

CONCEPT
EXPLAINER

WHAT IS

Poverty as a Public Health emergency

swipe



Poverty is more

than a social issue – it is a public health emergency. It strips people of the basic conditions needed to live well, leading to poorer physical and mental health that can persist across generations. People living in poverty face higher risks of disease, disability, and premature death, simply because of where they live and what they earn.



02

Health inequalities

don't happen by chance,
they are the direct result of
unfair and avoidable social
and economic injustices.

While access to healthcare
should be universal, poverty
can make it hard to reach.

Cost, lack of transport, and
limited internet access mean
those who need care most
often struggle to get it.



When life is a

constant struggle, people often turn to unhealthy ways of coping just to get by and survive. Poverty drives depression, stress, isolation, poor eating habits, limited access to safe outdoor space and, for some, a reliance on substances. This isn't a choice, it's a response to despair and a lack of options.



04

If we want to

improve public health and reduce health inequalities, we must take the impact of poverty seriously.

Tackling its root causes is not optional, it's the starting point for building a fairer and healthier society.

swipe



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Thanks for reading

react and share

