

# Rights Based Approaches to Public Health Systems

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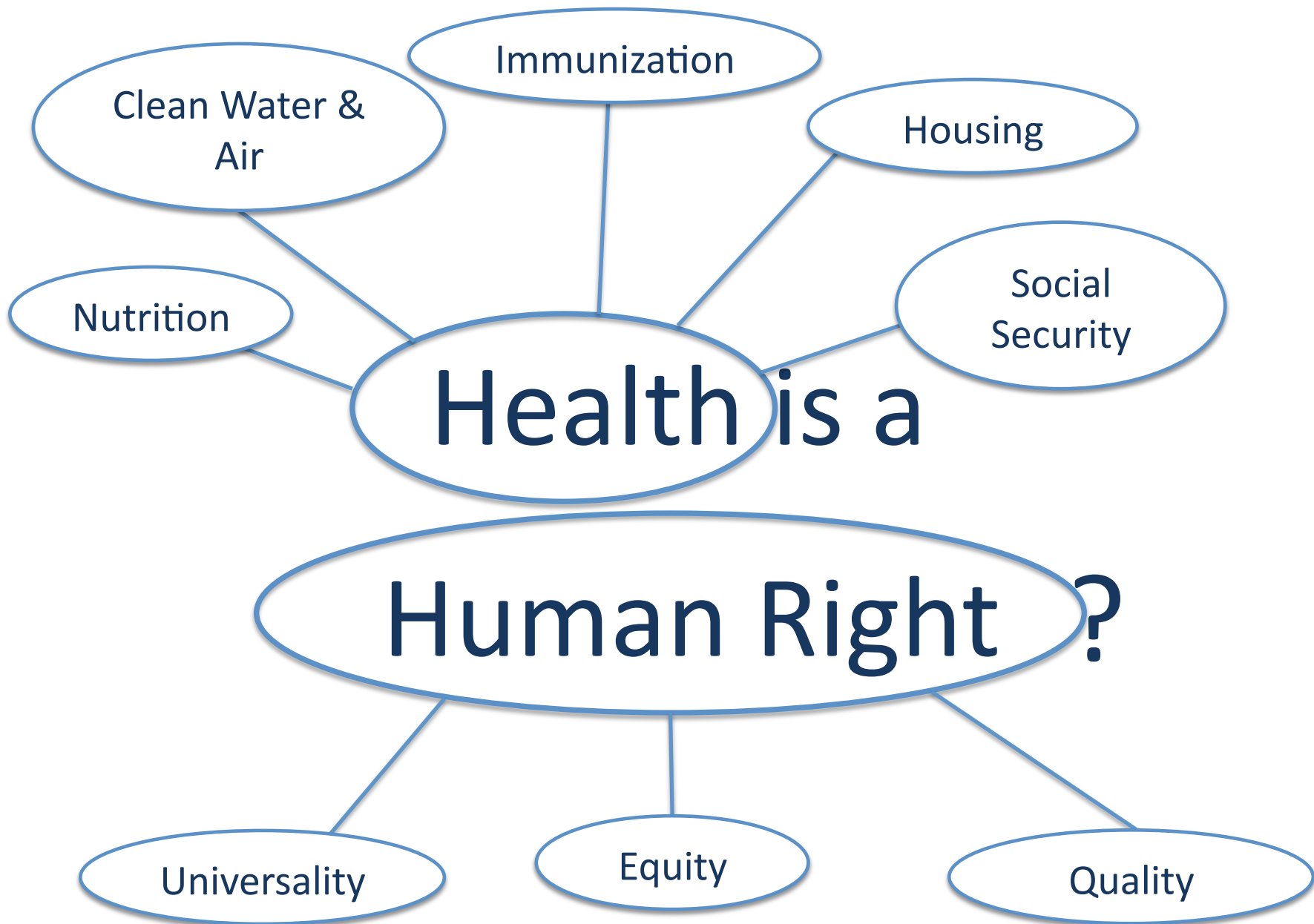
THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Virtue  
foundation



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASOKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

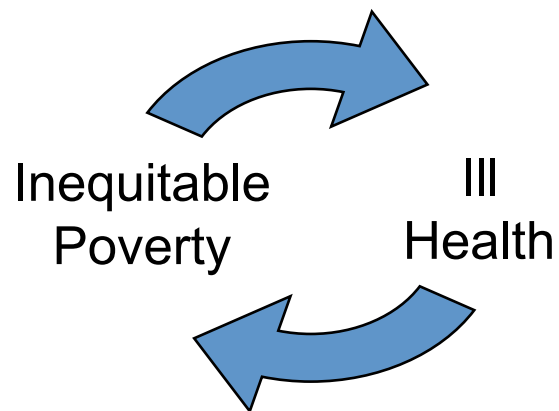


# Outline

1. Framework – Underlying Determinants of Health
2. Background – Health & Human Rights
3. Findings – Evolution of a Right to Underlying Determinants of Health
4. Analysis – A Rights-Based Approach to US Health Care Reform

