INTRODUCTION

Social equity in health

Social class, race, ethnicity, and gender are major determinants of health. The health of individuals and communities is shaped by their social and economic circumstances, including education, income, employment, and access to health care. The health disparities that exist between different groups can be influenced by various factors, including structural racism, socioeconomic status, and access to health care.

This review provides an overview of the methods used to measure social class and occupation in health research. It examines the challenges of using social class indicators in health research, and discusses the need for more accurate and comprehensive measures of social class.

KEY WORDS: Social class, race, ethnicity, gender, health, disparities.

N. Kersey, D. A. Williams, and N. E. Moss

Concepts, Methodologies, and Guidelines:

MEASURING SOCIAL CLASS IN US PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH.
BACKGROUND: WIDENING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

The widening social inequalities in health within and between nations worldwide. The better health outcomes for households with higher income than the poor, over the past 40 years has been a consistent finding reported in the literature. This trend has been observed across all income levels, with the poorest households experiencing the most improvement. The gap between the richest and poorest households has been narrowing, with a slight increase in recent years. However, the health gap remains significant, with the poorest households still experiencing higher rates of mortality and morbidity. This trend is further exacerbated by the impact of social determinants of health, such as access to healthcare, education, and social support systems. These factors contribute to a complex web of inequalities that affect health outcomes across different socio-economic groups.
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Table 1: Social class and socioeconomic position: definitions and implications for data analysis

In order to understand the implications of measuring socioeconomic position at multiple levels (individual, social class, geographical) for the broader question of social class and social mobility, it is important to recognize that socioeconomic position is a complex and multi-faceted concept. It encompasses a range of factors, including income, occupation, education, and housing, which are all interconnected and influence one another in various ways. Moreover, socioeconomic position is not static, but rather it is shaped by a range of factors that operate at different levels, from the individual to the societal. This complexity makes it challenging to measure and analyze socioeconomic position, but it also highlights the importance of understanding the social and economic forces that shape people's lives.

DEFINITIONS

Social class (or socioeconomic status) refers to the social class of an individual, which is often measured in terms of occupation, income, and education. Socioeconomic position (or social position) refers to the overall position of an individual or group in the social hierarchy, which is determined by a range of factors, including income, education, and occupation. These factors are often used to create social class categories, such as working class, middle class, and upper class.

IMPLICATIONS

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND ANALYTIC STRATEGIES

Research on social class and social mobility has traditionally focused on the relationship between social class and educational attainment. However, recent research has shown that social class and social mobility are complex and multi-dimensional concepts that are shaped by a range of factors, including income, occupation, and education. This complexity makes it challenging to measure and analyze social class and social mobility, but it also highlights the importance of understanding the social and economic forces that shape people's lives.
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Socioeconomic Position and Socioeconomic Status

Specifically, in the context of education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), students from lower socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds face unique challenges. This is particularly true for underrepresented groups, such as minority students and those from low-income families. These students may lack access to the same resources and opportunities as their peers from higher SES backgrounds. As a result, they may have limited exposure to STEM fields, which can negatively impact their future career prospects.

Feinstein's work highlights the importance of considering social class in educational settings. By accounting for SES, educators can better understand the barriers that students from lower SES backgrounds may face. This understanding can inform the development of targeted interventions to support these students.

Feinstein's framework also emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to measuring social class. It suggests using a range of indicators, such as parental education, occupation, and income, to capture the multifaceted nature of SES. This approach recognizes that SES is not a static concept but one that is shaped by various social, economic, and cultural factors.

In conclusion, understanding the role of social class in educational outcomes is crucial for addressing the disparities that exist in STEM fields. By acknowledging the impact of social class, educators and policymakers can work towards creating more equitable opportunities for all students, regardless of their SES background.
### Measuring Social Class

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### Neighborhood Over the Lifespan

#### Individual

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<td>3. Occupation</td>
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<td>4. Social Status</td>
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#### Measures of Social Class and Occupational Mobility

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    - 2. No
- **Education:**
  - 1. Yes
  - 2. No
- **Occupation:**
  - 1. Yes
  - 2. No

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Household

...
Neighborhhood

Measuring social class

The term 'neighborhood' is often used in social research to refer to a geographic area. Neighbors are typically defined in terms of residential proximity or shared community characteristics. Neighborhoods can vary widely in size, from small, tightly-knit communities to large, diverse areas. Understanding the role of neighborhoods in shaping social outcomes is crucial for policy makers and researchers alike.

