

Health needs, Health Demand and Health Services Utilisation

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Health Needs Assessments – Why Important?

- To ensure resource efficiency and avoid wastage
- To assist the establishment of priorities in limited resource environments
- To increase the possibilities for reducing health inequities
- In general – to provide an appropriate evidence base for health planning

Influential Factors for.....

HEALTH DEMAND

- *Demographics*
- *Socio-economic status*
- *Health services supply*
- Environmental situation –
e.g. water, sanitation
- Nutrition
- Illness prev. behaviours
- Life style
- Perceptions of illness &
health expectations
- Trade-Offs

HEALTH NEED

- *Demographics*
- *Socio-economic status*
- *Health Services supply*
- Environmental situation-
E.g. water , sanitation
- Nutrition
- Illness prev. behaviours
- Life-Style
- Genes

Demographics...

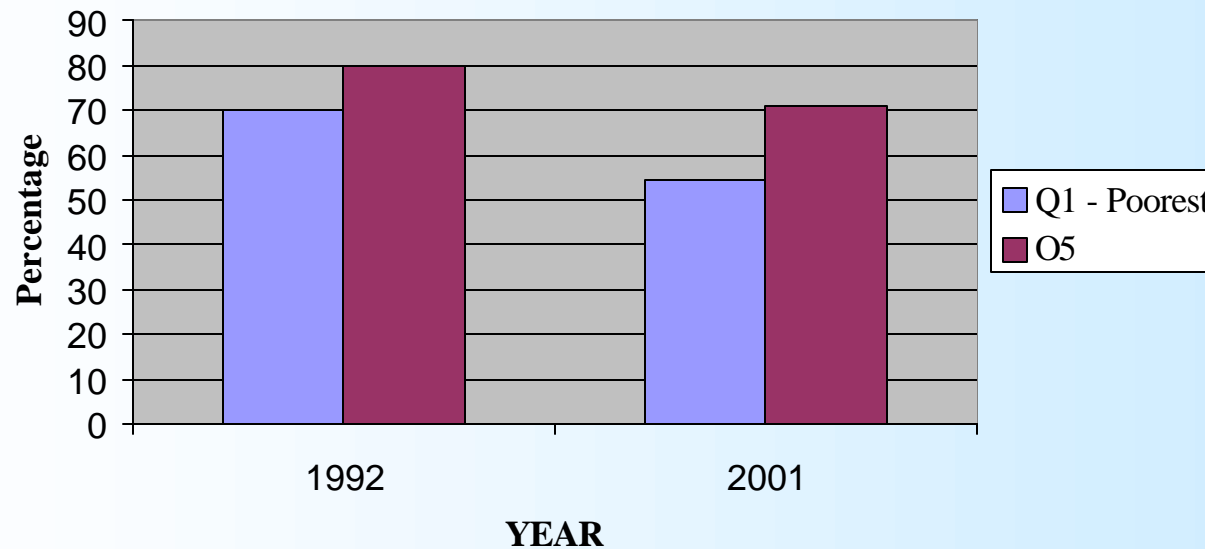
The Doomsday Scenario?



A Demographic Time Bomb?

