

91462R



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Health 2023

91462 Analyse an international health issue

Credits: Five

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer ALL parts of the question for Health 91462.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–6 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

RESOURCE A: Income inequality and life expectancy

The widening income gap in the United States has been a topic of much conversation and research over the past several years. The rich continue to see most of the growth in income, while working-class people have seen wages stagnate and find it harder and harder to make ends meet. Many minimum-wage workers have not received pay increases in recent years. In addition, the high cost of necessities, such as food and child-care, increase the problem. Recent policies, such as tax cuts, have only served to increase economic inequality by giving billions of dollars to wealthy individuals. This has left many lower-income individuals with few financial options.

Living in areas with higher median home values, more college graduates, and more immigrants helps those in the lowest income bracket to practise more healthful behaviours, and therefore increase their life expectancy.

Source (adapted): Chalhoub, T., & Twomey, M. (2018, August 6). *Income Inequality and Life Expectancy*. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/income-inequality-life-expectancy/>

RESOURCE B: The widening health gap between rich and poor Americans

Income inequality in the United States has grown over the past several decades. And as the gap between rich and poor grows, so does the gap in their health outcomes.

Researchers assessed how income influenced health outcomes over time, finding:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

What can be done to make progress?

Researchers Eileen Moore and Vicki Girard suggest communities have to address life conditions that contribute to poor health. [REDACTED]

Health care activist Dr Jesus Ramirez-Valles says there is a need for two broad policy recommendations: a revision of the minimum wage and a rethinking of the current tax system, for example to decrease the amount of tax paid by low-income wage earners and replace this with higher tax rates on the top earners.

Source (adapted): Neilson, S. (2019, June 28). *The Gap Between Rich And Poor Americans' Health Is Widening*. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/06/28/736938334/the-gap-between-rich-and-poor-americans-health-is-widening>

RESOURCE C: Social and economic policies to help reverse Americans' declining health

Differences in health based on income are larger in the United States than in other developed countries. This contributes to the gap in life expectancy.

The most powerful predictors of an individual's health are education, income, employment, housing, and healthy neighbourhoods. The infrastructure outside individual homes shapes the community's health.

Healthy people and communities require access to:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

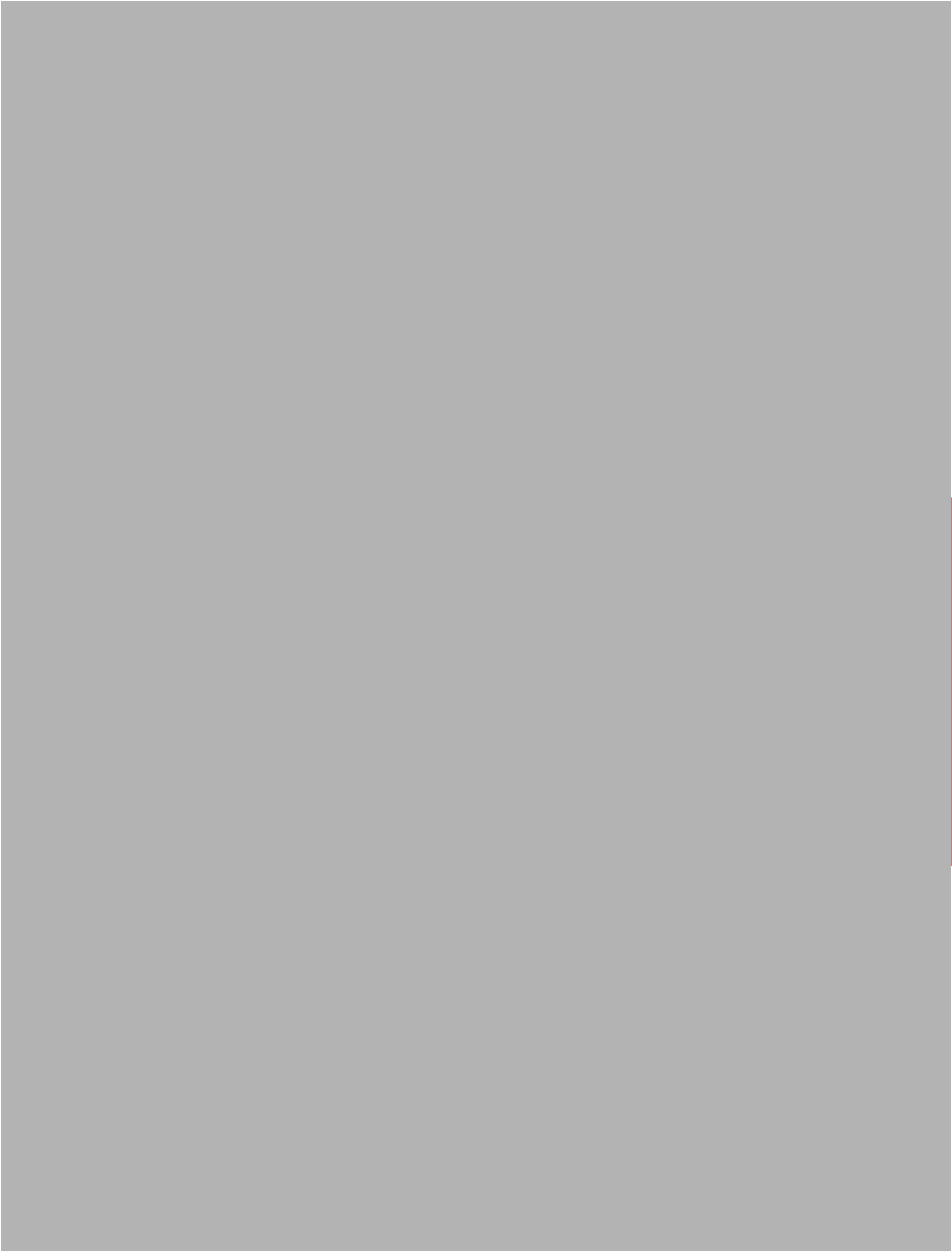
Both policies and priorities matter to health:

