

Equity and social determinants of health

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Universal Comprehensive Primary Health care in
Pandemic Times
PHM and IPHU
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What is (health) **equity**?

How is **equity** different from
equality or **disparities**?

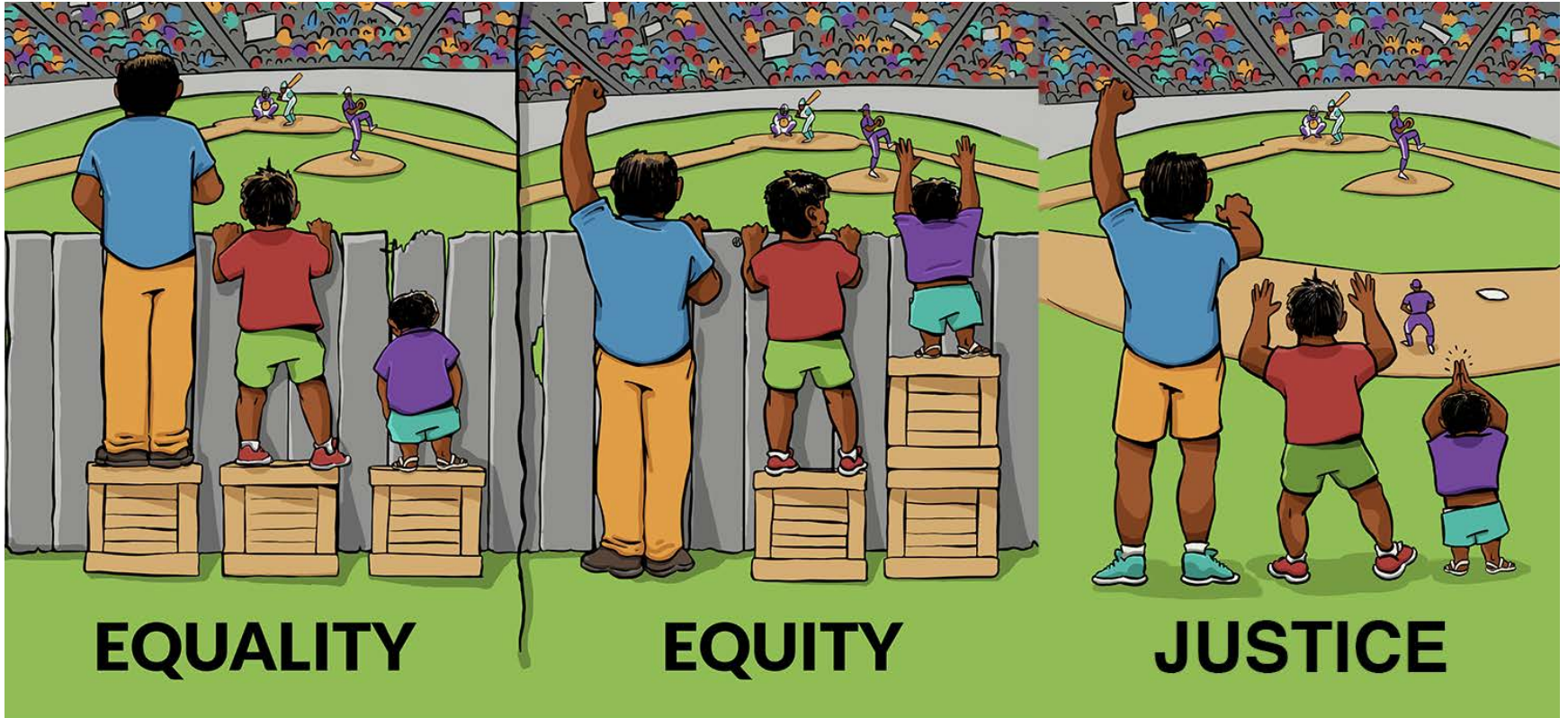
Health (In) Equity

- Differences in health that are **systematic, socially produced (and therefore modifiable) and unfair.**

(Whitehead & Dahlgren, 2006)

