



Evaluation in the field of public health

The work of The Swedish National Institute of Public Health

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The Swedish National Institute of Public Health

- A government agency under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.
- Located in Östersund, a city situated about 600 km northwest of Stockholm.
- About 160 employees.
- Has a special government commission to monitor, evaluate and coordinate the implementation of the national public health policy.

A national policy based on health determinants

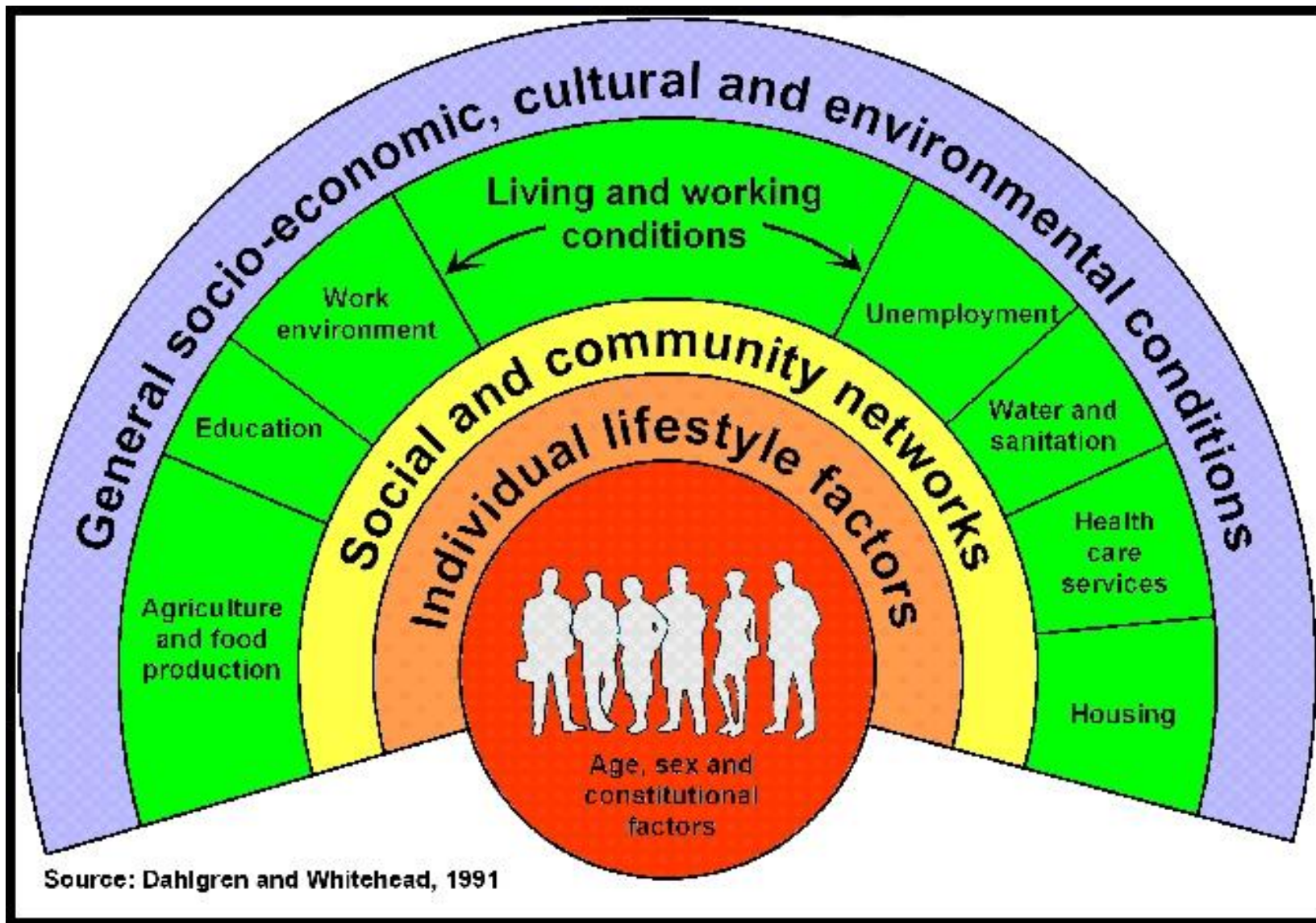
- Public authorities at all levels should be guided by 11 public health objective domains which cover the most important determinants of Swedish public health.
- The policy of 2003 stipulates the use of determinants and indicators instead of analysis of health problems or sickness.
- The benefit of using determinants as a basis for policy is to enable evaluation of progress.
- This in turn supports political decision-making as determinants can be influenced by certain types of societal measures.

