

Given your understanding of what "science" is and what "sociology" is:
what would you guess is the purpose/focus of medical sociology?

- Examine "non-medical/social" factors that affect health
- To generate theories about health and human interaction and test them using scientific research.

Any thoughts on the difference between the Sociology in Medicine

vs

Sociology of Medicine?

The study of social issues important within/to the medical profession
(historically the original focus)

vs

The broader sociological study of health and the health care system

Where do you think the World Health Organization ranks the United States in terms of health care, among all nations?
(5 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOI3cETb4>

Sociology of Medicine:
The Epidemiological Transition
(what is this?)

An historical transition from acute concerns (typically infectious diseases that strike quickly and can be deadly, e.g., influenza, measles)

to

more recent concerns regarding chronic diseases (those that last for years, e.g., muscular dystrophy, asthma)

What factors contribute to a person being healthy?

- what one eats
- exercise
- sleep
- living conditions: housing, food, neighborhood, safety
- exposure to stress
- social habits such as heavy drinking of alcohol, smoking
- spiritual/emotional life

What are specifically social factors associated with a person being healthy?

- cultural memberships: social groups
- social networks
- living conditions: housing, food, neighborhood, safety
- socialization: habits, norms, values

How does social stress affect health?

- high engagement/use of muscles, nerves
- can eventually wear out the body
- can lead to heart disease, diabetes, other illnesses
- can keep one safe by helping to respond to a dangerous situation

In what ways does social class and more specifically education affect health?

- more money allows for more attention,
- more money allows for more and better health care services (i.e., access to services),
- more education leads to better understanding of how to take care of oneself
- more education leads to better understanding of how to use medicines and access the medical system

When considering income, more specifically, how can low income affect one's health?

- those without money are under more stress and have less control of stressful situations,
- work conditions are often less healthy
- environmental conditions of work and home (e.g., handling dangerous chemicals, living near an asphalt plant)
- inadequate, overcrowded, unsafe housing
- eating unhealthy
- access to health care

How might ethnicity/culture affect one's health?

- health practices may be more or less safe than those of other cultures (e.g., Hmong),
- may be a biological disposition to certain health conditions (i.e., they are inherited)
- social networks (i.e., social capital) may be more or less supportive
- environmental racism/exposure to pollution
- access to well-paying jobs
- access to health care

Sex refers to the biological category.

Gender refers to the social categories and expectations of masculine and feminine.

What are some health differences that have been found between men and women?

- Arthritis is more common among women
- women live longer
- women experience more illness, disability, and more specifically, more chronic illness
- the life choices of women are typically safer than men (e.g., abuse of alcohol, safe driving)
- women are more likely to seek out health providers when needed

Gender convergence:

There appears to be a growing similarity in men's and women's patterns of health, illness, and mortality.

Why?

- There are growing similarities in expectations regarding how men and women should behave.
- Women are experiencing higher levels of education, employment, and income and the stresses associated with these.

Given the previous information, how does the sociological perspective differ from the popular American belief that:

"individuals create their own fate and so create their own health conditions?"

A person's fate and success is largely influenced by social factors beyond their control such as:

- The nutrition received by parents as fetus and then as infant affects mental/physical health
- born into a particular social class (e.g., access to economic resources and education)
- born into a particular culture
- the socialization one receives
- the social capital available (What is social capital?)

How might history be related to what is defined as an illness?

- a particular condition can be considered an illness at one point in history and not an illness in another
- examples of conditions changing from an illness to a non-illness: sexual preference; masturbation
- examples of conditions changing from NOT considered an illness to being considered an illness: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); sleep disorders

What does medicalization of an illness refer to?

- the process through which a behavior or health condition becomes defined as an illness or medical problem
- an illness is sometimes described as a behavior or condition that does not meet social norms

Medicine as Social Control

How can medicalization of a condition or behavior be an advantage for medical doctors?

- can increase their patient load resulting in more money
 - example: ADHD has increased the patient load of pediatricians
- increases their control of what is considered "normal" and "appropriate" and what is considered an illness

How can medicalization of a condition or behavior be an advantage for patients/consumers?

- can allow them to get reimbursed for a condition or behavior that they would otherwise need to pay for with no insurance assistance
- example: Lyme disease (symptoms range from digestive problems to constant pain)

How can medicalization of a condition or behavior be an advantage for the pharmaceutical industry?

- economic interest in selling a drug as a treatment for profit
- pharmaceutical firms are typically owned by share holders (e.g., part of retirement portfolio for 10s of millions of people) who seek to make a profit by holding shares
- the board of directors of the pharmaceutical firm answer to share holders and so must find ways to make money

How can medicalization of a condition or behavior be an advantage for political groups?

- a political group can define an adversary's political beliefs as a mental illness and consequently have those with the belief put into a "secured" mental institution

What countries are considered more developed? Less developed? Least developed?

- More developed: examples include: U.S., Canada, Western Europe, Japan
- Less developed: examples include: Brazil, China, India
- Least develop: examples include: Haiti, Ethiopia, Afghanistan

How do more developed nations differ from less developed nations in terms of health?

- Health conditions are more likely to be chronic rather than acute (epidemiological transition of nations)
- More access to health care technologies
- Lower infant and maternal mortality rates
- Longer life expectancy
- Less poverty, malnutrition, disease

What factors contribute to malnutrition in less developed nations?

- the social distribution of food is unequal
- a small group of people are in power and this small elite group controls the food resources
- typically the low-income and females have the least access to resources
- famines exacerbated by global warming

there is actually enough food produced but it is not distributed equally

Why is diarrhea dangerous and what causes it?