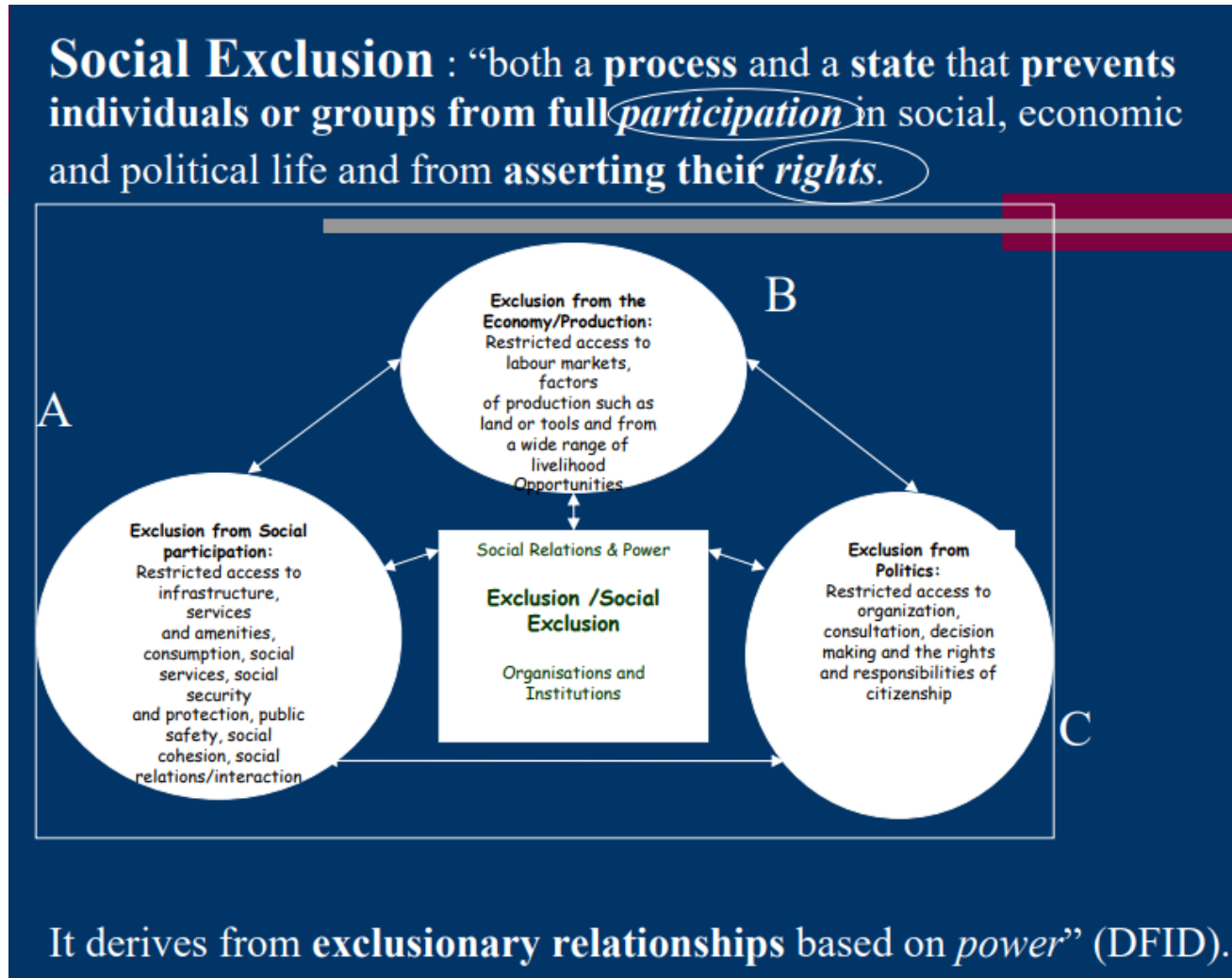
- **Equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people,** whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other dimensions of inequality (e.g. sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation).

(WHO)



What is social exclusion?

Social exclusion describes a state in which individuals are unable to participate fully in economic, social, political and cultural life, as well as the process leading to and sustaining such a state.



Acharya S,
2017

Commission on social determinants of health

Commission on Social Determinants of Health FINAL REPORT | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