What determines whether the nation, states, cities, and neighbourhoods have adequate and equitable access to health and well-being comes down to policy that affects economic well-being and the other living conditions that powerfully influence health. The health of Americans depends on the actions of governments to make health and well-being a priority and to fund the necessary infrastructure.

[REDACTED]

In the past decade, per capita spending on the prevention of disease has decreased in the United States. Americans' access to affordable health care is more limited than access for patients in other countries, where health care costs are more commonly covered by government spending.

Source (adapted): Woolf, S. (2021, October 7). *Social and Economic Policies Can Help Reverse Americans' Declining Health*. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/social-economic-policies-can-help-reverse-americans-declining-health/>

RESOURCE D: Effects of poverty

Source (adapted): US Department of Health and Human Services. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/poverty>

RESOURCE E: Understanding poverty and low-income status

Poverty occurs when an individual or family lacks the resources to provide life necessities, such as food, clean water, shelter, and clothing.

Poverty also affects the built environment, the places where people live, work, and play, including buildings, open spaces, and infrastructure, services, culture, and communities' reputation, all of which have effects on health outcomes.

Source (adapted): The American Academy of Family Physicians. *Poverty and Health – The Family Medicine Perspective (Position Paper)*. <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/poverty-health.html>

RESOURCE F: Policy solutions to address income inequality

There are a number of policy solutions that cities can implement to begin to address income inequality. Here are a few:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Source (adapted): Levine, S., & Spoer, B. (2019, October 15). *The Income Gap's Impact on Life Expectancy*. American Communities Project. <https://www.americancommunities.org/the-income-gaps-impact-on-life-expectancy/>

Please turn over
for Resource G ➤

RESOURCE G: Achieving an equitable national health system for America

- Expand community health centres. One step could be to expand the system of community health centres in underserved areas and provide greater long-term funding certainty.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- We have learned that an individual's health is significantly influenced by neighbourhood conditions, such as the quality of housing, the availability of transportation, childhood and adult stress levels, nutritious food, and other non-clinical factors.

Source (adapted): Butler, S. M. (2020, December 9). *Achieving an Equitable National Health System for America*. The Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/achieving-an-equitable-national-health-system-for-america/>