The overarching aim of Sweden's national public health policy

- is to create societal conditions that will ensure good health, on equal terms, for the entire population.

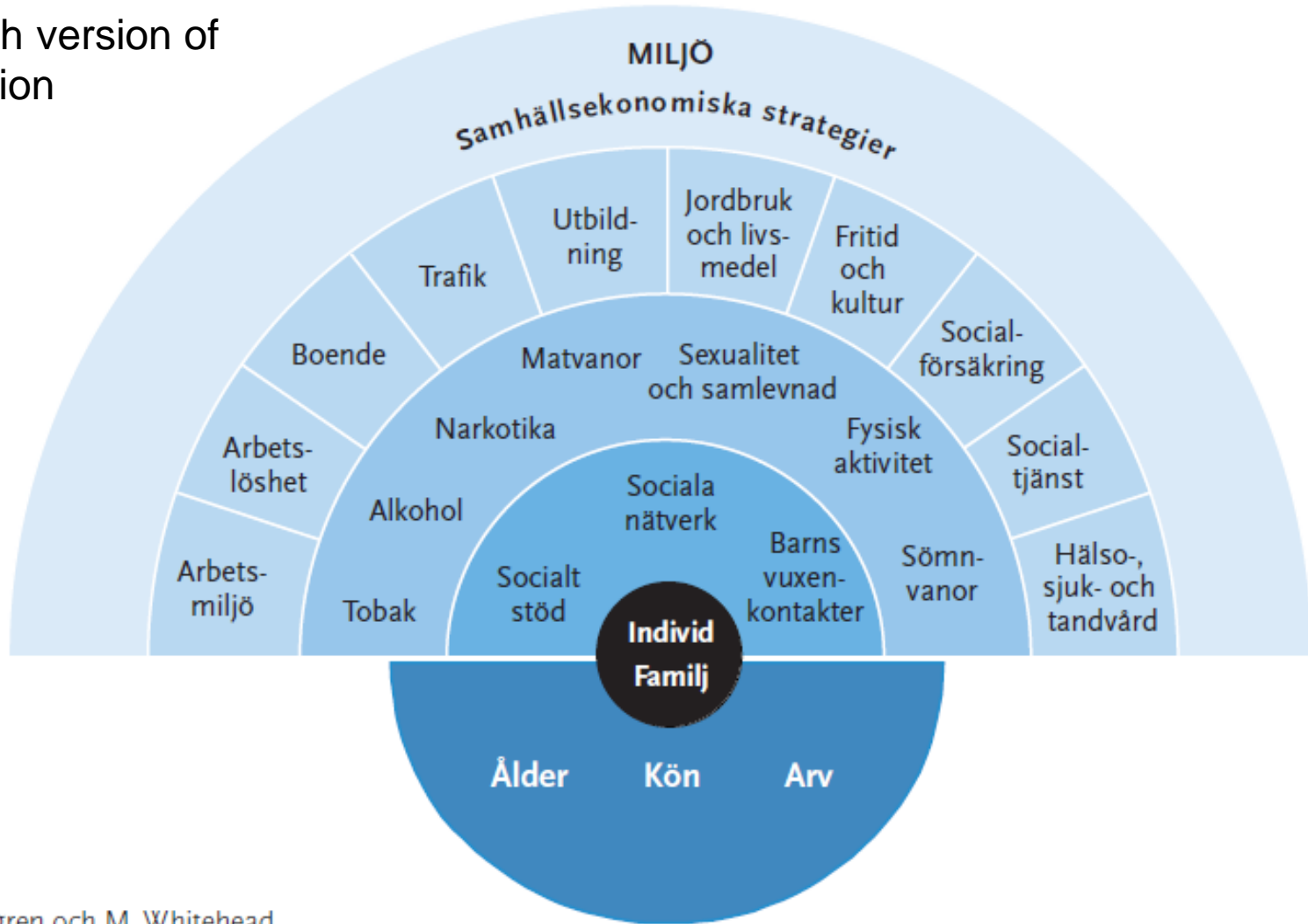
11 Public health objectives

- 1.Participation and influence in society
- 2.Economic and social prerequisites
- 3.Conditions during childhood and adolescence
- 4.Health in working life
- 5.Environments and products
- 6.Health-promoting health services