There is a growing body of research that highlights the importance of neighborhood effects on health and well-being. Neighborhoods can influence access to resources such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. They can also shape exposure to environmental risks, such as pollution and violence. In addition, neighborhoods can affect social cohesion and sense of community, which in turn can influence mental health and social support networks.

Policy interventions that address neighborhood issues have the potential to improve public health and reduce health disparities. For example, targeted initiatives to improve access to healthy food and green spaces in underserved areas can lead to better health outcomes. Similarly, efforts to increase affordable housing and reduce gentrification can help preserve community stability and reduce the risk of displacement for vulnerable populations.

Overall, the study of neighborhood effects is a complex and multidisciplinary field that requires collaboration across various disciplines. By recognizing the importance of neighborhood influences, we can work towards creating more equitable and healthier communities for all.

References:


Further reading:

The social positioning of class effects in our measures of socioeconomic position and well-being and multiple levels of population patterns of health, disease, and quality of life. Multilevel models also shape population patterns of health, disease, and well-being, and influence health-related outcomes. In this section, we address the complex nature of the relationship between socioeconomic status and health, and how these factors interact. Multilevel models allow us to capture the heterogeneity of the population and to estimate the effects of socioeconomic position on health outcomes. We discuss the role of socioeconomic position in shaping health inequalities, and how these inequalities are influenced by socioeconomic factors such as income, education, and occupation. Multilevel models are used to estimate the effects of socioeconomic position on health outcomes, and to identify the mechanisms through which these effects are mediated. We also discuss the role of social and economic policies in shaping health inequalities, and how these policies can be used to reduce health inequalities. Overall, multilevel models provide a powerful tool for understanding the complex relationship between socioeconomic position and health, and for identifying the policies and interventions that can be used to address health inequalities.
Monthly income and food insecurity: The relationship between income and food insecurity is complex. While higher income generally reduces the likelihood of food insecurity, the relationship is not always straightforward. Factors such as employment status, employment type, and access to benefits can influence the impact of income on food insecurity.

Lower monthly income is associated with a higher risk of food insecurity, as individuals with lower income may struggle to afford basic necessities including food. However, the relationship between income and food insecurity is not linear; different thresholds of income may be associated with different levels of food insecurity. For example, moderate-income families may experience food insecurity even if they are able to meet their basic needs, whereas low-income families may face more severe food insecurity.

Policy implications: Understanding the relationship between income and food insecurity is crucial for developing effective policies and interventions. Targeted programs that address the needs of low-income families, including food assistance and nutrition programs, can help mitigate food insecurity and improve overall health outcomes.

References:
Material and Social Deprivation

with numerous health outcomes (e.g., 88-90). Thus, material deprivation, or poverty, is shown to be associated with increases in physical and mental health problems. The deprivation of poverty, in turn, is defined as the lack of resources needed to meet basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter. Poverty is also associated with increased risk of mortality and morbidity, as well as decreased life expectancy. The concept of poverty is further complicated by the fact that it is often linked to social and economic factors, such as income inequality and access to resources.

Although measurement of poverty at the individual and family level is important, it is not sufficient to understand the full spectrum of poverty. Poverty is a complex issue that involves not only economic factors, but also social and cultural factors. Therefore, it is important to consider the intersection of poverty with other factors, such as race, gender, and ethnicity, in order to fully understand the impact of poverty on health and well-being.

Even a single measurement of poverty is difficult to develop, because poverty can be influenced by a variety of factors. Therefore, it is important to consider the context in which poverty is measured, as well as the limitations of the measurement. In order to fully understand the impact of poverty on health and well-being, it is important to consider the broader social and economic context in which poverty occurs.