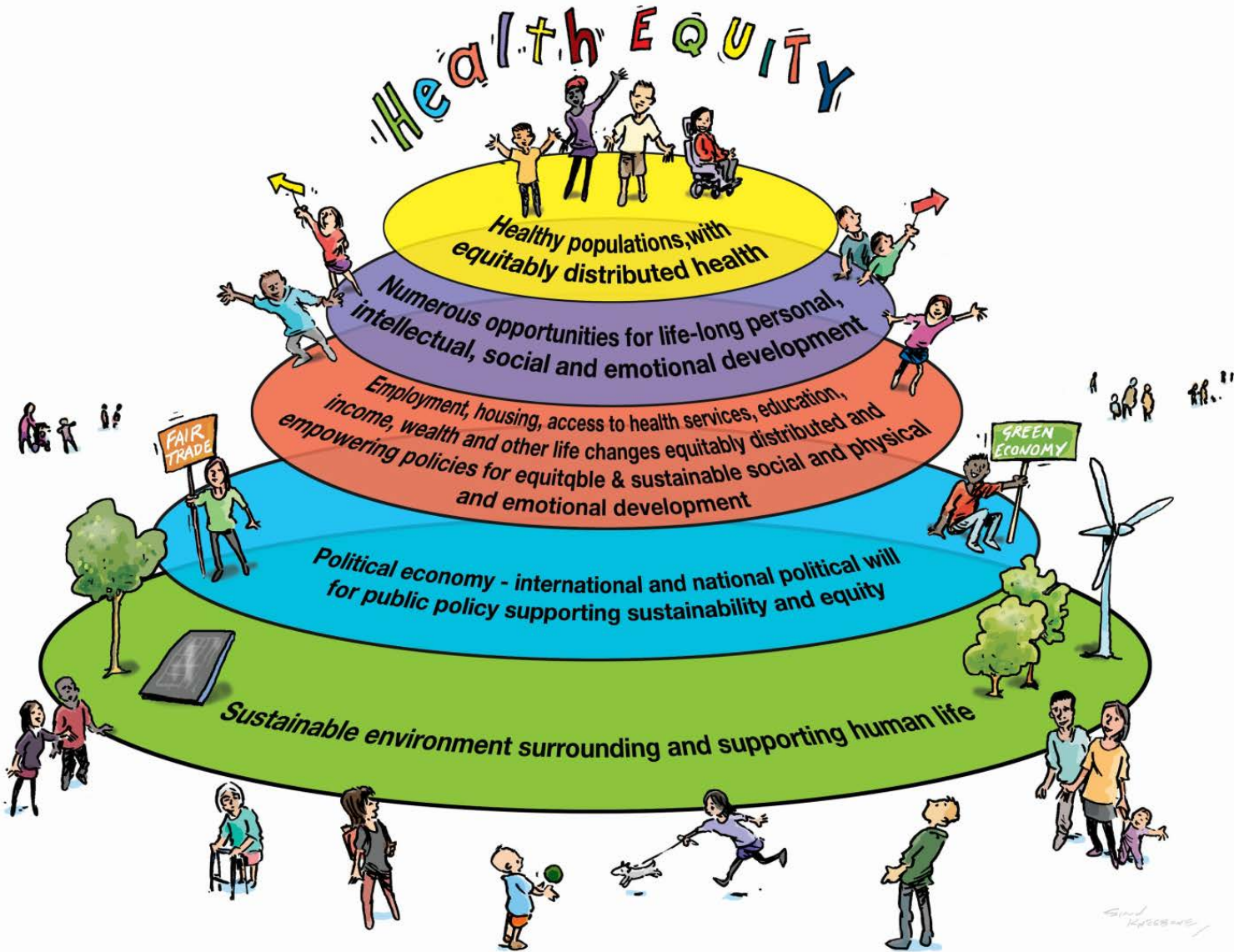
Closing the gap in a generation

Health equity through action on
the social determinants of health



Health Equity and social determinants of health

- Health is a fundamental human right.
- **Health equity is achieved when everyone can attain their full potential for health and well-being.**
- Health and health equity **are determined by the conditions** in which people are born, grow, live, work, play and age, as well as biological determinants.
- People's living conditions are often **made worse by discrimination, stereotyping, and prejudice based on sex, gender, age, race, ethnicity, or disability, among other factors.**
- **Discriminatory practices** are often embedded in institutional and systems processes, leading to groups being under-represented in decision-making at all levels or underserved.
- Progressively **realizing the right to health** means **systematically identifying and eliminating inequities** resulting from differences in health and in overall living conditions.



