

**Faculty of medical laboratory science  
public health MLS-PUBH-322  
sem.6**

***Social 'determinants' of health***

# ***Social determinants of health***

The social determinants of health are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and the systems put in place to deal with illness.

These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.

# Social Determinants of Health

- Access to health care
- Access to resources
- Education
- Employment
- Environment
- Income/Poverty
- Insurance Coverage
- Housing
- Racism/Discrimination
- Segregation
- Transportation

# Intersection of Health, Place & Equity



# *Why?*

- Social determinants of health have a direct impact on health.
- Social determinants structure other causes of health:
  - Environment.
  - Behaviour.
  - Services.
- The ‘causes of the causes’.

# *Why?*

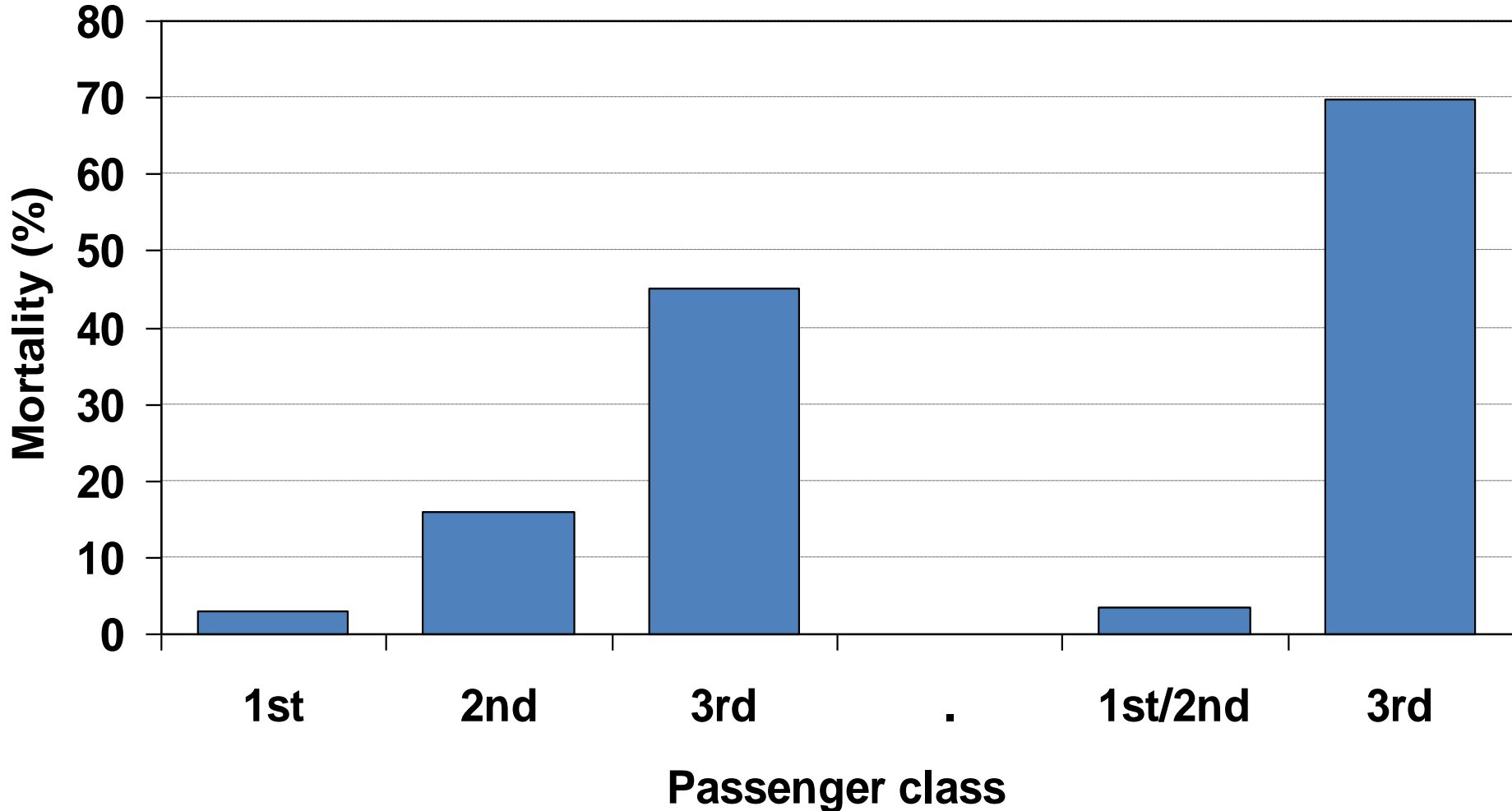
- The gaps, within and between countries, in income levels, opportunities, health status, life expectancy and access to care are greater than at any time in recent history.
- “The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities - the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries

# *Why?*

The structural roots of health inequities lie within education, taxation, labor and housing markets, urban planning, government regulation, health care systems, all of which are powerful determinants of health, and ones over which individuals have little or no direct personal control but can only be altered through social and economic policies and political processes.”