The impact of poverty on health and well-being is significant, and it is important to consider the ways in which poverty affects individuals and communities. By understanding the complex nature of poverty, we can work towards developing policies and interventions that address the root causes of poverty and improve health outcomes for all.
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Education

The data shows that children from higher socioeconomic backgrounds tend to perform better academically and are more likely to attend higher-level institutions of education. This is frequently attributed to better access to resources, such as books, the internet, and more conducive study environments. Furthermore, education is seen as a pathway to social mobility, offering individuals the opportunity to improve their economic status and reduce the likelihood of experiencing poverty.

Health

The impact of wealth is also evident in health outcomes. Individuals from higher-income households tend to have better access to healthcare services, resulting in lower rates of disease and longer life expectancy. Conversely, lower-income individuals may face challenges in accessing medical care, leading to worse health outcomes. The distribution of health services and facilities is a significant factor in this disparity, with wealthier areas often having better healthcare infrastructure.

Conclusion

In conclusion, wealth and socioeconomic status play a crucial role in shaping opportunities and outcomes in various aspects of life. Whether it is through access to education, healthcare, or economic opportunities, the ways in which wealth is distributed and experienced can have profound implications. Therefore, addressing these inequities requires a comprehensive approach that considers not only financial resources but also the broader social and cultural contexts in which individuals live.
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of socioeconomic position (ESP) in 1975, the question of whether education provides a single sufficient measure of socioeconomic status remains one of the central issues in the field of sociology. Several studies have shown that education is strongly correlated with various indicators of socioeconomic status, such as income, occupation, and wealth. However, the relationship between education and socioeconomic status is complex and multifaceted, and there are important differences between the effects of education on different aspects of socioeconomic status.

For instance, education may have a stronger effect on income than on occupation, and the relationship between education and occupation may vary depending on the specific field or industry. Additionally, education may have a different impact on different socioeconomic groups, with lower levels of education often leading to lower socioeconomic status for individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Despite these limitations, education remains a crucial factor in understanding and measuring socioeconomic position. As such, it is important to continue studying the relationship between education and socioeconomic status in order to better understand the complex and dynamic nature of socioeconomic inequality.

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A Research Agenda

and etiological factors. Results from the well-designed and comprehensive National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) provide a comprehensive profile of the health status of the US population, and highlight the importance of social factors in shaping health outcomes. Despite these clear links, specific strategies to improve the health of the population have not been fully implemented. More research is needed to identify effective interventions that can reduce health disparities.

And Surveillance Strategies for Improving Social Economic Status Measures for Public Health Research

When population health indicators are used to measure and compare the health of different populations, it is important to consider how these indicators are constructed and used. For example, the gradient in health outcomes between the highest and lowest income groups is a well-known phenomenon. However, the magnitude of this gradient varies across countries and regions, and is influenced by a range of social, economic, and political factors. Understanding these factors is crucial for developing effective strategies to improve population health.

Measuring Social Class

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Measuring Social Class

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Table 1: Recommendations Requiring Measures of Social Class and Other Aspects of Socioeconomic Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A.</strong> Public health priorities should be informed by robust measures of socioeconomic position.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B.</strong> Public health policies and programs should be designed and implemented in a way that is sensitive to the needs and experiences of different socioeconomic groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C.</strong> Public health research and monitoring should include analyses of socioeconomic position and its impact on health outcomes.</td>
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**Abbreviation:** Socioeconomic position refers to the economic, social, and cultural conditions that shape the distribution of resources and opportunities in society.
David A. Williams, Ph.D.

The following text appears to be a continuation of a discussion on health research and policy, particularly focusing on social determinants of health. The text discusses the importance of understanding social factors that influence health outcomes and the need for robust research to inform policy decisions. It highlights the complex interplay between various social, economic, and environmental factors and their impact on health disparities.

The text suggests that a comprehensive approach is needed, involving collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and community leaders to address these issues effectively. It emphasizes the importance of evidence-based strategies to reduce health disparities and improve overall population health.

The text concludes with a call to action, urging stakeholders to work together to develop and implement effective policies and interventions that can address the underlying causes of health inequalities. It underscores the need for sustained investment in research, education, and community-based initiatives to ensure equitable access to health care and opportunities for all segments of society.

Additional resources and references are likely to be included in the full document, providing more detailed information on specific topics and studies related to health disparities.