- 7.Protection against communicable diseases
- 8.Sexuality and reproductive health
- 9.Physical activity
- 10.Eating habits and food
- 11.Tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, doping and gambling



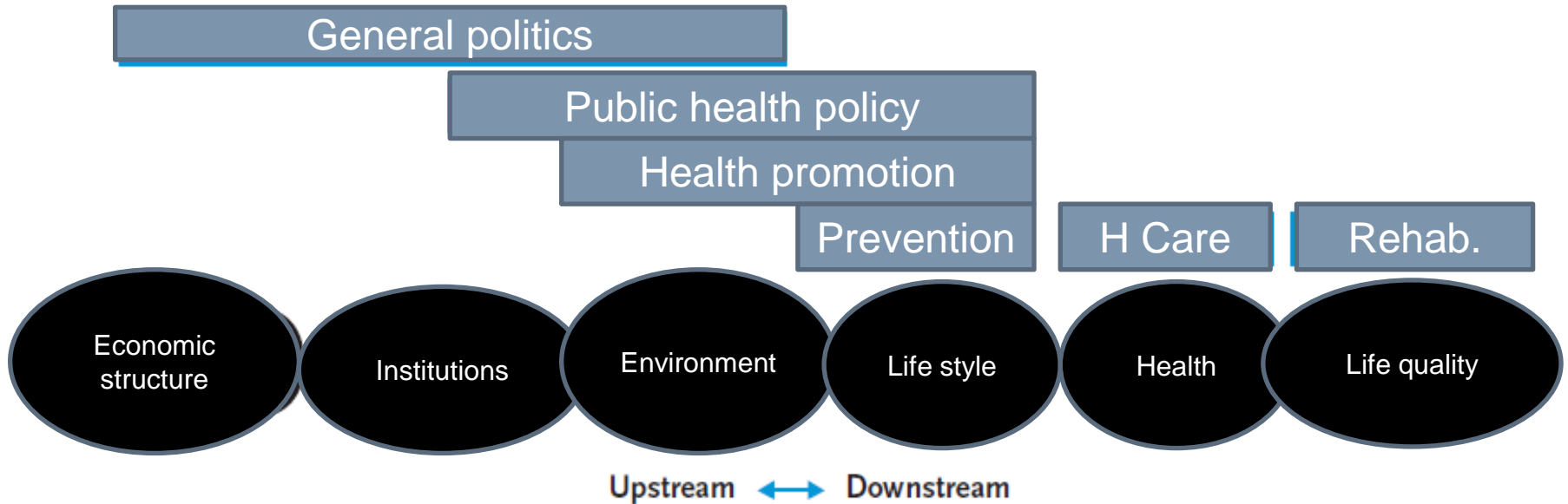
Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

Swedish version of illustration



Källa: G. Dahlgren och M. Whitehead.

Politics and Public Health



Källa: Sven Bremberg

What do they mean by determinants?