New Public Health, Baum 2016

Research and Action on health equity

Definition: Access

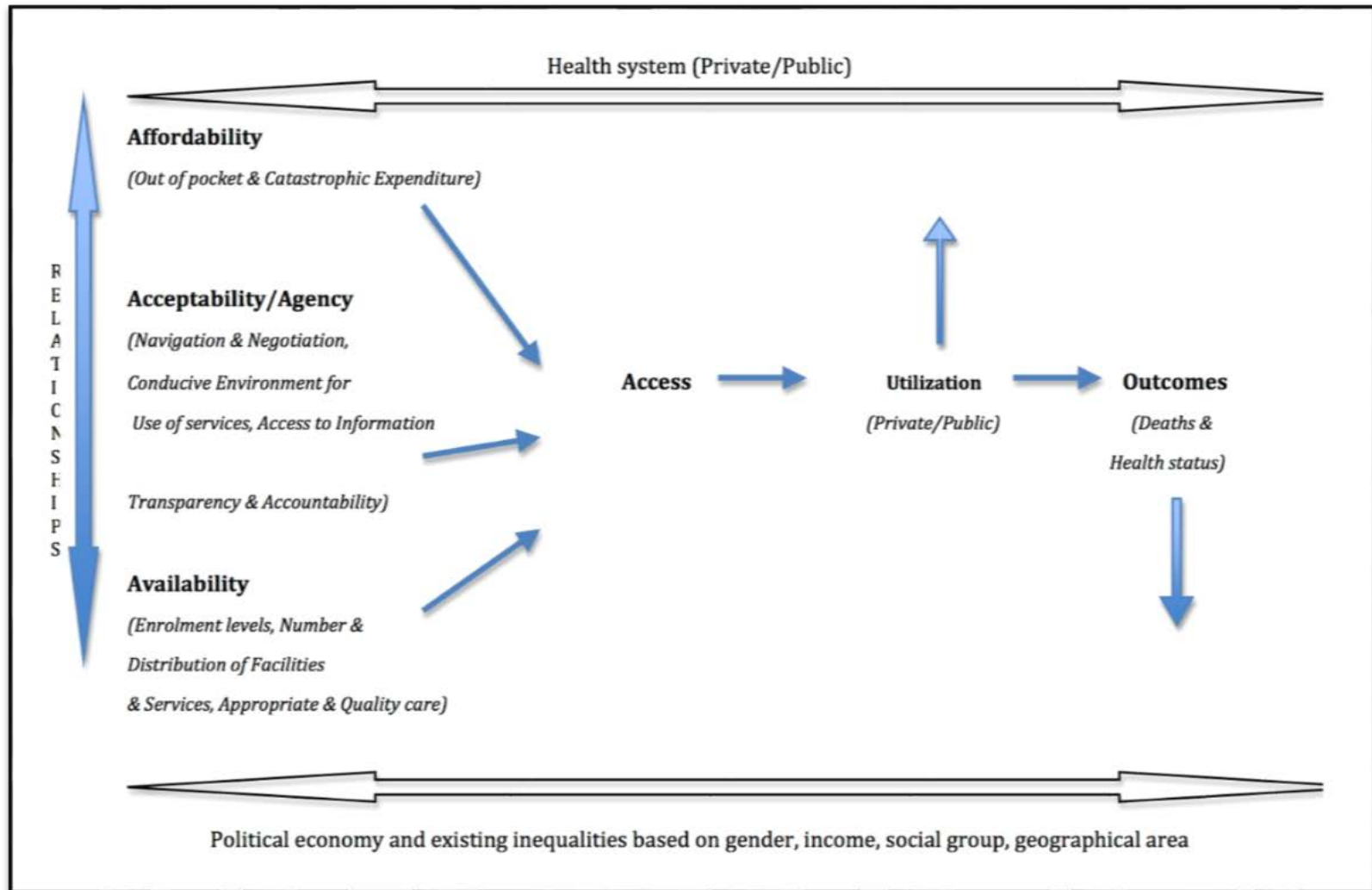
- The “degree of fit” between users/populations and providers/health system in the dimensions of
 - availability
 - affordability
 - acceptability (cultural access)

(McIntyre, Thiede & Birch, 2009)

