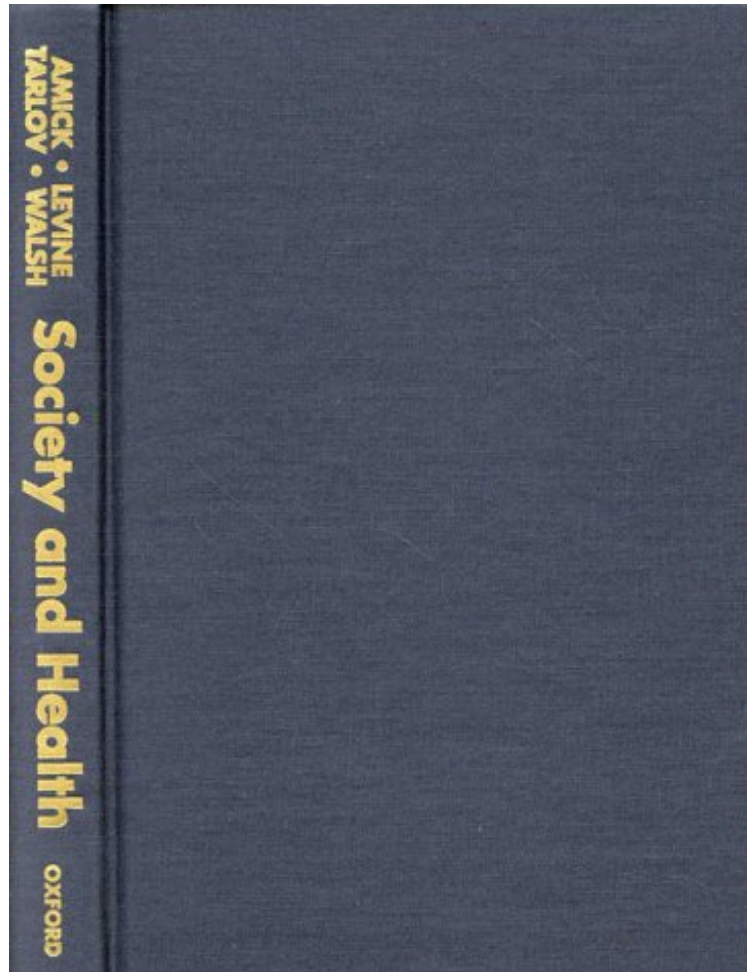


## Society and Health

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Why do societies experience higher rates of mortality after economic recession? What accounts for the persistent social class differences in mortality rates? How do we explain the health status differences between men and women, blacks and whites, and different communities or cultures? How do some families create more healthful environments for their children? How is stress generated in the workplace? Such fundamental questions about the social determinants of health are discussed in depth in this wide-ranging and authoritative book. Well-known contributors from North America and Europe gather and assess the evidence for the diverse pathways by which society influences

health and provides conceptual frameworks for understanding these relationships. The book opens with a broad review of research on the social environment's contribution to health status and then addresses particular social factors: the family, the community, culture, class, race and gender, the economy, and the workplace. The concluding two chapters examine the contribution of medicine to the improved health of Americans and recast the health policy debate in a broad social policy context.

"The editors of *Society and Health* are to be commended for creating an outstanding volume of essays representing the direct contributions of 23 scholars and the indirect contribution of 22 thoughtful critics."--*American Journal of Psychiatry*"An excellent work that makes a compelling argument for paying more attention to the relation between social factors and health....Convincingly identifies race, sex, work, family, community, culture, and the national economy as social factors that influence health....Anyone interested in public health and medicine at the educational, policy, and practical levels will find in this book a useful discussion of the complicated social factors that determine health."--*The New England Journal of Medicine*"The relationship between two variables as complex as 'Society' and 'Health' must itself be complex. That very complexity has stimulated interest and research from many disciplines. This book brings together expert analyses of difference aspects of the relationship, and is likely to be a work of reference for years to come. It is also readable."--Sir Douglas Black, University of Manchester, and Former President, Royal College of Physicians"A new landmark for the study of the social and cultural determinants of health. This comprehensive and authoritative volume, with its interdisciplinary focus, will be widely discussed and cited for years."--William Julius Wilson, University of Chicago"*Society and Health* offers empirical data, theoretical formulations, and developments in methods of collecting and analyzing social data to illustrate the cultural and social determinants of health and illness. Particularly impressive is the comprehensive elucidation of the role of social cohesion, socioeconomic status, social hierarchy, gender, and race in determining the health of societies and individuals. This outstanding book, written by these distinguished authors, is a must for anyone interested in the education and practice of public health and medicine."--Michel A. Ibrahim, Dean and Professor of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina School of Public Health"*This relevant and timely book reinforces a growing professional and public recognition of the importance of social factors to individual health and well-being. Crafted by a distinguished group of experts from varied disciplines, it underscores the necessity of redefining health to fit the whole person rather than a specific disease or condition.*"--Karen Davis, President, The Commonwealth Fund"Authoritative, comprehensive, up-to-date."--*Chronic Diseases in Canada*"Contains something for everyone who is interested in health as it intersects with societal issues....rich in valuable information...immensely readable"--*Annals of Internal Medicine*"*Society and Health* achieves the editors' goal of raising social factors and social processes into sharper focus as determinants of health....This collection of essays is an outstanding reference for those who are trying to make their practice more community responsive." *Family Medicine*"The experts chosen have appropriate respect for empirical complexities and provide a rich examination of research in their respective areas and provocative conceptions of how varying health outcomes occur through complex causal connections. The volume is abundant in data and insights and informative for experts as well as for general readers....An outstanding and diverse group of contributors in the field..."--*The Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*

From the Back Cover How do some families create more healthful environments for their children? How do we explain the health status differences between men and women, blacks and whites, and different communities or cultures? How is stress generated in the workplace? What accounts for the persistent social class differences in mortality rates? Why do societies experience higher rates of mortality after economic recession? Such fundamental questions about the social determinants of health are discussed in depth in this wide-ranging and authoritative book. Well-known contributors from North America and Europe assess the evidence for the diverse ways by which society influences health and provide conceptual frameworks for understanding these relationships. The book opens with a broad review of research on the social environment's contribution to health status and then addresses particular social factors: the family, the community, race, gender, class, the economy, the workplace and culture. The concluding two chapters examine the contribution of medicine to the improved health of Americans and recast the health care policy debate in a broad social policy context.

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