# ***Mortality at Titanic***

***by passenger class, men and women***





# Growing Communities: Social Determinants, Behavior and Health

*Our environments cultivate our communities and our communities nurture our health.*

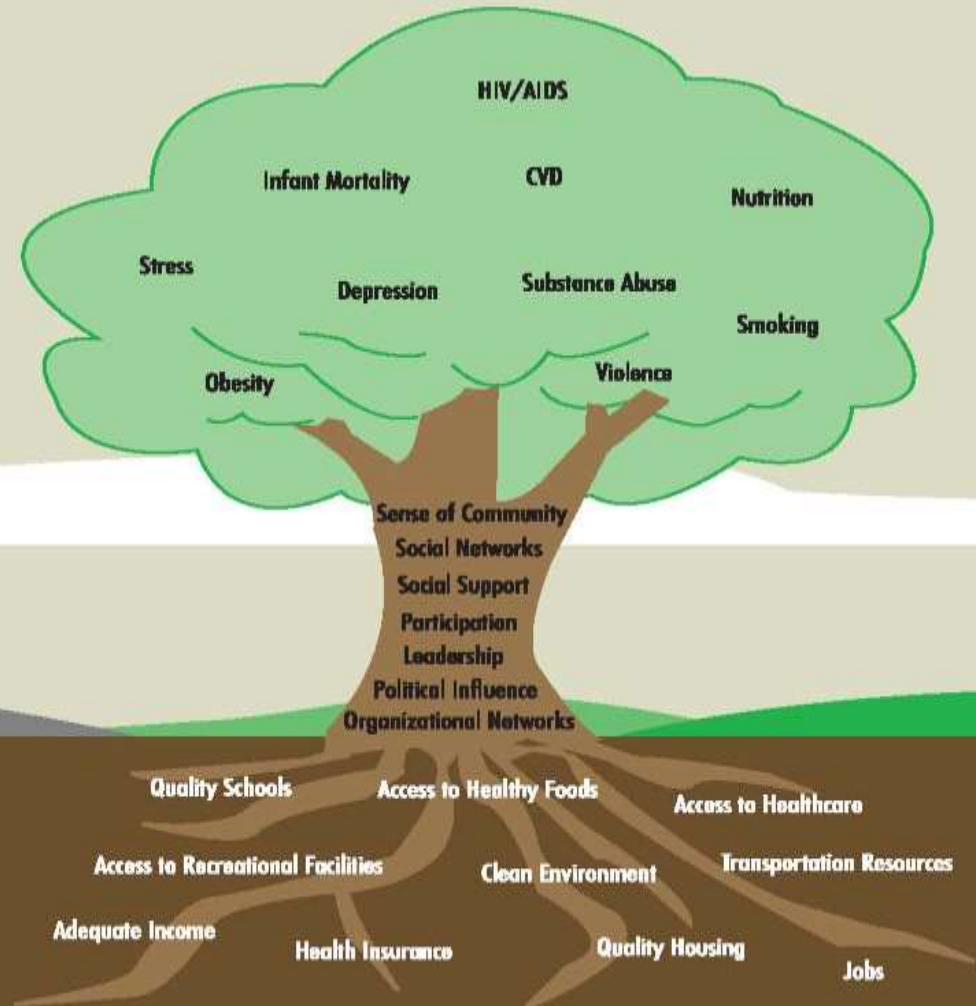
When inequities are high and community assets are low, health outcomes are worst.

**Violence**  
**Substance Abuse** **Smoking**  
**HIV/AIDS** **Infant Mortality**  
**Nutrition**  
**CVD** **Obesity** **Depression**  
**Stress**

Fragmented Systems  
Powerlessness  
Disinvestment  
Disconnected Members

Adverse Living Conditions  
Poverty  
Segregation  
Marketing for Tobacco and Alcohol  
Environmental Toxins  
Income Inequality  
Occupational Hazards  
Institutional Racism  
Unemployment  
Discrimination

When inequities are low and community assets are high, health outcomes are better.



# ***Framework of analysis***

- (WHO)The five levels can briefly be described as follows:

# ***Framework of analysis***

- ***Socioeconomic context and position:*** social position exerts a powerful influence on the type, magnitude and distribution of health in societies.
- ***Differential exposure:*** exposure to most risk factors (material, psychosocial and behavioral) is inversely related to social position.

# ***Framework of analysis***

- ***Differential vulnerability:*** the same level of exposure may have different effects on different socioeconomic groups, depending on their social, cultural and economic environments and cumulative life course factors.

# ***Framework of analysis***

- ***Differential health care outcomes:*** equity in health care ideally implies that everyone in need of health care receives it in a form that is beneficial to them, regardless of their social position or other socially determined circumstances.

# ***Framework of analysis***

- ***Differential consequences***: poor health may have several social and economic consequences, including loss of earnings, loss of ability to work and social isolation or exclusion.