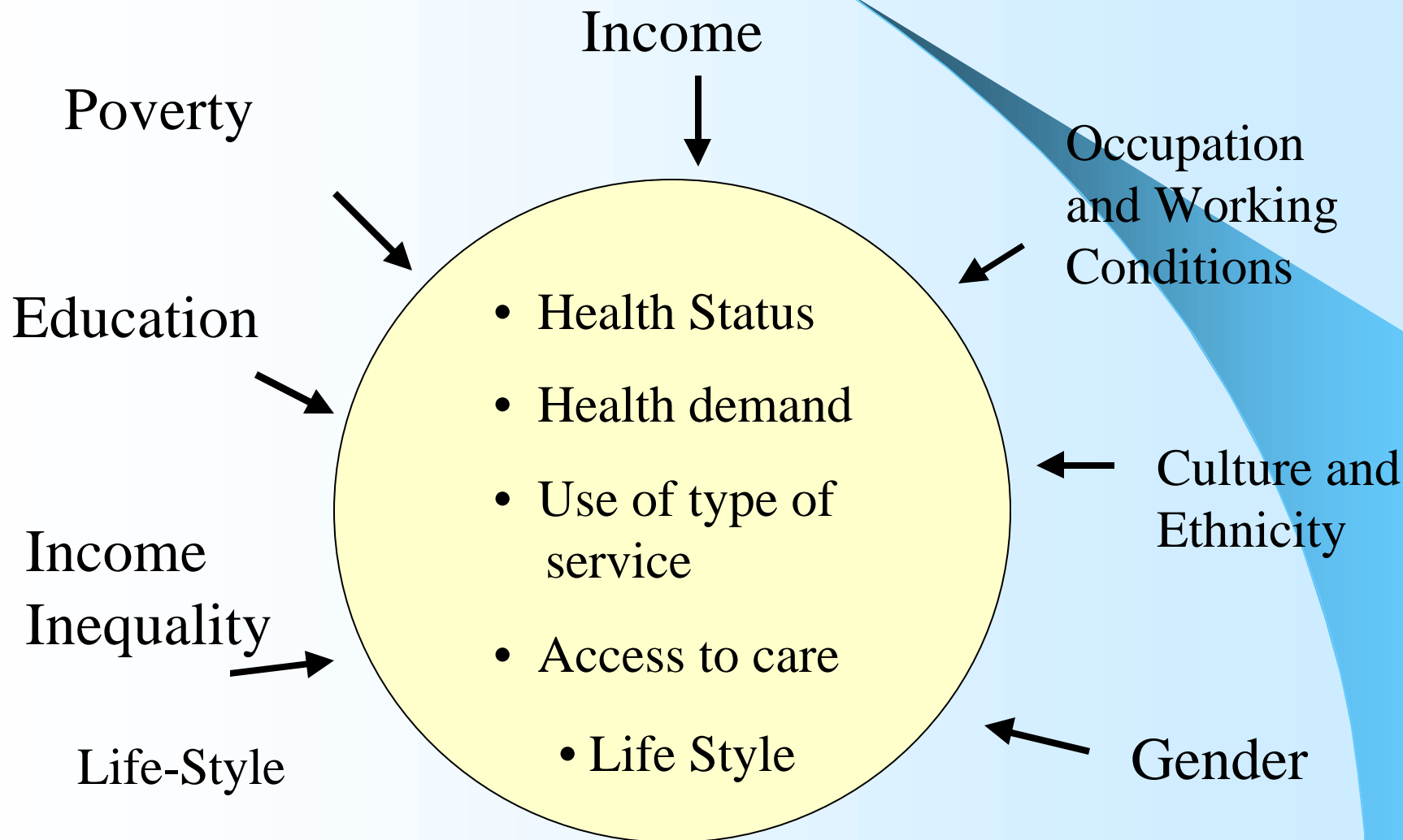
Poverty and the Search for Primary Care

Percentage of those Reporting Illness - Seeking Primary Care, by Quintile Status. - Jamaica, 1992, 2001

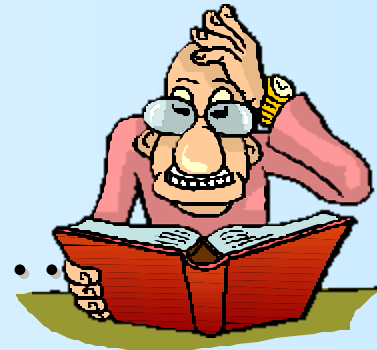



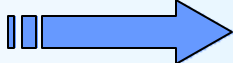
Source: Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions. 1992, 2001

Socio-Economic Factors



The Impact of Supply: A Few Lessons To Be Learnt ...



