



# Social determinants of health and qualitative research

## examples



What can qualitative research add to SDH research

Examples





# Why can qualitative research be relevant for SDH researchers: an example

- SDH research has provided convincing evidence that lack of access to affordable preventive measures or health care services is an important determinant social inequalities of health both between and within countries
- In a growing number of countries interventions have been put in place to provide care (health care) to support the most disadvantaged populations
- Yet, in spite of these policies health inequalities are not always becoming smaller. Sometimes they are even widening.
- With the available quantitative indicators, research instruments (questionnaires) it is not always easy to explain this
- Qualitative research may offer you a deeper understanding of factors



# Non-use of free condoms in Limpopo South Africa

- Condoms do not fit the relational norm of *ubuntu* (sharing) of love and bodily fluids
- (Oxlund 2009)



# Non-use of free contraceptives among teenage girls in Cameroon

- Girls are looking for a big fish
- And use pregnancy strategically
- Van der Sijpt, 2011



# Acceptability of HIV testing, Uganda

- Young people prefer routine testing
- When test done at home in 70% of the cases partners involved
- Young people prefer testing at home.
- Kinsman, 2011



# Acceptability of weight control in Nigeria

- Being big is the norm. It stands for wealth, affluence and beauty
- Loosing weight is associated with serious illness
- Odusola, 2014

## Place & Time

## Context

## Community Attributes

**Natural Environment**  
e.g. environmental contaminants

**Cultural Context**  
e.g. norms and values

**Political Context**  
e.g. public policies and laws

**Built Environment**  
e.g. housing, workplace

**Health Systems**  
e.g. structure

**Economic**  
e.g. employment, education

**Biological Characteristics**  
e.g. genetic make-up

**Social**  
e.g. cohesion, influence, networks, support

**Population Health**

**Population-based Health programs**  
e.g. water supply, public health programs

**Collective Lifestyles and Health Practices**  
e.g. diet, physical activity, smoking





# Implications for SDH research

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- Go beyond the standard determinants
- Hidden practices may help explain unexpected results of SDH interventions
- Use mixed methods