

Acting on occupational health

What can we learn from public health?

Closing the gap in a generation - health equity through action on the social determinants of health

- Commission on Social Determinants of Health report to the World Health Organisation, 2007

The Commissioners

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Social determinants of health

the unequal distribution of power, income, goods, and services, globally and nationally, the consequent unfairness in the immediate, visible circumstances of peoples lives – their access to health care, schools, and education, their conditions of work and leisure, their homes, communities, towns, or cities – and their chances of leading a flourishing life (p 1)

Fair Employment and Decent Work

- employment conditions
- the nature of work itself

Why is this in the report?

- Precarious workers are more likely to:
 - Die prematurely
 - Have poorer mental health
 - Experience significant adverse effects on their physical and mental health

Why is this in the report?

- People in low status occupations are more likely to have adverse working conditions
- Stress at work is associated with:
 - a 50% excess risk of coronary heart disease
 - a wide range of mental and physical health problems (eg depression, diabetes)

What must be done

1. Make full and fair employment and decent work a central goal of national and international social and economic policy-making

What must be done

2. Achieving health equity requires safe, secure, and fairly paid work, year-round work opportunities, and healthy work-life balance for all.
 1. Full employment
 2. Healthy living wage
 3. Access to quality training
 4. Strengthen labour standards
 5. Address work-life balance for all workers

What must be done

3. Improve the working conditions for all workers to reduce their exposure to material hazards, work-related stress, and health-damaging behaviours.
 1. Apply OHS policy and programs to all workers – formal and informal
 2. Expand the range to include work-related stressors and behaviours as well as exposure to material hazards



3 principles of action to achieve health equity

1. Improve daily living conditions
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money, and resources
3. Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action

The logo for 'shaw' consists of the lowercase letters 's', 'h', 'a', and 'w' in a white, sans-serif font, positioned within a dark blue rectangular box.The logo for 'idea' features a stylized, teal-colored brushstroke that curves upwards and to the right, resembling a checkmark or a wave. Below this graphic, the word 'idea' is written in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

[http://www.who.int/social_determinants/
final_report/en/](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/final_report/en/)

Workplaces that treat people with **dignity** and **respect**