Socioeconomic determinants of health: Health inequalities: relative or absolute material standards.
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-General thesis is that “mortality in developed countries is affected more by relative than absolute living standards” (1)

-Health largely associated with socioeconomic circumstances. Health inequalities can mostly be explicated and accounted for by psychosocial differences.

-Higher mortality rates are more common amongst countries with a higher level of polarization between incomes than amongst more egalitarian societies. Usually, those with higher levels of mortality or health ailments are those whom are lower on the socioeconomic hierarchy.

-He states that “one reason why greater income equality is associated with better health seems to be that it tends to improve social cohesion and reduce the social divisions” (6).

-More egalitarian societies are associated with social cohesion, social trust, and a network of social relations which all benefit health.

-Wilkinson notes that changes in behaviour (as associated with health) are very often related to changes in social cohesion.