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The Commission to Reduce Social Inequalities in Health in Spain

Reviewing evidence, prioritising proposals and issuing policy recommendations

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Ministry of Health and Social Policy, Spain.

C S B Consorci Sanitari de Barcelona

 Agència de Salut Pública





Need for action on health inequalities

- Unfair, unjust, avoidable differences in health between social groups





Commission on Social Determinants of Health FINAL REPORT



Closing the gap in a generation

Health equity through action on the social determinants of health



2008: WHO Commission

The Commission's overarching recommendations

Improve Daily Living Conditions

Improve the well-being of girls and women and the circumstances in which their children are born, put major emphasis on early child development and education for girls and boys, improve living and working conditions and create social protection policy supportive of all, and create conditions for a flourishing older life. Policies to achieve these goals will involve civil society, governments, and global institutions.

Tackle the Inequitable Distribution of Power, Money, and Resources

In order to address health inequities, and inequitable conditions of daily living, it is necessary to address inequities – such as those between men and women – in the way society is organized. This requires a strong public sector that is committed, capable, and adequately financed. To achieve that requires more than strengthened government – it requires strengthened governance: legitimacy, space, and support for civil society, for an accountable private sector, and for people across society to agree public interest and reinvest in the value of collective action. In a globalized world, the need for governance dedicated to equity applies equally from the community level to global institutions.

Measure and Understand the Problem and Assess the Impact of Action



Set up of the Spanish Commission

- October 2008
- Initiative of the General Directorate of Public Health
- Multi-disciplinary group
- **Mandate:** To propose short, middle and long term interventions to reduce health inequalities



Spanish Commission: the process

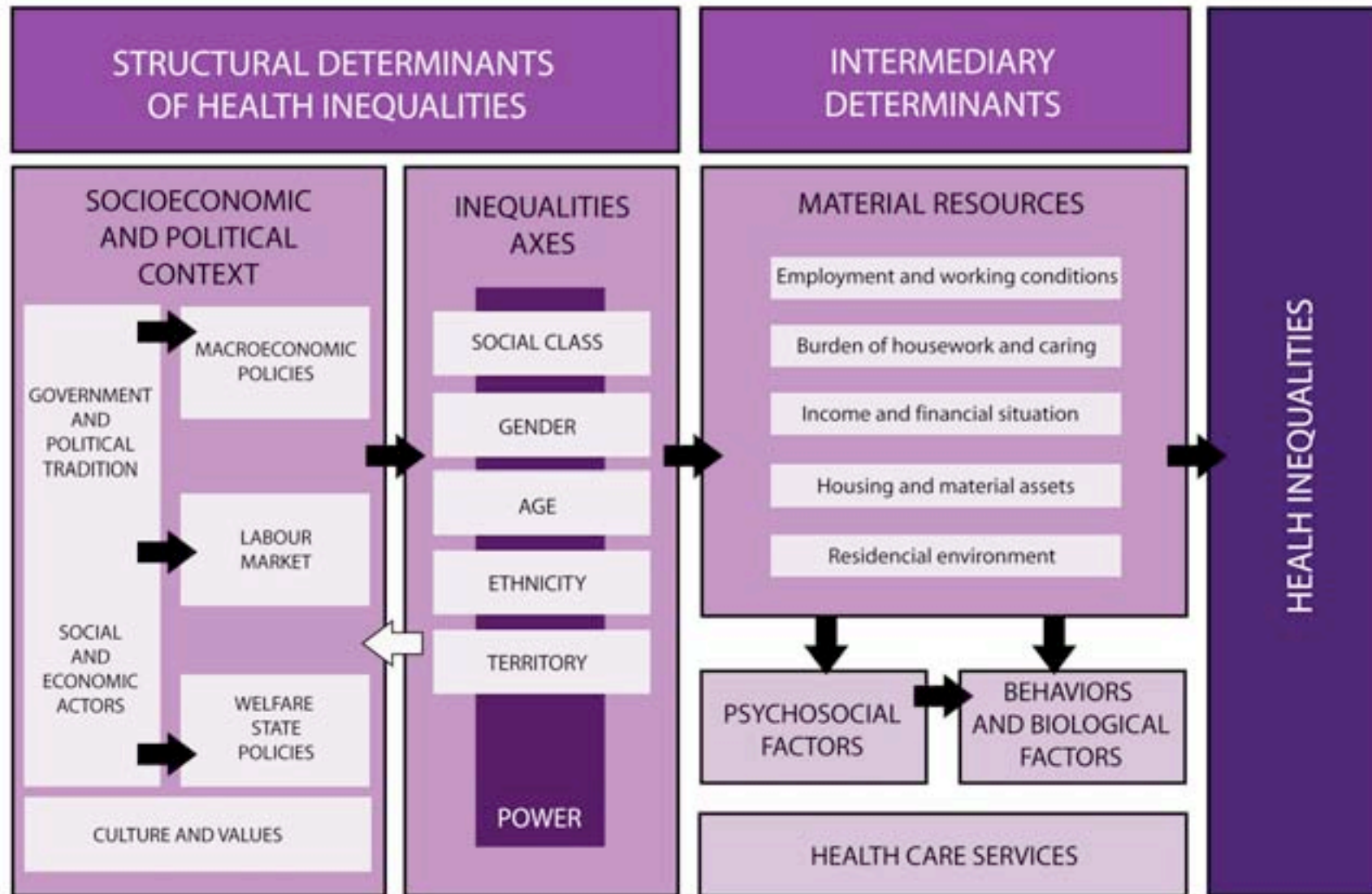
- First steps (Oct.08-Mar.09)
 - ✓ Preliminary papers on state-of-the-art
 - ✓ First draft of interventions proposal
- Experts' working groups (Apr.-Nov.09)
 - ✓ 44 participants (+ 18 commissioners)
 - ✓ Review of the 1st draft -> 2nd draft
 - ✓ Prioritization according to importance, opportunity and urgency
- Final document preparation (Dec. 09-May 10)



