

■ Table of Contents

Introduction	1
The Health Divide Between Poor and Rich Countries	2
The Health Divide Within Countries	4
Basic Research Questions	4
Identifying the Poor	4
Measuring Health	5
Findings: How the Poor Fare Relative to the Better-Off	5
Inequalities in Health	8
Inequalities in the Use of Health Services	9
Trends in Health Inequalities	10
Benefits Received by the Poor From Public Health Services	12
Determinants of Health Status and Disparities	12
Explaining Disparities	14
Determining When Inequalities Are Inequitable	14
Approaches for Benefiting the Poor	15
Socioeconomic Approaches	15
Policies That Are Pro-Growth and Pro-Poor	16
Investments in Education	16
Rural Development Activities	17
Health-Service Approaches	17
Directing More Benefits Toward the Poor	18
Direct Targeting	18
Characteristic Targeting	19
Promoting Primary and Essential Health Care	20
Increasing Availability of Health Services	21
Improving the Quality of Services	21
Developing Public-Private Partnerships to Improve Reach and Responsiveness	23
Mobilizing Community Resources	23
Health-Financing Approaches	25
Inequity in Financing	25
Strategies for Greater Financial Protection	26
Approaches for Measuring Progress	27
Conclusion	28
References	29
Suggested Resources	33
Recommended Websites	34

continued on reverse

Table of Contents *continued*

Boxes

Box 1	Life and Death in Cambodia	2
Box 2	Health Inequalities by Social and Geographic Factors.....	8
Box 3	Addressing the Causes of Health Inequalities	15
Box 4	Improving Equity Through Doorstep Delivery in Bangladesh.....	21
Box 5	Kerala: A Health Success Story	22
Box 6	Options for Financing Health Services in Niger	26

Figures

Figure 1	Life Expectancy at Birth, 1995–2000	3
Figure 2	Health Inequalities in Less Developed Countries, 1990–2002	8
Figure 3	Under-5 Mortality Rates by Economic Quintile	9
Figure 4	Inequalities in the Use of Health Services, 1990–2002	9
Figure 5	Full Vaccination by Economic Quintile, Sub-Saharan Africa	10
Figure 6	Determinants of Health Outcomes	13
Figure 7	Judging the Equity of Health Outcomes	14

Tables

Table 1	Health Spending per Capita, by Country Income Level, 1997	3
Table 2	Poor-Nonpoor Inequalities in Health, Selected Indicators	6
Table 3	Trends in Health Inequalities	11
Table 4	Benefits Received by the Poorest and Richest Quintiles From Public Spending on Curative Health Services	12
Table 5	Share of Public Health Spending Received by Poorest and Richest Quintiles, Selected Countries	12
Table 6	Protection Mechanisms for the Poor: Direct and Characteristic Targeting.....	18