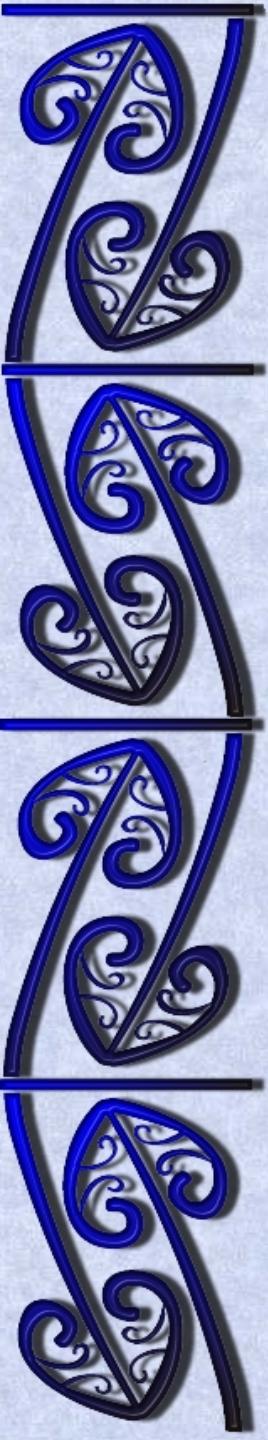


The dual bind - ethnicity, socio-economic status and health

“There may be differences between species, races, the sexes and people of different age, but the focus of interest is not so much natural physiological constitution or process as outcomes which have been socially or economically determined.”

(Black Report, 1982)



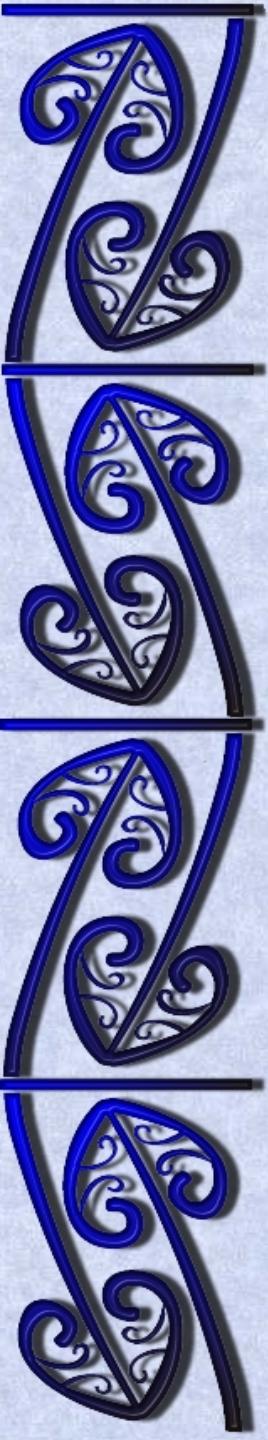
The dual bind - ethnicity, socio-economic status and health

- Ethnicity independently associated with particular health outcomes
- Socio-economic status also independently associated with particular health outcomes
- Do these have a multiplier effect?
- Are these correlated in social arrangements that reinforce poverty if you are an ethnic minority, especially an indigenous minority?

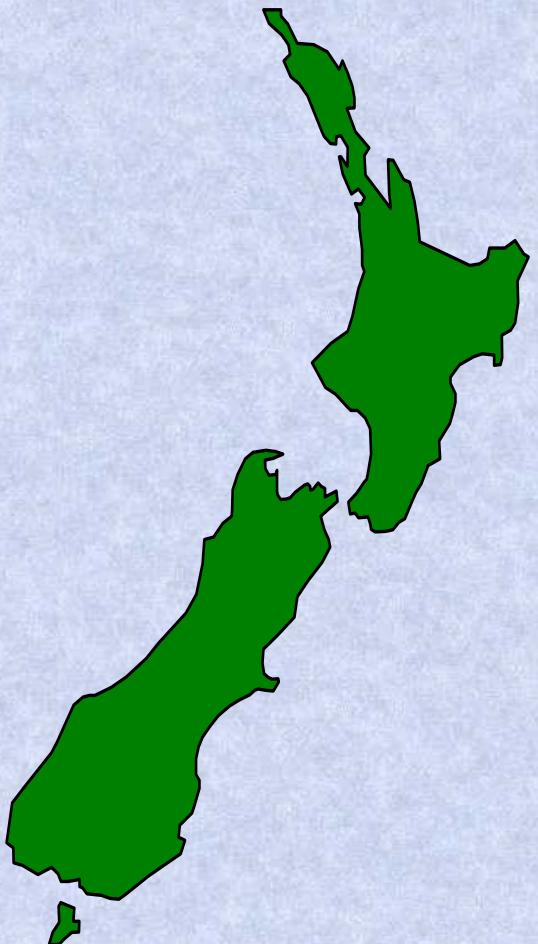
Understanding Inequalities in Health

- Black Report 1982 provided a compelling argument for health inequalities by demonstrating the link between health outcomes and social experiences
- Gradient is significant
- Relationship between education, occupation & income crucial
- Environmental changes important





The New Zealand Experience



- Since 1984 socio-political landscape has been neo-liberal in orientation
- These policies have increased inequality considerably - with New Zealand leading the increase in inequality worldwide
- These inequalities have increased the degree of poverty experienced by certain populations, including Maori and Pacific Island people, children and until recently elderly

Policy Implications of Health Inequalities for New Zealand

- Integrated policy approach recognising that economic policy impacts on social policy and vice versa
- Taxation & business
- Welfare, health and education services
- International markets
- New vision for these



Other Policy Implications



- Health impacts assessment
- New Zealand Black Report
- Acknowledgement that racism exists and impacts on health
- Recognition that globalisation and environmental changes affect health profoundly

Conclusion

- Recognise that health strategies occur at multiple levels to address both symptoms and underlying causes
- Individual, families, communities, society and world
- Avoid single explanations in promoting health - structural, biological, familial and environmental