- That not supplied is unlikely to be demanded
- Increased access may not mean better health outcomes.
- Unintended consequences can be devastating: greater insurance coverage  less focus on preventive care ?
- Beware some health finance reforms : User-fee programmes  increased health inequities.

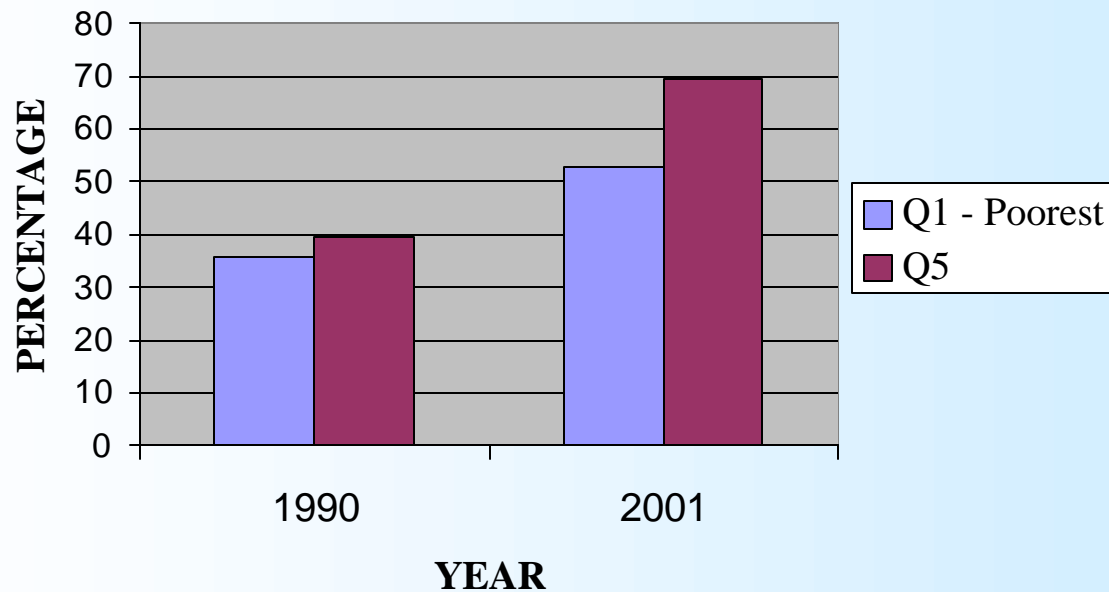
Overcoming Some Hurdles.....



- Reducing the dependence on service-led measurements of demand and need
- Identifying and measuring *UNMET* needs

Poverty and the Search for Care

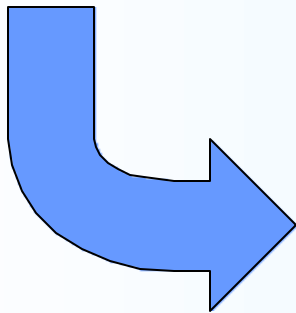
Percentage of those Reporting Illness, Seeking Medical Care- - by Quintile Status. Jamaica - 1992, 2001



Source: Jamaican Survey of Living Conditions - 1990, 2001

Another Hurdle to be Overcome.....

