

MODULE SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Module name	Social Determinants of Health
Module code	PHM004
School	School Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Health Services Research and Management Division
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	7

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

Social inequalities in health outcomes are reliably observed within and between countries. Understanding the mechanisms that create health disparities across social groups and gradients has become an important question for the medical and social science fields. Increasing attention to social inequalities in health by researchers and politicians over recent years requires a new generation of health professionals who can critically assess scientific findings and translate them into policy and practice.

The SDH module provides you with a strong foundation in biopsychosocial theory and the critical understanding needed for individuals interested in making an impact on the way people are born, live, grow, work, and age (including the healthcare system). The focus of this module is to expose, explore and examine the core theories of social stratification, inequalities, inequities and social justice; the social patterning of disease and mortality; and the biological, psychological and social factors in the aetiology of health outcomes as well as the ways in which these mechanisms can operate across the life-course. In so doing, the SDH module will enable you visualize the ways in which seemingly everyday aspects of life are inequitably distributed, shaped by and reproduce socio-economic pathways, thereby contributing to marked health disparities.

Content outline

Indicative topics for this module include:

- Socio-economic position, social gradient and health;
- Gender as a social determinant of health
- Ethnicity, Race, Discrimination, and Stigma as social determinants of health.
- Social determinants of health behaviours and health behaviour change.
- Explanatory perspectives and integrated models explaining socio-economic inequalities in health and the social determinants of health;
- Social Cohesion, Social Capital, Social Integration, Social Networks, Social Support and Health.
- Multilevel influences (e.g. neighbourhood and place) on health.
- Cultural/ behavioural, materialist/structuralist and life-course perspectives.
- Strategies, Interventions and Policies to reduce socio-economic inequalities in health.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of how health varies systematically according to social, economic and political factors, and of the wealth-health relationship, poverty/material disadvantage/deprivation-health relationship;
- Demonstrate critical understanding of the relationships between individual, interpersonal, social, structural, cultural and biological factors as they impact the aetiology and management of illness;
- Demonstrate critical understanding of how social context, social position and social stratification contribute to inequities in health, and how appropriate policies could tackle societal health gaps;
- Demonstrate critical understanding of the potential mechanisms through which social factors (e.g. income inequality and adverse childhood experiences) can influence individual health across the life-course and shape population patterns of morbidity and mortality);
- Demonstrate critical understanding of evidence-based interventions for reducing social inequalities in health.

Skills:

- Apply and critically discuss basic terms, concepts and measurements related to population health, and health inequalities;
- Independently and critically apply major theoretical perspectives to the explanation of social determinants of health;
- Critically evaluate evidence for social determinants of health and identify key gaps in knowledge;

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate critical understanding of key social determinants of health and to understand their relevance in the national and global contexts.
- Demonstrate and apply an awareness of the ethical issues underlying global health inequalities.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Teaching and learning will take place through a combination of interactive lectures, group work and practical exercises. This will enable you to examine the issues in more detail, providing both teacher and peer led input, promoting discussion and developing communication and group working skills.

Teaching sessions will take place over ten half-days, and are supplemented by self-directed study which enable you to gain a deeper overall understanding of the subject as well as pursue topics which are of particular interest to you in greater detail.

Teaching and learning are facilitated by Moodle, the University's online Virtual Learning Environment.

Formative guidance based on individual and groups tasks and peer-to-peer learning will be facilitated to support the summative assessment.

Teaching pattern:

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lectures, group work, class exercises and discussions	Lecture	30	120	0	150
Totals:		30	120	0	150

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

For the assessment you will produce a critical appraisal of a topic related to the module learning outcomes. You will present this as a digital poster. You will also give a brief oral presentation to accompany the poster. The focus will be on interventions to reduce social inequalities in health.

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Written assignment	Digital poster	80%	50%	No
Oral presentation		20%	50%	No

Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, marks and feedback will be provided in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy, normally within 3 weeks of the submission deadline (for a mid-term assessment) or within 4 weeks (for an end-of-term assessment). You will receive your mark via Moodle, followed by your coursework with feedback sheet. A selection of all assessments will be internally moderated and sent to the external examiner. All initial marks will be therefore provisional pending external examiner approval and assessment board.

You will need to pass both components (poster & oral presentation) to pass the module. Failure to pass either component will require you to resubmit the component for a second attempt capped at 50%.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 50%. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module, but in the first instance you should contact the module leader.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Adler N.E., Boyce T., Chesney M.A., Cohen S., Folkman S., Kohn R.L. & Syme S.L. (1994). Socioeconomic status and health: The challenge of the gradient. *American Psychologist*; 49(1): 15-24.

Diez Roux A.V. (2001). Investigating neighbourhood and area effects on health. *American Journal of Public Health*. 91(11): 1783-1789

Kawachi I. & Berkman L. (2000). Social cohesion, social capital, and health. In L.F. Berkman and I. Kawachi (eds), *Social Epidemiology*, pp 174-90. Oxford University Press: New York.

Marmot, M. & Wilkinson, R.G. (eds) (2006). *Social Determinants of Health*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Schulz A. & Northridge M.E. (2004). Social Determinants of Health: Implications for Environmental Health Promotion. *Health Education & Behavior*. 31(4): 455-471.

Wilkinson R.G. & Pickett K.E. (2009). *The Spirit Level: Why greater equality makes societies stronger*. New York: Bloomsbury.

Wingood GM & Diclemente RJ. (2005). Application of the theory of gender and power to examine HIV-related exposures, risk factors, and effective interventions for women. *Health Education and Behavior*. 27(5): 539-565.

World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2008). *Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity Through Action on the Social Determinants of Health*. http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/

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For Use From: 2018-19

Appendix:

CODES

HESA Code	Description	Price Group
105	Health and community studies	C2

JACS Code	Description	Percentage (%)
L728	Human Demography	100