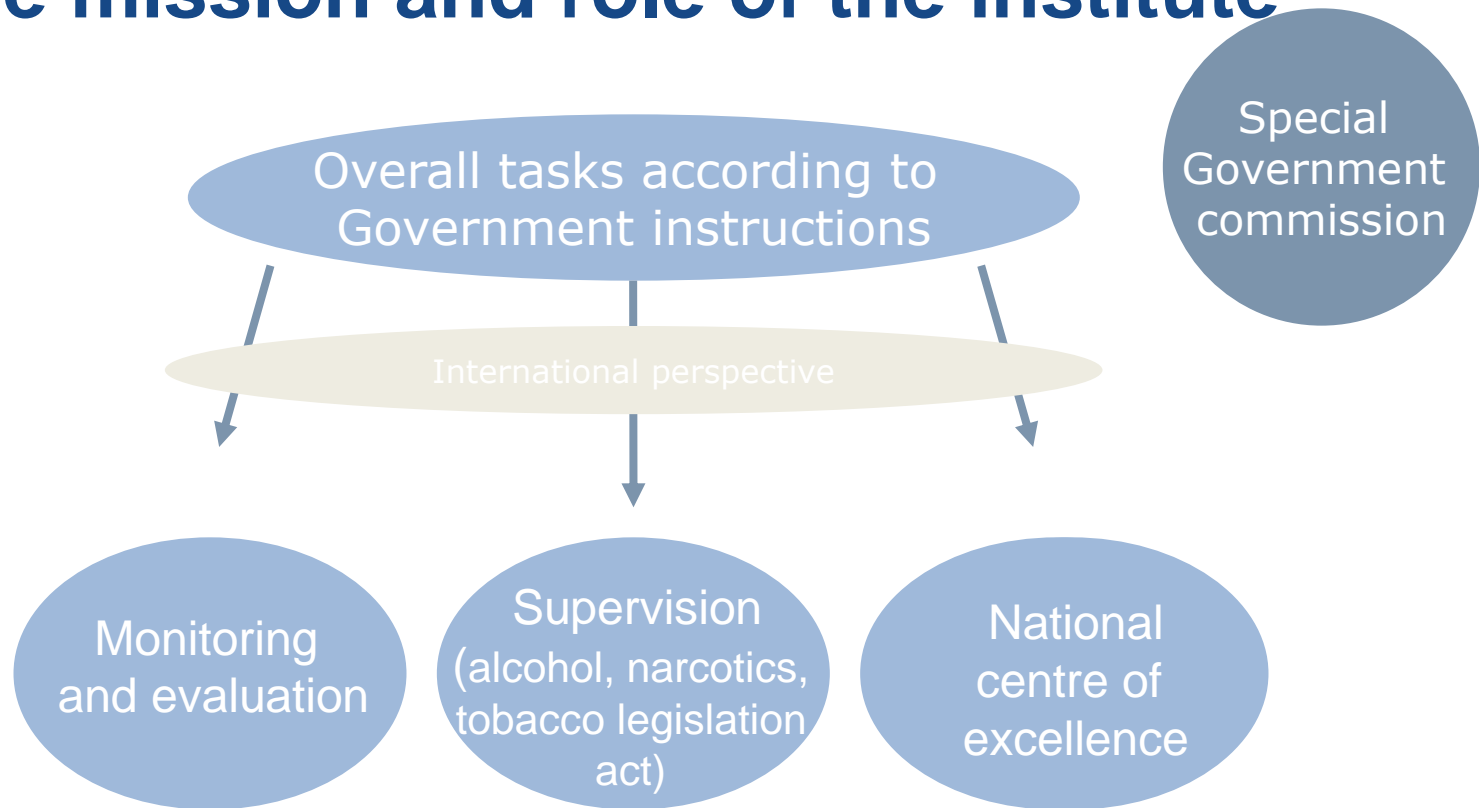
- **Health problems or sickness:**
 - Colon cancer
 - High Blood pressure
 - Type 2 diabetes
 - Cardiovascular diseases
- **All related to physical inactivity**
 - measurable
- There is however a lack of evaluations in the field of measures taken to improve determinants.
(FHPR 2010)

The Swedish National public health policy

Emphasis on:

- Developing health-promoting methods and strategies based on scientific evidence.
- Supporting joint responsibility for public health strategies between various stakeholders in society.
- Encouraging the positive development of individual health by providing conditions that enable individual health choices.

The mission and role of the institute



Monitoring and evaluation

- Analyzing trends of main determinants of health and how these are distributed in relation to gender, socioeconomic position, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and age.
- Providing the Government with reports and data as basis for decision making.
- Avail high-quality statistics particularly related to alcohol, narcotics and tobacco (ANT).

