

BCAL/336/88/70  
YEAR III  
(S326)

Bedford College

(Mike Bury)

(Spring Term 1983-84)

HEALTH CARE IN BRITAIN/CURRENT ISSUES IN HEALTH CARE

Reading List No.1

Inequalities revisited: Part I.

The publication of the Black Report revived a long-standing debate about inequalities in health. The evidence on social class and regional inequality seemed to be well-established. Yet the government rejected the report and analysts still debate the connections between observed inequalities in health and health care, and various social factors. This opening session looks at the background to this continuing debate and provides an opportunity to discuss some of the issues at stake. This session focusses on social factors and inequalities in health (session 2 deals with regional and resource inequalities).

TOWNSEND, P. & DAVIDSON, N. (eds.) (1982)

Inequalities in Health: The Black Report  
Chapters 2,3, and 6.

FOX, J. (1977) Occupational Mortality 1970-72: Population Trends. HMSO.

STERN, J. (1983)

Social Mobility and the Interpretation of Mortality Differentials. J. of Soc. Policy, 12, 1, pp.24-29.

BLUME, S.S. (1982)

Explanation and Social Policy: The problem of Social Inequalities in Health.

ILLSLEY, R. (1980)

Professional or Public Health. Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust.  
Chapter 2.

DOYAL, L.(1979)The Political Economy of Health. Pluto Press.  
Chapter 2.

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Reading List No.2.

Inequalities revisited : Part 2

The assumption of post-war social policy in health was that as resources were expended, and as services were made more accessible, health would improve and investment could then decline. The reverse, of course, has happened; costs and expectations have risen at a phenomenal rate. Attempts to develop greater equity between regions have been caught up

with cuts in health care expenditure and concerns with greater efficiency. This session will examine these interrelated concerns and ask how the balance between central government and regional/district health authorities has been changing.

HART, Tudor (1975) The Inverse Care Law.

TOWNSEND, P. & DAVIDSON, N. (eds.) (1982)  
Op.cit. (see reading list 1).  
Chapter 4.

KLEIN, R. (1983) The Politics of the National Health Service.  
pp. 147-152.

HAM, C. (1982) Health Policy in Britain. Macmillan: London.  
pp.131-137.

CARTWRIGHT, A. & O'BRIEN, M. (1976)  
Social Class Variations in Health Care and  
in the Nature of General Practitioner  
Consultations, in: Stacey, M. The Sociology  
of the N.H.S. Social Review Monograph No.22.

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Reading List No.3

Health Care and Special Needs: I - The Disabled.

Discussion of inequalities and resource allocation are occurring against a changing backcloth, both in mortality and morbidity. This inevitably brings to the front of the stage the disabled and chronically sick, and the elderly. This session looks at changing attitudes towards health and welfare policy in the case of the disabled. How can health, welfare and individual perceptions of 'need' be reconciled and what are the current policy initiatives being pursued? These and other questions are addressed in this session.

TAYLOR, D. (1977) Physical Impairment: Social Handicap.  
Office of Health Economics. Pamphlet No.60.

TOPLISS, E. (1978) The Disabled, in: Brearley, P. et al (eds).  
The Social Context of Health Care. Blackwell:  
London.

HILBOURNE, J.(1973) On Disabling the Normal. Brit.J. Soc.Work,2,  
4, pp.494-504.

LOCKER, D.(1983) Disability and Disadvantage. Tavistock:  
London. Especially Chapter 7.

WALKER, A. & TOWNSEND, P. (1981)  
Disability in Britain.  
Introduction and Conclusion.



Reading List No.4.

Health Care and Special Needs: II - The Elderly.

In addressing the health needs of the elderly, we have to be careful in our use of basic categories. The vast majority of 'the elderly' are relatively fit and healthy - indeed, the idea that the elderly are 'a problem' needs close examination. Nonetheless, most diseases increase their prevalence with age, and much of this area of enquiry overlaps with the concerns of the disabled. Here again, we will look at the background to the growth of 'the elderly' as a group in special need, and examine the policies that exist, and might be developed in tackling their health needs.

- MACINTYRE, S. (1977) Old Age as a Social Problem, in Dingwall, R. et al (eds.), Health Care and Health Knowledge.
- BREARLEY, P. (1978) The Elderly, in, The Social Context of Health Care, Brearley, P. et al (eds.) Blackwell: London.
- BARKER, J. & BURY, M. (1978) Mobility and the Elderly: A Community Challenge, in, Carver, V. & Liddiard, P., An Ageing Population. Hodder & Stoughton.
- CARTWRIGHT, A. et al (1973) Life Before Death. R. & K.P. London. (Especially Chapters 2 and 4).
- JEFFERYS, M. (1978) The Elderly in Society, in, Brocklehurst, J.C. Textbook of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology Churchill Livingstone.