

What did we do?

Inequalities in health between different socioeconomic groups are an important challenge for public health. We wanted to find out what evidence is available to guide action on reducing socioeconomic inequalities in health. We searched for review of reviews ('umbrella reviews') and systematic reviews about public health interventions, programmes and policies to develop an overview of what is known.

Interventions, policies and programmes targeting the wider social determinants of health

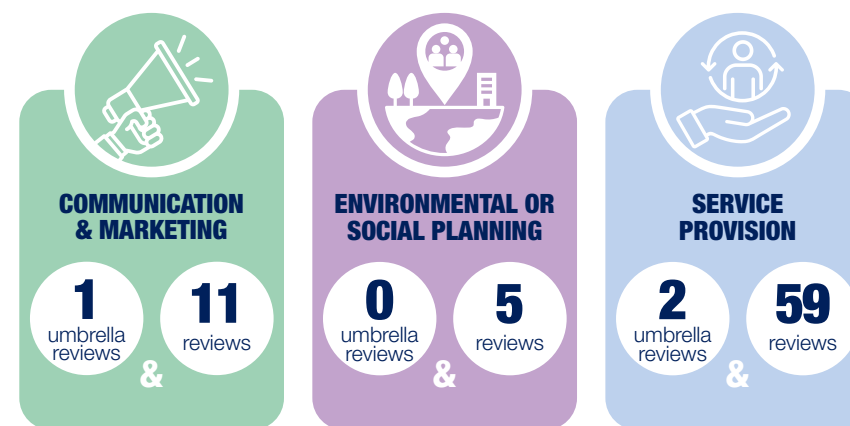
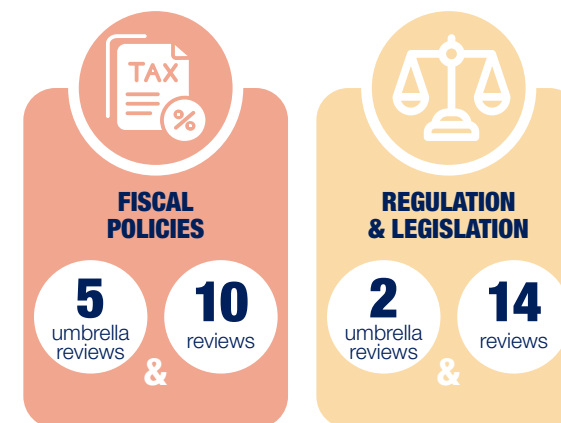
The wider social determinants of health refer to “the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, and age and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.”



WIDER SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

Interventions, policies and programmes targeting the behavioural determinants of health

The behavioural determinants of health refer to individual behavioural risk factors such as diet, physical activity and smoking that influence population health.



BEHAVIOURAL DETERMINANTS

What did we find out?

Which public health interventions, programmes and policies show evidence of reducing socioeconomic inequalities in health?



POSITIVE EFFECTS FOR TARGETED POPULATIONS

the targeted intervention, policy or programme improves the health outcomes of people and populations of lower socioeconomic status.

Wider social

- Navigation & community/based peer support
- Health literacy & shared decision making
- Community engagement
- Parenting education
- Breastfeeding promotion
- Food subsidy programmes
- Improvements to housing conditions

Behavioural

- Individual level smoking cessation support
- Increasing service uptake & attendance
- Primary care delivered tailored weight loss programmes

KEY: Wider social determinants:

Health services

Income security & social protection

Living conditions

Social and human capital

Employment and working conditions



POSITIVE EFFECTS ON HEALTH EQUITY

the intervention, policy or programme preferentially improves the health outcomes of people and populations of lower socioeconomic status.

Wider social

None identified

Behavioural

- Tobacco price/tax increases
- Price increases or subsidies on food
- Comprehensive smoke free policies
- Workplace health promotion
- Population level smoking cessation support

NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON HEALTH EQUITY

the intervention, policy or programme preferentially improves the health outcomes of people and populations of higher socioeconomic status.

Wider social

Organisational & financial reforms to the health service

Behavioural

- Voluntary, regional & partial smoke free policies
- Dietary counselling

NO OR UNCLEAR EFFECTS ON HEALTH EQUITY

the intervention, policy or programme has no preferential impact on the health outcomes of people and populations of lower socioeconomic status.

Behavioural

Changes to urban & built environments

- Restrictions, controls or bans on cigarette advertising
- Smoking mass media campaigns & health warnings
- Health information campaigns (diet/PA)
- Community health promotion for adults/general population
- Altering aspects of physical microenvironments
- Managing chronic conditions
- School/community based health promotion (risk behaviours)
- School/community CYP health promotion (oral health)

KEY: Behavioural determinants:

Fiscal policies

Regulation & legislation

Communication & marketing

Environmental or social planning

Service provision

ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE (NOT ABSENCE OF EFFECT)

the impact of the intervention, policy or programme on the health outcomes between people and populations of lower and higher socioeconomic status is unknown.

Wider social

- Speed restrictions/limits
- Infrastructure (cycling & walking routes, outdoor gyms)
- Social protection policies
- Welfare advice co-located in health settings
- Workplace reorganisation
- Privatisation of public utilities & industries
- Education & learning across the life course

Behavioural

- Controls on alcohol price & taxes
- Product reformulation & fortification
- Fluoridation of drinking water supplies
- School/community CYP health promotion (injury prevention)

