

Further Reading and resources on Health Inequalities

A keynote resource is the UK-based Whitehall study (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/whitehall/>) conducted by public health expert Sir Mike Marmot following the health of over 10,000 working people since 1985.

The health **trade press** and news and feature pages of the **professional journals** (most notably those concerned with primary care, public health and the social context of health care) will carry news and comment on equity issues and identifying and addressing disparities and discrimination.

The mainstream press may take on such issues from time to time, although the populist right wing media are likely to take a dismissive and disparaging attitude to what is often branded “political correctness” in relation to ethnic groups and communities.

However, occasional issues of obvious disparity and discrimination may be seen as reaching a wider audience, and there is a greater awareness and willingness of the popular news media to take up issues of disparity in the treatment of women (a majority in most societies and a major component of most media target audiences). Some issues (such as the poor treatment of many older people in hospitals) may become hot political arguments and be dealt with on the general news pages.

Also:

International Journal for Equity in Health <http://www.equityhealthj.com/>

An interesting Policy Brief from the US-based Health Affairs is available:

http://www.healthaffairs.org/healthpolicybriefs/brief_pdfs/healthpolicybrief_53.pdf

European Union Public Health publications

http://ec.europa.eu/health/publications/index_en.htm

and European Portal for Action on Health Inequalities

<http://www.healthinequalities.org/HEALTHY/EN/resources/publications/>

Sources:

- Various agencies of central, regional and local government – most commonly those focused on Public Health measures – may well issue reports and guidelines identifying or responding to health disparities.
- University academics from varying disciplines may also conduct studies which reveal and discuss health disparities (internationally academics exchange views through the International Society for Equity in Health (<http://www.iseqh.org/>)).
- Professional bodies (doctors and other health professions) may also conduct their own studies and advocate policies, reflecting the aspirations of part or all of their members to improve equity in the access to health care.
- Pressure groups/lobby groups and campaigns focused on localities, communities, or health issues may also issue reports, press releases and comment on health disparities.
- Political parties (government or opposition) may take positions critical of certain health disparities: right wing political groups and parties may actively advocate exclusion of certain

social or ethnic groups (migrants, asylum seekers, Roma or other groups) from health care and health cover.