

Indicators for health inequality in the Nordic countries

Else-Karin Groholt

EK Groholt, H Lyshol, K Alver, A Helleve
Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway
Contact: Else-Karin.Groholt@fhi.no

Background and objective:

There is lack of comparable statistics regarding inequality in health between the Nordic countries. The purpose of this subproject is to develop common key indicators on health inequality in order to ease exchange of experience and knowledge, and increase the communication and discourse on inequality.

Methods:

An online search for indicators for social inequality was performed, including searches in reports, articles and on web pages from the WHO, OECD, EUROSTAT, and other major international players within the health information field. A list of selection criteria based on the Norwegian Directorate of Health report (Report on Health Policy 2015) and the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare's requirements for indicator selection was developed. The criteria were validity, relevance, possibility to be influenced by policy, easily understandable, availability, dimension of inequality and relevance in the Nordic context.

Results:

A total of around 170 potentially useful indicators were identified and re-examined in the light of the selection criteria. Indicators that were unavailable in two or more of the Nordic countries were removed, resulting in a list of 18 indicators sorted into 13 indicators for adults and 5 for children or youth. There were seven indicators under the heading Health behaviours, eight indicators for Health and illness, one indicator for School and social environment and two indicators for Working life. The set of indicators will be discussed with a Nordic reference group, relevant stakeholders and public health and statistics professionals in order to achieve a list of approximately six indicators that will illustrate social inequalities in the Nordic countries. A set of metadata (indicators descriptions for each indicator) will be compiled for the indicators, including definitions, data quality, data sources, methods of measurement/estimation etc. Results will be presented at the workshop.