SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH INEQUALITIES

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Law Enforcement and Public Health
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Why treat people and send them back to the conditions that made them sick?
Growing up in Baltimore: worlds apart

• City of Baltimore in the US state of Maryland is marked by stark inequalities.

• LeShawn, has grown up in the Upton/Druid Heights neighbourhood in Baltimore’s inner city.

• Bobby has grown up in Greater Roland Park/Poplar.

• Life expectancy in Upton/Druid is sixty-three; in Roland Park, eighty-three.
LeShawn Baltimore Upton/Druid
• Half are single parent families.
• Median household income in 2010 was $17,000
• Four out of ten under ‘proficient’ reading third grade
• >50% missed at least 20 days of high school a year.
• 90% did not go on to college.
• Each year, a third aged 10-17 arrested for ‘juvenile disorder’. A third each year: criminal record by 17.
• In 2005 to 2009, 100 non-fatal shootings for every 10,000 residents, and nearly forty homicides.
Bobby Baltimore: Roland Park

- 93% two-parent families
- Median income $90,000
- 97% achieve ‘proficient or advanced’ in third grade reading
- Only 8% missed twenty days a year of high school
- 75% complete college
- Juvenile arrests one in fifty each year
- No non-fatal shootings in 2005–2009; four homicides per 10,000
Life expectancy at birth for selected London electoral wards, 2002-06

Areas in blue are known as “Spearhead Authorities” (data from London Health Observatory)

Kensington & Chelsea
Queens Gate ward:
LE for men: 88 years.

Haringey
Tottenham Green
LE for men: 71 years
## LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN</strong>*</td>
<td>69.1</td>
<td>73.7</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>NON INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN</strong>*</td>
<td>79.7</td>
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Indigenous Australians in NT Australia

- Incarceration rate 2400/100,000
- Cf Non-indigenous 186/100,000
  - 13 fold difference

- 84% Prison pop is Indigenous Cf 27% general population

- Diagnosed mental illness in prisoners 72% in M; 92% in F
Incarceration rates/100,000

Mortality in prisoners after release

Washington State

Main causes:
- drug overdose
- CVD
- Homicide
- suicide

3.5 times the general population rate

Dashed line

Life expectancy in bottom income quartile by state level incarceration rate
Life expectancy in bottom income quartile by state level incarceration rate
Crime and mental illness

• Denmark: violent offending 10% males; 26% females have mental illness

• UK estimate: 80% of all criminal activity attributable to people who had conduct problems in childhood and adolescence.

• Somewhere between 10 and 80% is a lot.
Therefore prevent mental illness in children
What good does it do to treat people and send them back to the conditions that made them sick?
The Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) – Closing the gap in a generation


Review of Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide in the WHO European Region
Commission of the Pan American Health Organization on Equity and Health Inequalities in the Americas
A. Give every child the best start in life
B. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
C. Create fair employment and good work for all
D. Ensure healthy standard of living for all
E. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
F. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
Lifecourse

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.

-F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby
Give Every Child the Best Start
Jimmy, Calton, Glasgow

• Single mother with succession of partners; physical and sexual abuse
• Behaviour problems at school entry
• Delinquency; known to police: gangs and violence
• never had a ‘proper’ job – temporary manual work
• any money Jimmy gets goes into drink and drugs;
• Diet of pub food, fast food and alcohol.
• a series of short-term girlfriends, alcohol-fuelled violent behaviour.
• Jimmy’s life expectancy less than Indian average.
Level of development at end of reception

The percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception 2013/14, IMD 2015

Most deprived: 80%
Least deprived: 0%
## Level of development at end of reception

<table>
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<th>England and selected local authority areas</th>
<th>Level of development at age 5, 2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All pupils (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>60.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackney</td>
<td>64.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath and North East Somerset</td>
<td>62.5</td>
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</table>
ACEs by income England 2013
Adverse Childhood Experiences: England

Preventing ACEs in future generations could reduce levels of:

- Early sex (before age 16) by 33%
- Unintended teen pregnancy by 38%
- Smoking (current) by 16%
- Binge drinking (current) by 15%
- Cannabis use (lifetime) by 33%
- Heroin/crack use (lifetime) by 59%
- Violence victimisation (past year) by 51%
- Violence perpetration (past year) by 52%
- Incarceration (lifetime) by 53%
- Poor diet (current; <2 fruit & veg portions daily) by 14%

Bellis et al., 2014
Domestic Violence is a Public Health Issue

• 35% of women suffer from it.

• 42% of these women experience injuries.

• 38% of all murdered women are murdered by partners (6% of all murdered men)

Source: WHO Global and regional estimates of violence against women, 2013
Global prevalence

1 in 3 women throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner.

Source: WHO Global and regional estimates of violence against women, 2013
Child poverty (<60% median income)

Figure 1.1 An average of one in five children in rich countries lives in relative income poverty
Percentage of children aged 0–17 living in a household with income lower than 60 per cent of the median, 2014 and 2008

UNICEF Report Card 14
Reducing child poverty by social transfers

Figure 1.2 Finland, Iceland and Norway are most effective in reducing child poverty
Percentage reduction in the rate of child poverty due to social transfers, 2014 and 2008
High income inequality – less social mobility

A Broken Social Elevator? How to Promote Social Mobility
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264301085-en
Tax havens increase inequality

• 50% of wealth in tax havens belongs to top 0.01% of people in advanced economies
• That wealth is equivalent to 5% global GDP
• Tax avoidance on massive scale

• Added to that is avoidance of tax by multinationals

Zucman, G. Guardian 8 Nov 2017
Multinationals’ tax avoidance

• €600bn a year shifted to world’s tax havens
• €350bn into European tax havens – mainly profits from EU countries. Taxed at 0 to 5%
• Deprives the EU of a fifth of corporate tax revenue: €60bn a year
• For the UK €12.7bn a year
• Cf £350m a week is £18.2bn a year

Zucman, G. Guardian 8 Nov 2017
My two messages in a world of post-fact politics

- Evidence-based policy

- Spirit of social justice

Remember: We said that

“Social injustice is killing on a grand scale”
West Midlands Fire Service

Working to improve health and reduce inequalities in high risk and vulnerable communities
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