

Determinants of Health  
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Week 1

1.1 The Determinants of Health

You are a doctor in Chad treating a child with Malaria



How did she get Malaria?

Why are there so many mosquitos?

Why are there pockets of standing water?

Why is infrastructure so poor?

Why is the country poor and possibly poorly governed?



### Do rich people in Chad have the same Malaria challenges?

- They tend to live in neighbourhoods with no mosquitos
- They tend to live in homes that are not infested with mosquitos
- Their children tend to sleep under good mosquito nets
- They tend to have better nutrition and are therefore more resilient against infection
- They tend to work indoors and therefore less likely to be bitten
- If infected, they can afford faster and better care

### So what is the true cause of Malaria?



poverty ?



### Determinants of Health

- Studying and acknowledging non-medical determinants of health gives us new options for addressing health issues.
- Health becomes relevant to:
  - Commerce
  - Government
  - Finance
  - City planning
  - Agriculture
  - Religion
  - Etc.

### Social vs Physical Determinants of Health

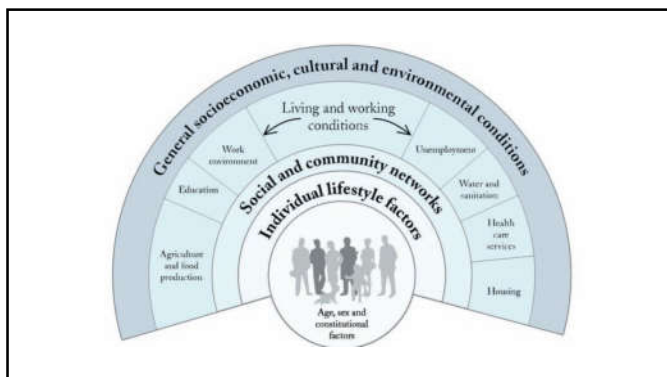
- Availability of resources to meet daily needs, such as educational and job opportunities, living wages, or healthful foods
- Social norms and attitudes, such as discrimination
- Exposure to crime, violence, and social disorder, such as the presence of trash
- Social support and social interactions
- Exposure to mass media and emerging technologies, such as the internet or cell phones
- Socioeconomic conditions, such as concentrated poverty
- Quality schools
- Transportation options
- Public safety
- Residential segregation

## Social vs Physical Determinants of Health

- Natural environment, such as plants, weather, or climate change
- Built environment, such as buildings or transportation
- Worksites, schools, and recreational settings
- Housing, homes, and neighborhoods
- Exposure to toxic substances and other physical hazards
- Physical barriers, especially for people with disabilities
- Aesthetic elements, such as good lighting, trees, or benches

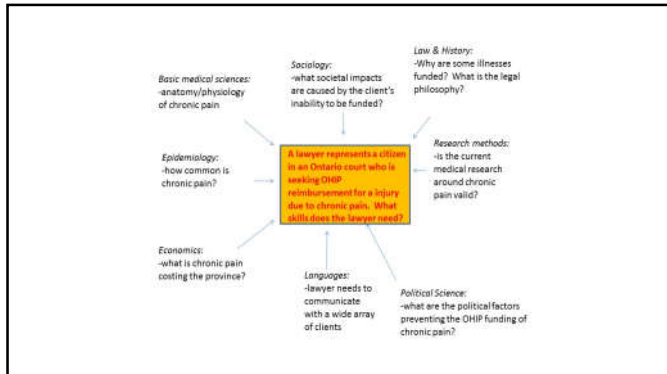
## Others?

- Race?
- Government type?
- Nature of economy?
- Etc



Example: lawyer arguing for OHIP rights





Health Canada: What Determines Health? Oct 21, 2011

### Why is Jason in the hospital?

- Because he has a bad infection in his leg.
- But why does he have an infection?
- Because he has a cut on his leg and it got infected.
- But why does he have a cut on his leg?
- Because he was playing in the junk yard next to his apartment building and there was some sharp, jagged steel there that he fell on.
- But why was he playing in a junk yard?
- Because his neighbourhood is kind of run down. A lot of kids play there and there is no one to supervise them.
- But why does he live in that neighbourhood?
- Because his parents can't afford a nicer place to live.
- But why can't his parents afford a nicer place to live?
- Because his Dad is unemployed and his Mom is sick.
- But why is his Dad unemployed?
- Because he doesn't have much education and he can't find a job.
- But why ...?"

In other words...

...Health is not just about medicine