Health and Place: Demographics and Economics

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Health Literacy: Policy Challenges

• US Centers for Disease Control
  *Health Literacy Definition: the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services to make appropriate health decisions.*

• 36% US adults have only ‘basic’ or ‘below basic’ (RAND 2011) and 9 out 10 adults have difficulty accessing information

• US Department for Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  *Improving Health Literacy for Older Adults* Expert Panel Report 2009
Health Literacy: Policy Challenges

- US Department for Health and Human Services
- The plan is based on the principles that
  (1) everyone has the right to health information that helps them make informed decisions
  (2) health services should be delivered in ways that are understandable and beneficial to health, longevity, and quality of life.
- However, the ability to make choices and act on those choices also depends on other constraints – empowerment, ability to effect changes, expectations
Health Literacy: Policy Challenges

• The vision informing this plan is of a society that:
  - Provides everyone with access to accurate and actionable health information
  - Delivers person-centered health information and services
  - Supports lifelong learning and skills to promote good health

• Health literacy – improving the effectiveness of service provision and also of wellbeing and quality of life

• This reflects a more general set of societal issues including, but also beyond health – information, service delivery, lifelong learning and skills provision
Health Literacy: Place Challenges

- United Kingdom: *Black Report* (1980) – health inequality was primarily related to economic inequality – gender, social class, occupation – impact on OECD and World Health Organisation but not UK
- Medical geography: geographies of heart failure, child development, obesity
- Health geographies closely reflect geographies of multiple deprivation
Health Literacy: Place Challenges

- Geography and persistence – hysteresis - UK work of Danny Dorling – locality inequality and health
- *RAND Corporation Mapping Tool on Health Literacy* (2011)
- GIS and neighbourhood based toolkit focused on Missouri
  - Estimates of community-level health literacy
  - Health outcomes and care quality
  - Neighborhood sociodemographic characteristics
  - Neighborhood health services data
Health, Wellbeing and Place

- Health literacy – improving the effectiveness of service provision and also of wellbeing and quality of life - institutions, trust, engagement, social participation
- These all depend on both education and inequality
- Income/GDP predictor of all aspects of wellbeing
- Level of education and life satisfaction are highly correlated
- Amongst the rich countries - more equal/egalitarian societies have higher QOL satisfaction and also public participation
- Trust in civic institutions is generally higher for highly educated – but only in wealthy and more equal societies
- Highly educated have lower trust in civic institutions in poorer countries
Health, Wellbeing and Place

- The relationship between wellbeing and place is changing
- Differences in education, skills and migration
- Differential ageing, population decline and development
- Globalisation and inequalities across income and place
  - prosperous places and poorer places
  - segregation and polarisation of places
- Micro-level variations at the neighbourhood levels
- Macro-level variations at the city and regional levels
- Spatial changes in the relationship between economics and institutions → changes in the relationship between participation and public service provision
Health, Wellbeing and Place

  - Migration + natural growth 2004-2020
  - Rate of population change 2004-2020
  - Projected international migration 2020
  - Projected Interregional migration 2020
  - Healthy life expectancy 2005
  - Demographic vulnerability index 2020
HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY IN 2005 (Both Sexes)

Estimated duration of life in good health (years)

- 75.1
- 73.2
- 71.9
- 70.0
- 67.0
- 66.3
- 63.5

Source for administrative boundaries: UMS 2014/PH/TE

©, C. Grasland, UMR Géographie-cités, 2007
Data sources: Eurostat
Health, Wellbeing and Place

- *Healthy Ageing* → place and geography matters not just in terms of outcomes/incidence but in terms of underlying systems and dynamics of wealth/poverty
- All income and wealth-related – to the behaviour of *others* as well as to the choices made by oneself
- We know *almost nothing* about these interactions – and particularly in declining regions or neighbourhoods
- Long-term public service provision challenges - How to design health and wellbeing systems for evolving demographic challenges
  – with differences in public participation, trust and engagement with institutions, vulnerability, ageing, poverty and social exclusion