This presentation will cover 4 aspects of monitoring and evaluation :

1. A national public health survey, Health on Equal Terms
2. Public Health Policy Report 2010
3. Health economics is becoming a more important tool for determining if investments in health will likely to be Cost effective.
4. Systematic reviews as evaluations (ex ante) of expected outcomes of measures aiming to improve public health

The national public health survey, Health on Equal Terms,

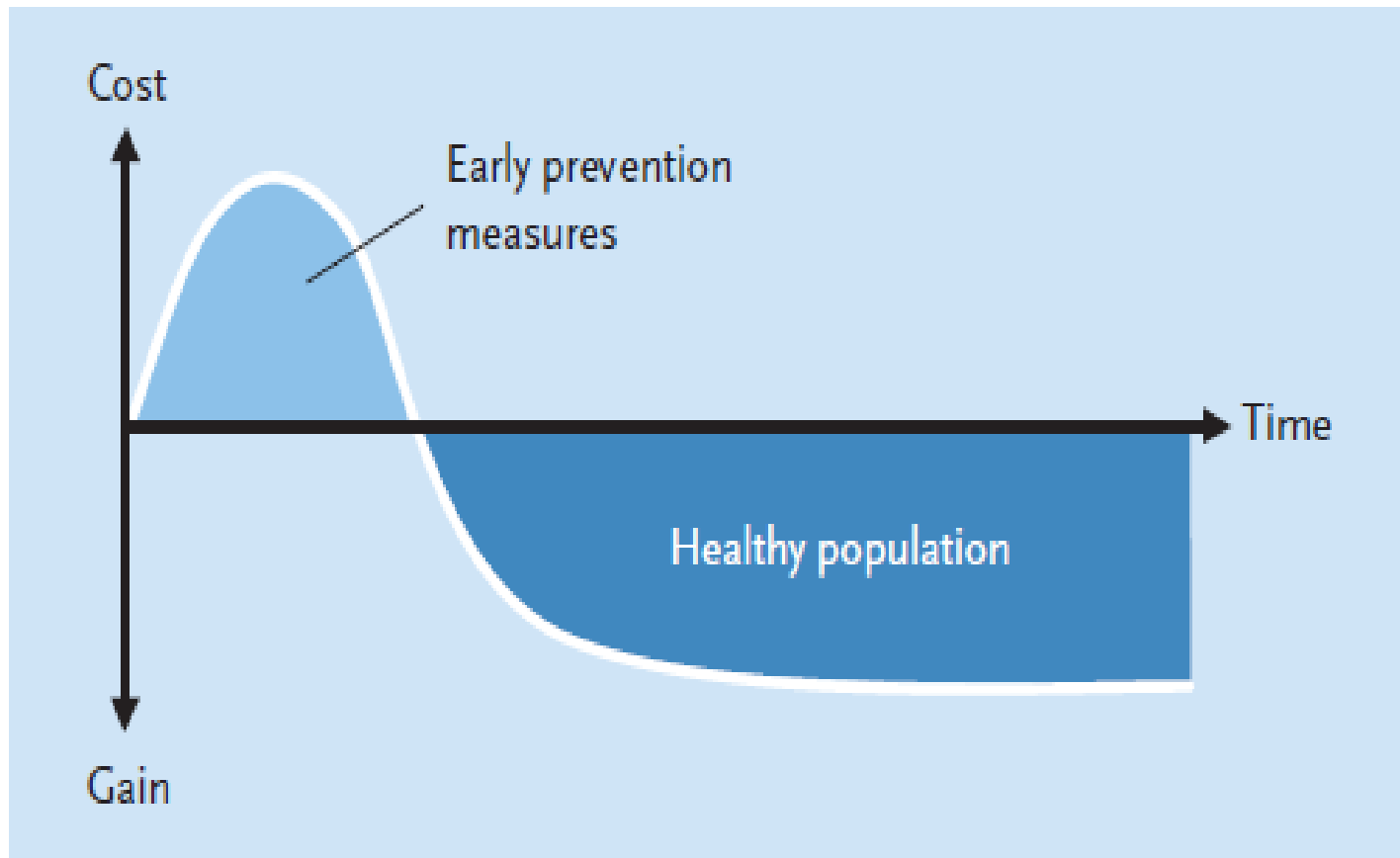
- A national public health survey, Health on Equal Terms, has been conducted yearly since 2004
- The survey is an ongoing collaboration between the Institute and county councils/regions in Sweden.
- The survey selection comprised a total of 20 000 people, aged 16-84 year. The questionnaire includes some 70 questions on a total of 16 pages.
- The response rate from 2004-2010 is between 57-61 percent