- Abolishing the myth of inexorably rising public expectations – to permit



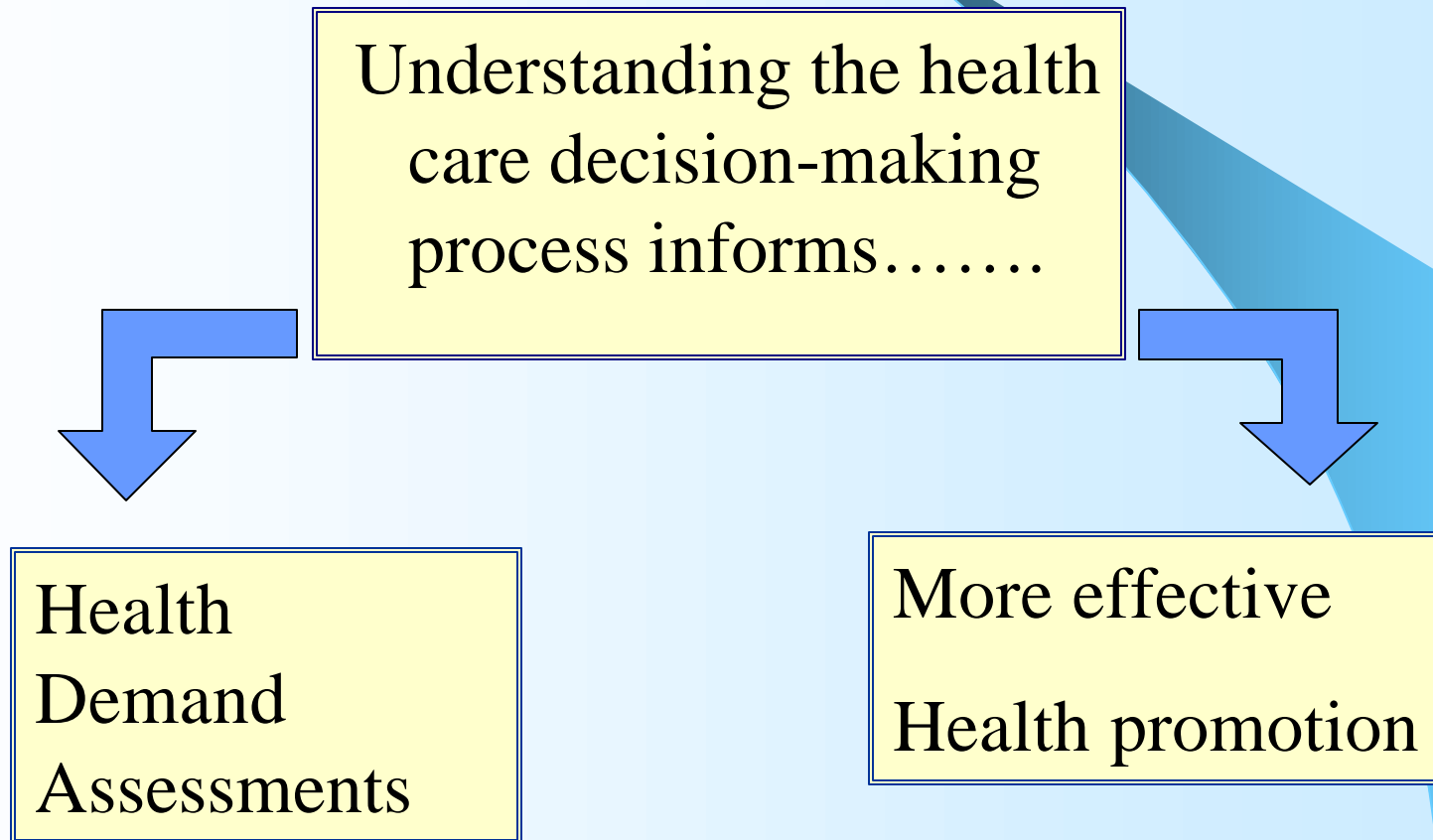
- Focus on real health demand management instead of health demand reduction

Managing Health Demand...

Understanding the health care decision-making process informs.....

Health
Demand
Assessments

More effective
Health promotion



Factors affecting the decision-making process: Calculating “trade-offs”

- Balancing the resources to be expended against anticipated benefits;
- Calculating the opportunity costs;
- Assessing own health capital;
- Calculating value for money;
- The effects of definitions and perceptions of disease and illness....

Measuring Health Need and Demand: Getting it done.....

- Resource deficiency induced inertia? or locked into “crisis management”?
- Possible benefits of multiple methodologies: combining rapid appraisal techniques with standard household data collection systems ?
- Need to identify the most *influential factors in the decision-making process.*



Percentage Reporting Illness/Injury in four week reference period - Jamaica, 2001

