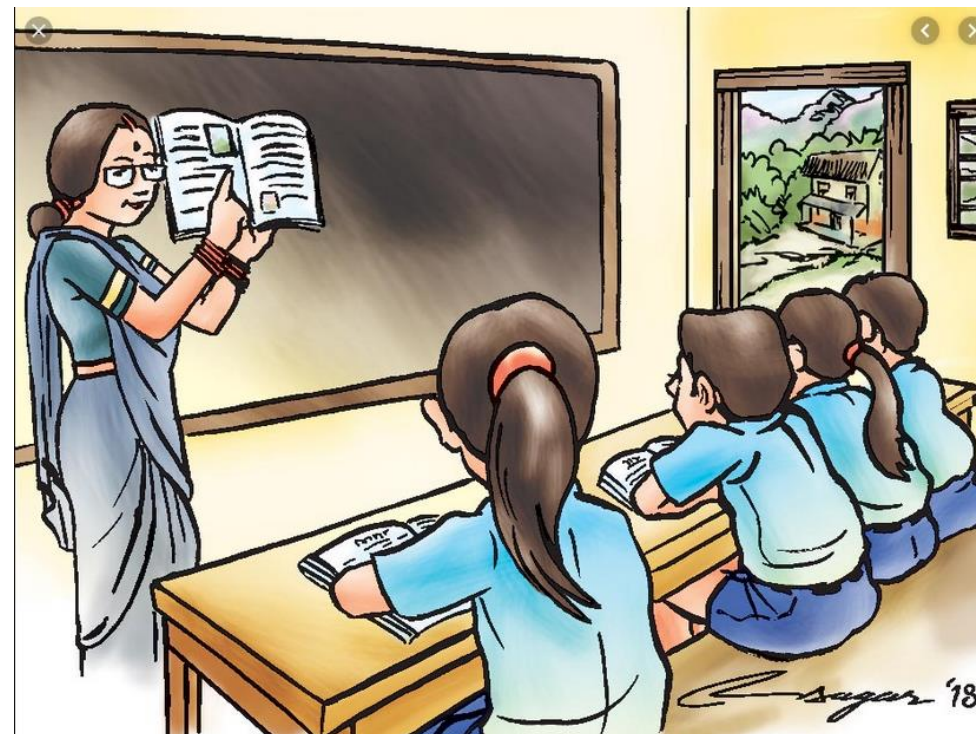




# Determinants of health

## 4. Socio-economic determinants of health (Source: WHO, Social and environmental determinants of health and health inequalities in Europe: fact sheet, 2012)

- 4.2 Economic
  - Education
  - Employment status
  - Financial resources
  - Housing availability
  - Industry
  - Literacy and health literacy
  - Living standard
  - Occupation
  - services, systems and policies



# Determinants of health

- Discussion of weights of individual groups of factors
- The real weights of individual factors may vary from population to population
- Variations in health determinants can be caused by other factors in addition to real population change
- We should consider:
  - changes in the classification of the diagnosis
  - differences in the demographic characteristics of the population (age structure of the population)
  - change in the attendance of doctors
  - Change in patient behavior, which may result in a lower or higher number of cases detected
  - possible errors in data collection and interpretation of results

Thank you for your  
attention



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