The Swedish Public Health Policy Report 2010

- **The objective of the report is to:**
- show how the conditions for health in Sweden have developed focusing on the period 2004-2009
- present measures undertaken
- recommend future measures.

Health Economics

The cost bump and gains in a long-term view of health investments



Health economics:

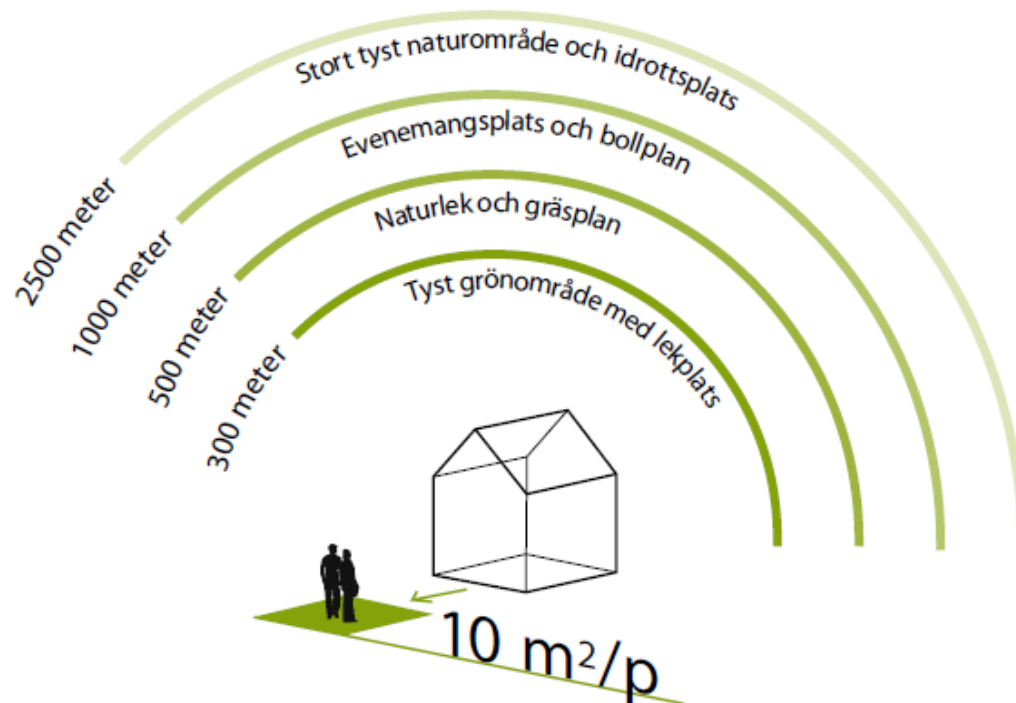
In order to calculate cost effectiveness for a measure we need:

- Proven effect
- Net costs
- One or more alternatives to compare with

Effect without costs

Effect of exposure to natural environment on mortality and health inequalities

Popham, Lancet, 2008



Example of known costs but no effects

- "Diseases related to high BMI (BMI over 25), for example, stroke, type 2 diabetes and osteoporosis, is costing society 7 billion each year"

(The Swedish Public Health Policy Report, 2010)

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- Net costs
- **One or more alternatives to compare with**

Systematic Reviews and evidence based methods

- Systematic Reviews
- Compilation and dissemination of reports with scientific evidence on effective methods and strategies for public health practice (to municipalities, county councils and NGOs).
- Supporting the implementation of effective methods and strategies for public health practice.
- “Evaluation in advance”

Thank you!

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