Preliminary papers on state-of-the-art

- Conceptual framework and principles for policy
- Data on health inequalities and their social determinants in Spain
- Policies in selected European countries
 - ✓ Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, UK, Ireland, The Netherlands
- Sensitivity to gender and socio-economic inequalities in regional Health Plans

Conceptual framework



Adapted from Solar and Irwin (2007) and Vicenç Navarro (2004)



Recommendations in 5 sections

I. Distribution of power, wealth and resources

- ✓ health and equity in all policies; fair financing and public expenditure; political power and participation; global governance

II. Working and living conditions throughout the lifecourse

- ✓ childhood; employment; ageing

III. Healthy settings

- ✓ physical environment and housing

- ✓ settings for healthy habits promotion

IV. Health services

V. Information systems, training and research



Final document

available at: www.scribd.com/doc/40308855

Avanzando hacia la equidad

PROPUESTA DE POLÍTICAS E INTERVENCIONES PARA REDUCIR LAS DESIGUALDADES SOCIALES EN SALUD EN ESPAÑA.

Comisión para Reducir las Desigualdades Sociales en Salud en España

Comisionado por:
Dirección General de Salud Pública y Sanidad Exterior
Ministerio de Sanidad y Política Social





Final document

available at: www.scribd.com/doc/40308855

- **Executive summary**
- **Introduction**
 - ✓ Based on preliminary chapters
 - ✓ Adds examples of “good practice” in Spain
- **Recommendations**
 - ✓ By area
 - ✓ 27 major recommendations (~ 3-4 per group)
 - ✓ 166 specific recommendations divided in top, high or medium priority
 - ✓ Public health (20) and healthcare (15)
- Further reviewed by 12 major national experts, mainly from outside the health sector



Major recommendations

Some examples

- Reducing income inequality
- Enhancing quality of the public education system
- Tackling precariousness and protecting the unemployed
- Expanding access to childcare centers
- Raising minimum pensions
- Expanding services for the elderly and disabled (Dependence Act)
- Neighbourhood renewal initiatives
- Local participatory health plans
- Equity objectives and surveillance systems



Next steps

- Document officially presented on 2nd November
- Directorate General of Public Health:
National strategy on Equity in Health
 - ✓ Based on the 20 priority proposals for the public health sector
 - ✓ 4 strategic lines: Information systems, Health and Equity in All Policies, Childhood, Visibility
 - ✓ Feedback process with regional governments, invited to start their own strategies



Challenges

- An exciting opportunity to bridge the gap between research and policy, *but...*
- Scarce public awareness on health inequalities
- Uncertain (if any) impact on other sectors
- Economic cycle constraints
- Need for stable structures, sustained commitment



Commission members

Final document available at: www.scribd.com/doc/40308855

Chair: Carme Borrell. Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona.

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