

Expert Working Group  
on Social Determinants and Health Inequalities March 2006

# German Report

Monika Hommes  
Head of Division  
Federal Ministry of Health

# The discussion in Germany

- Strong Social support and social welfare system
- Health inequalities a fact
- No policy on health inequalities for many years
- 2001 – Lebenslagen in Deutschland.(Living Conditions in Germany) Multisectoral action on poverty. Includes health dimension
- 2005 – Progress report - many initiatives, discussion on future policy underway.

# Health inequalities

## Illness or health problems by type of education

Telephone health survey 2003

Type of Schooling	Men		Women	
	%	Odds Ratio	%	Odds Ratio
Junior high school (Volks or Hauptschule)	40.1	1.24	50.4	1.2
Middle School (Mittlere Reife)	34.3	1.23	40.5	1.08
Senior High School (Abitur)	30.6	1.00	37	1.00

(2)

**Severe pain in previous 4 weeks – by type of education**

Source: socio-economic panel survey 2002

	<b>Men %</b>	<b>Women %</b>
<b>Junior high school (Volks or Hauptschule)</b>	43	51
<b>Middle School (Mittlere Reife)</b>	24	33
<b>Senior High School (Abitur)</b>	18	27

# Approach to poverty and health in Germany (1)

- 2000-2001 - Expert group - Poverty and Health
  - Recommendations include:
    - confidential access to healthcare for illegal immigrants
    - interpreters for migrants
    - health initiatives for homeless people
- Reform of health law in 2000
  - strengthens primary prevention
  - new task: to minimise the social determinants of health inequality

(2)

- Collection of data on social situation in health surveys and reporting by Robert Koch Institut
- Children and youth survey – emphasis on migrant population


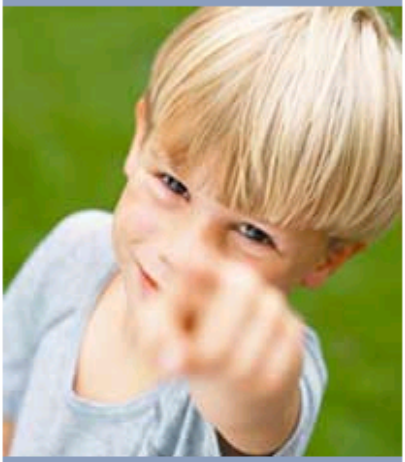
(3)

- The Federal Centre for Health Education
  - Aim to focus on vulnerable groups in all federal health education and health promotion programmes.
  - Development of new instruments for people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods

Internet Explorer browser window showing the website <http://www.ich-geh-zur-u.de>.

Navigation menu: [Kontakt](#) [Sitemap](#) [Links](#) [Intranet](#)

- Die Aktion
- Die Wettbewerbe
- Die Presse
- Die Hintergründe




■ Infos für Eltern

**BZgA**  
Bundeszentrale  
für  
gesundheitliche  
Aufklärung

### 9 Chancen für Ihr Kind

Die Aktion zur Erhöhung der Teilnahme an den Früherkennungsuntersuchungen im Kindesalter, vor allem U7, U8 und U9



Ich geh' zur U!  
Und Du?

# Programme to encourage disadvantaged groups to have child health checks.



(4)

- Database of 2700 projects on health and poverty
  - Broken down into
    - Priority areas
    - Target groups
    - Settings
    - Responsible bodies

- Suchbegriff los
- uelles
- enbank
- undheitsprojekte
- regionale Knoten
- gress Armut und  
undheit
- od Practice
- schung
- mine
- aterialien und Literatur
- ks und Adressen
- Meinung

## Willkommen auf der Plattform "Gesundheitsförderung bei sozial Benachteiligten"

Die Gesundheit von Menschen in schwierigen sozialen Lebenslagen zu stärken - das ist Anliegen und Thema dieser Plattform. Neben einer umfangreichen Projekt-Datenbank und Informationen zum jährlich stattfindenden Kongress "Armut und Gesundheit" finden Sie hier Termine, Materialien und Forschungsergebnisse rund um Gesundheitsförderung für sozial Benachteiligte.

### Leitfaden für ausbildungssuchende Jugendliche (23.09.2005)

Der Leitfaden der Bundesagentur für Arbeit ist für ausbildungssuchende erwerbsfähige hilfebedürftige Jugendliche konzipiert und als Empfehlung für die persönlichen Ansprechpartner in den Integrationsteams gedacht.

[mehr...](#)

### Sozialmonitoring zu SGB II und SGB XII (22.09.2005)

Analysen und Lösungsvorschläge - Hintergrunddossier der Sozialmonitoringgespräche

[mehr...](#)

### Zwischenbericht des Ombudsrates - Grundsicherung für Arbeitsuchende (19.09.2005)

Der Zwischenbericht des Ombudsrates an den

Termine	
28.09.2005 - 30.09.2005	<b>HerbstAkademie 2005</b>
06.10.2005	<b>Fit for Work</b>
07.10.2005 - 08.10.2005	<b>Erster Deutsch-Türkischer Kongress für Medizin und Gesundheitspolitik</b>
11.10.2005	<b>Schwaches Alter? Starkes Alter? Neues Alter(n)?!</b>

[Zur Terminübersicht](#)

### Kinder - eine wichtige Zielgruppe für die Verminderung sozioökonomisch bedingter gesundheitlicher Ungleichheit

# (5)

- Federal support for networking on good practice with
  - Regions
  - Municipalities
  - Health Insurance Funds
  - NGOs
- Goal
  - Establishing working groups at Länder level with key stakeholders.
  - Identification and promotion of good practice

# EU-Project Closing the Gap

Federal Centre for Health  
Education (Contract Holder)

EuroHealthNet



# Next Steps

- New policy on health inequalities and disadvantaged groups ?
- The new government to continue the policy against poverty and social exclusion
- New law to strengthen primary prevention (Präventionsgesetz) and to reach disadvantaged people

# What do I expect of the Expert Working Group

- improve knowledge about how to reach the disadvantaged and the evidence of what works
- learn from the experiences of other countries
- Increase funding for health inequalities from the EU research Programme

**This paper was produced for a meeting organized by Health & Consumer Protection DG and represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumer Protection DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.**