

What are the Social Determinants of Health?

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, including the health system. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels, which are themselves influenced by policy choices. The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities—the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.

Responding to increasing concern about these persisting and widening inequities, WHO established the Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) in 2005 to provide advice on how to reduce them. The Commission's final report was launched in August 2008, and contained three overarching recommendations:

1. Improve daily living conditions
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money, and resources
3. Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action

Examples of social determinants of health include:

- Income
- Social class
- Race/ethnicity
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Environmental conditions
- Respect and dignity

Source: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

Examples of Social Determinants of Health



- **Economic Stability**
 - Poverty
 - Employment
 - Food Insecurity
 - Housing Instability
- **Education**
 - High School Graduation
 - Enrollment in Higher Education
 - Language and Literacy
 - Early Childhood Education and Development
- **Social and Community Context**
 - Social Cohesion
 - Civic Participation
 - Discrimination
 - Incarceration
- **Health and Health Care**
 - Access to Health Care
 - Access to Primary Care
 - Health Literacy
- **Neighborhood and Built Environment**
 - Access to Foods that Support Healthy Eating Patterns
 - Quality of Housing
 - Crime and Violence
 - Environmental Conditions

Source: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>