National strategy to reduce social inequalities in health

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Social inequalities in health in Norway

- concern all age-groups
- concern both sexes
- are significant regardless of how social status is measured
- have been demonstrated for several health indicators
- have persisted over time and may be increasing
- concern the whole population – not only marginalized groups
Mortality by education among men and women aged 45-64 years, deaths per 100,000

Source: Norwegian Institute of Public Health
A chain of causes behind social inequalities in health
The health part of a broad governmental effort towards greater equity
Main objective:
to reduce social inequalities in health by levelling up
Four priority areas

1) Reduce social inequalities that contribute to inequalities in health (income, childhood conditions, work)

2) Reduce social inequalities in health behaviour and use of health services

3) Targeted initiatives to promote social inclusion

4) Develop knowledge and cross-sectoral tools
Priority area 1: Reduce social inequalities that contribute to inequalities in health

- **Income:** Reduce economic inequalities
- **Childhood conditions:** Ensure equal access to kindergartens, schools and services across social groups
- **Work:** Contribute to a more inclusive working life and healthier work environments
Priority area 2: Reduce social inequalities in health behaviour and use of health services

**Health behaviour**
- Use pricing and taxation as policy instruments
- Make healthy choices more accessible

**Health services**
- Map social inequalities in the use of health services
- Ensure equal access to health services across social groups
Priority area 3: Targeted initiatives to promote social inclusion

- Reduce the number of adults who leave school with poor basic skills
- Enable more people to work
- Improve accessibility of health and social services
- Reduce inequalities in living conditions between geographical areas
Priority area 4: Develop knowledge and cross-sectoral tools

- Establish a review and reporting system to monitor developments
- Develop simple tools to assess distributional effects of policies at different levels of government
- Strengthen monitoring, research and evaluation
Guidelines for the government over the next ten years
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