- people die from dehydration and electrolytic imbalance; also leads to malnutrition that then leads to disease
- in less developed nations—second leading cause of death of children under 5
- caused by infections, bacteria, parasites
- ingesting contaminated water or foods: insufficiently cooked food; lack of sanitation (e.g., sanitary toilets)

Can you name some infectious diseases found around the world?

- HIV-AIDS
- Diarrheal Diseases (e.g., dysentery, cholera)
- Tuberculosis
- Malaria

What factors have caused the recent increase in infectious diseases (e.g., influenza, measles, mumps, tuberculosis)?

- use of antibiotics by doctors have been widespread causing drug-resistant bacteria/micro-organisms
- antibiotics used in animals that people eat
- wild animals in closer contact to humans
- patients' insistence that they be given antibiotics when they are sick
- dirty needles illegally used

How is globalization affecting rates of disease?

- Western use of antibiotics infiltrating the cultures of Asia, Africa, Latin America
- international corporations destroying forests and causing wild life to be closer to humans
- more people traveling across countries

What factors can cause the spread of HIV-AIDS?

- sexual partners (including intercourse, oral, anal sex)
- childbearing women to their babies
- use of needles (e.g., heroin)
- prostitutes (fostered by labor migration in less developed nations)
- women less likely to have access to treatment
- concurrent sexual partners

What major health care programs did the U.S. government establish/support in the 1960's?

1. Medicaid was established to provide health care services to the poor.
2. Medicare was established to provide health care services to the elderly.

What do you know about Medicaid?

Medicaid—is paid for by a combination of federal and state funding
(the percentage paid by the federal government varies by state and depends on the wealth of the state—poorer states are in the south).

Medicaid—varies by state in terms of:
--who qualifies (who is considered poor),
--what is covered, and
--how much will be paid (payment rates) for specific health services (Texas is one of the stingiest states regarding all three)

Medicaid—is considered a charity for those receiving it (health care is not considered a "right" as it is in other developed countries)

2. Medicare:

was established and linked to "Social Security." Those who qualify for SS can obtain Medicare.

To qualify for Social Security:

- the individual (or individual's spouse) must have paid into Social Security for 40 quarters (10 years total)

(disabled persons need fewer quarters to qualify for SS with exact # of quarters based on a complex formula)

Medicare:

Medicare services are paid for by a combination of federal and participant funds.

- Part A covers hospital expenses and is totally covered by federal funds
- Part B covers doctor/medical expenses and can only be obtained if the individual pays a monthly fee (much like paying for health insurance but less expensive)
- considered an "entitlement"—that is, earned—you qualify for it if you paid into SS for 40 quarters (there are exceptions)

What are some of the reasons the U.S. has not adopted a "universal" health care system while all other advanced countries have?

- considered to be a step toward socialism
- the value of individualism and taking responsibility for oneself held high
- distrust of big government
- any kind of government support was viewed as a "handout" which is looked down upon in the U.S.
- the American Medical Association (AMA), hospital corporations, insurance and pharmaceutical companies believed reduce profits

What were some of the major changes in the U.S. health care system introduced by "Obamacare" (the Affordable Care Act)?

1. All U.S. citizens must purchase health insurance or pay a penalty (the government offers inexpensive coverage)
2. Health insurance companies cannot deny someone coverage due to a pre-existing condition
3. Young adults can stay on their parent's health insurance plans until age 26.

How has the new federal (Trump) administration change the ACA and what effects might these changes have?

Remove the unwanted parts of ACA and keep the desirable parts. That is:

1. No longer require All U.S. citizens to purchase health insurance
2. Continue preventing health insurance companies from excluding applicants due to pre-existing conditions
3. Continue allowing young adults to be on their parent's health insurance plans until age 26.

How will this affect the health care system?

What system-level factors are contributing to medical errors? How does the "medical culture" keep doctors from identifying/reporting medical errors?

- how drugs are prepared for use (sometimes stronger than needed requiring dilution)
- drugs with similar names too easily mixed up
- difficult to identify causes of errors due to desire to protect doctors

Why Are American Health Care Costs So High (8 min)?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5jGouBmo0M>

Why the U.S. pays more for health care than the rest of the world (9:24)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXBPKE28UFO>

Why Is U.S. Health Care So Expensive (2:47)?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1D5CzpQDJg>

Social determinants of health (10:04)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7iSYi3ziTI>

The shocking truth about your health

Lissa Rankin (18:02 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tu9nJmr4Xs>

Is there scientific proof we can heal ourselves?

Lissa Rankin, MD (18:00)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWQfe__fNbs

Power Foods for the Brain | Neal Barnard | 17:00

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_ONFix_e4k

Description of UK health system by an American (10 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPiMMCD3ec4>

Critics of Great Britain's NHS (national health care system) (9 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rpi7gro4y4g>

Germany Health care system (4:43 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AR0d1BrhIMk>

French health care: Best in the world? (7:30 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGqiNplU2m4>

Which Countries Have The Best Healthcare? | NowThis World (3:25)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmL1jxQDuFk>

Social determinants of health (10:04)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7iSYi3ziTI>

Social determinants of health: An Introduction (6:27)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PH4JYff4Ns>

Description of UK health system by an American (10 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPiMMCD3ec4>

Answering criticisms of the Great Britain Health Care System (3 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gf2E2Yi58iw>

BBC addresses British criticism of National Health Care (3 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HURZfgYptfA>

Critics of Great Britain's NHS (national health care system) (9 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rpi7gro4y4g>