



Importance of social determinants for successful vaccination in R. Macedonia

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Introduction

Currently, there are multiple vaccines available worldwide and maybe the most important ones are those designated for routine childhood immunizations. The successfulness of immunization programs depends on multiple parameters.

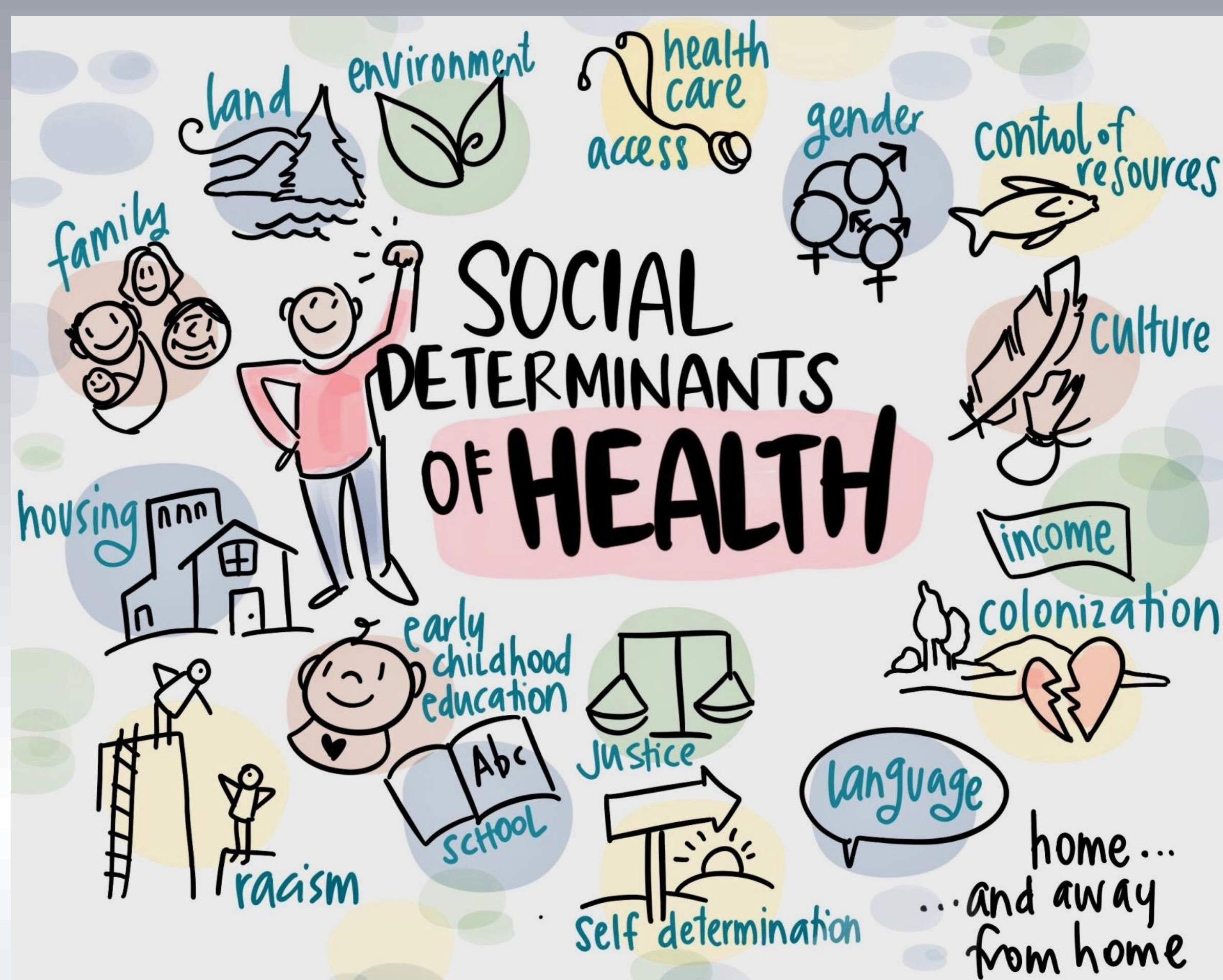


Fig. 1: Social determinants of Health

Table 1: Immunization rates of infants and children, 1990 to latest available year

% of children vaccinated against:	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2013
Tuberculosis	n/a	90.0	97.4	98.8	96.0	97.0
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	94.4	95.2	95.1	97.1	95.4	98.0
Poliomyelitis	94.3	94.7	96	97.5	94.8	98.0
Haemophilus influenzae type b	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.8	97.0
Hepatitis B	n/a	n/a	n/a	90.8	90.4	97.0
Mumps, Rubella	93.6	96.7	97.1	n/a	98.1	96.0
Measles	94.0	97.0	97.0	96.4	98.1	96.0

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016a.
Note: n/a: not available.

Thematic chapters

A recent data's suggests that social determinants have a substantial impact on routine childhood vaccination being the most important reasons for under- or non-vaccination in low- and middle-income countries. These can in turn affect developing of specific individual immunity and the introduction of new vaccines and updating of the immunization calendar for general population.

The main social determinants (which can vary among different countries) are: 1) household living conditions and parents educations; 2) religious and minority groups; 3) war and civil unrest and migration; 4) urban vs. rural residence; 5) accessibility to immunization programs and governance level of involvement; 6) information / misinformation through the media and internet; 7) popularity of complementary and alternative medicine; 8) safety concerns; 9) financial factors.

Conclusions

To address the above mentioned social determinants, various strategies are suggested and performed by official regulatory agencies in our country. The first step, recognizing the magnitude of importance of social determinants, is made, and on this base future interventions are of particular importance for design of appropriate and effective vaccination programs.

References:

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Fig. 2: WHO's campaign for multiple vaccines