

Health Systems, Health Services and Inequality in Population Health

This open access book shows the scientific and policy-added value of combining health systems, health services and population health research. In doing so the authors create awareness among researchers to look beyond the boundaries of their own discipline and promote cross-disciplinary collaboration. The book also gives an overview of what is known in the scientific literature about the relationships between the structure of health systems, health service provision and utilisation, and inequalities in population health.

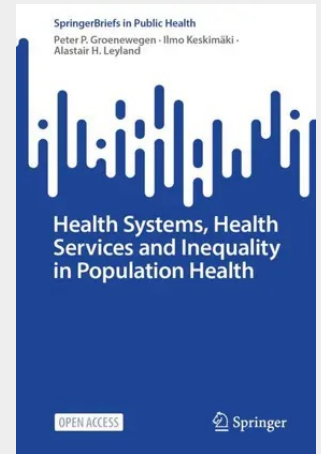
Health inequalities are unjust and avoidable and, as a focus of health policy in many governments, are widely studied in public health research. But studies of health inequalities too often ignore the role that health systems and health services play in the production of inequalities in population health and, as a consequence, their potential to create or reduce inequalities in health.

Studies of inequalities in health often incorporate the social determinants of health. The same societal structures that form the social determinants of health also determine the health system structure and their impact on access to and the provision of health services and the benefits of health service use to patients with different socioeconomic backgrounds. This means that attempts to reduce health inequalities by addressing the social determinants of health must also consider the potential pathway through the health system and the provision of health services.

In the final chapter the authors discuss ways of breaking down the barriers between the three approaches. After reading this compact volume, researchers will be more aware of the theoretical and methodological approaches in the three areas and more inclined to look beyond the boundaries of their own discipline.

is essential reading for researchers in health systems research, health services research and population health research. In addition, the brief is relevant for health policy researchers, health impact researchers, health economists, epidemiologists, public health practitioners and professionals in health services planning and management.

Chapter 1 Health Systems Research, Health Services Research and Population Health Research.- Chapter 2 Pathways Between Health Systems, Health Services and Inequalities in Population Health.- Chapter 3 Societal values, structures and institutions, and their impact on health system Design.- Chapter 4 Health System Design and Inequalities in Population Health.- Chapter 5 Health System Design and Service Provision.- Chapter 6 Health Service Provision and Differential Service Utilization, Treatment and Benefits.- Chapter 7 From Access to and Utilisation of Health Services to Equality in Population Health.- Chapter 8 The Added Value of Integrating the Three Areas and the Way Forward.



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