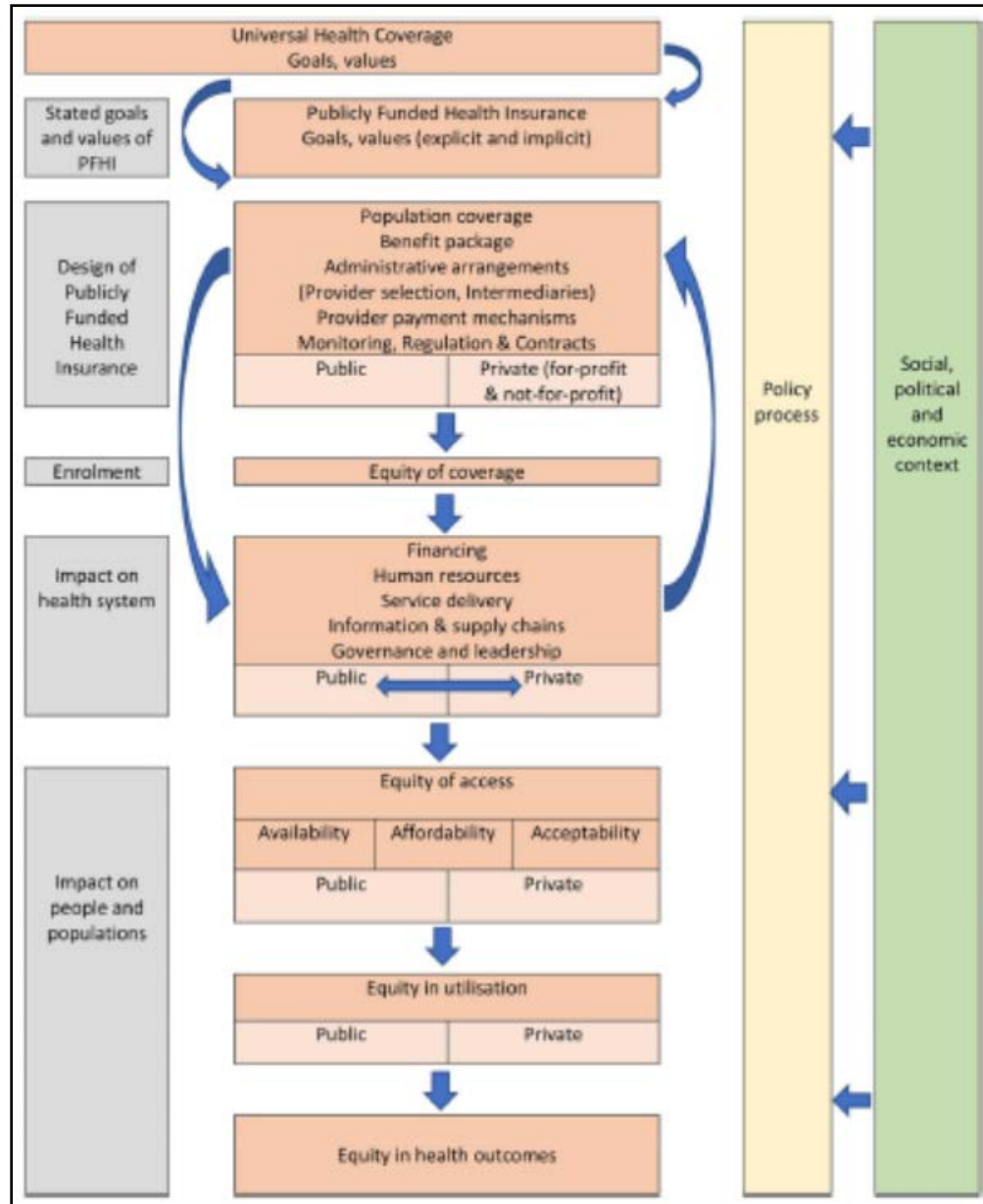
Equitable access

- Equity in access: the **just distribution of health care according to need**
 - those with **greater needs should access more care** (vertical equity), but there should be **equal access for equal need** (horizontal equity)
 - allocation of different resources for different levels of need and of equal or equivalent resources for equal need
- Equitable access often (wrongly) equated with equal *use* for equal need rather than determinants of use (“opportunity to use”)

Access framework on PFHI schemes [adapted from the REACH (2012)]



A framework for assessing pathways of impact on equity of access in publicly funded health insurance programmes



Nandi & Schneider,
2020

The Inverse Care Law

Julian Tudor Hart

THE LANCET

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THE INVERSE CARE LAW

Julian Tudor Hart

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Abstract

Article Info

Abstract

The availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely with the need for it in the population served. This inverse care law operates more completely where medical care is most exposed to market forces, and less so where such exposure is reduced. The market distribution of medical care is a primitive and historically outdated social form, and any return to it would further exaggerate the maldistribution of medical resources.

<https://www.sochealth.co.uk/national-health-service/public-health-and-wellbeing/poverty-and-inequality/the-inverse-care-law/>