# Underlying Determinants of Health

## Commission on Social Determinants of Health



- Poverty = Underlying Determinant of Health

### Underlying Determinant

**Poverty**



### Mechanisms

**Power**

**Money**

**Resources**

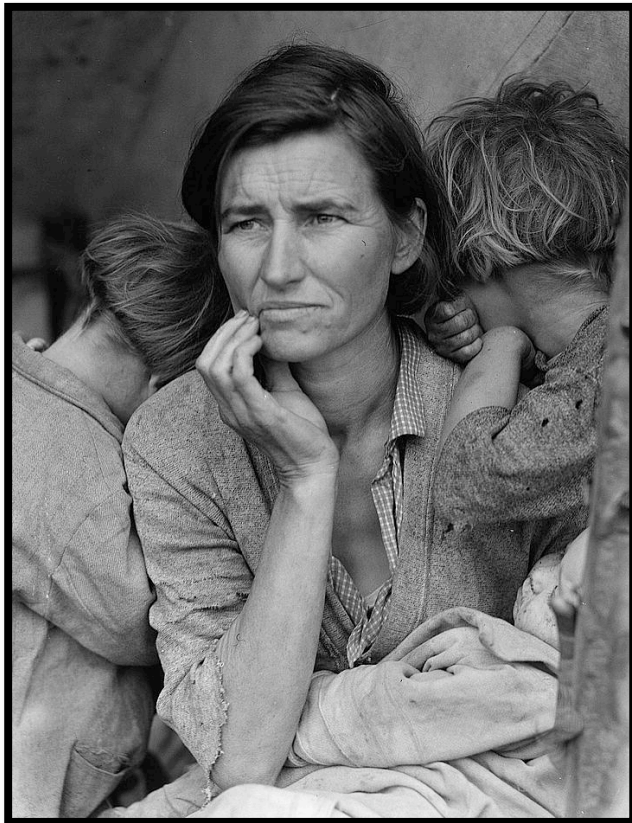


### Result

**Ill Health**

- Health Care Systems for the Public's Health

# Underlying Determinants of Health in America



- Pervasive Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health
- Health Care is Not Enough
- Social Safety Net



UDH

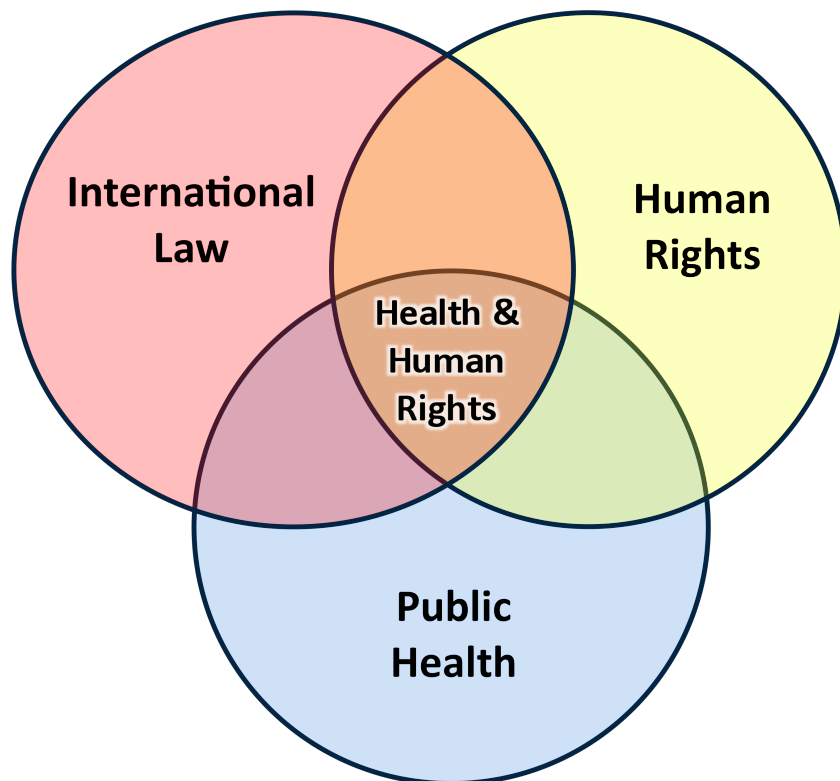


Public Health

- Economic Stimulus for Health

# Health & Human Rights

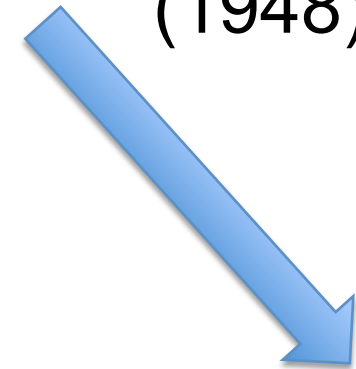
- **The Health & Human Rights Movement - A Right to Health**



- Human Rights Matter
- Human Rights Evolve
- Evolution of the Right to Health in International Law
- Right to Health for Underlying Determinants of Health

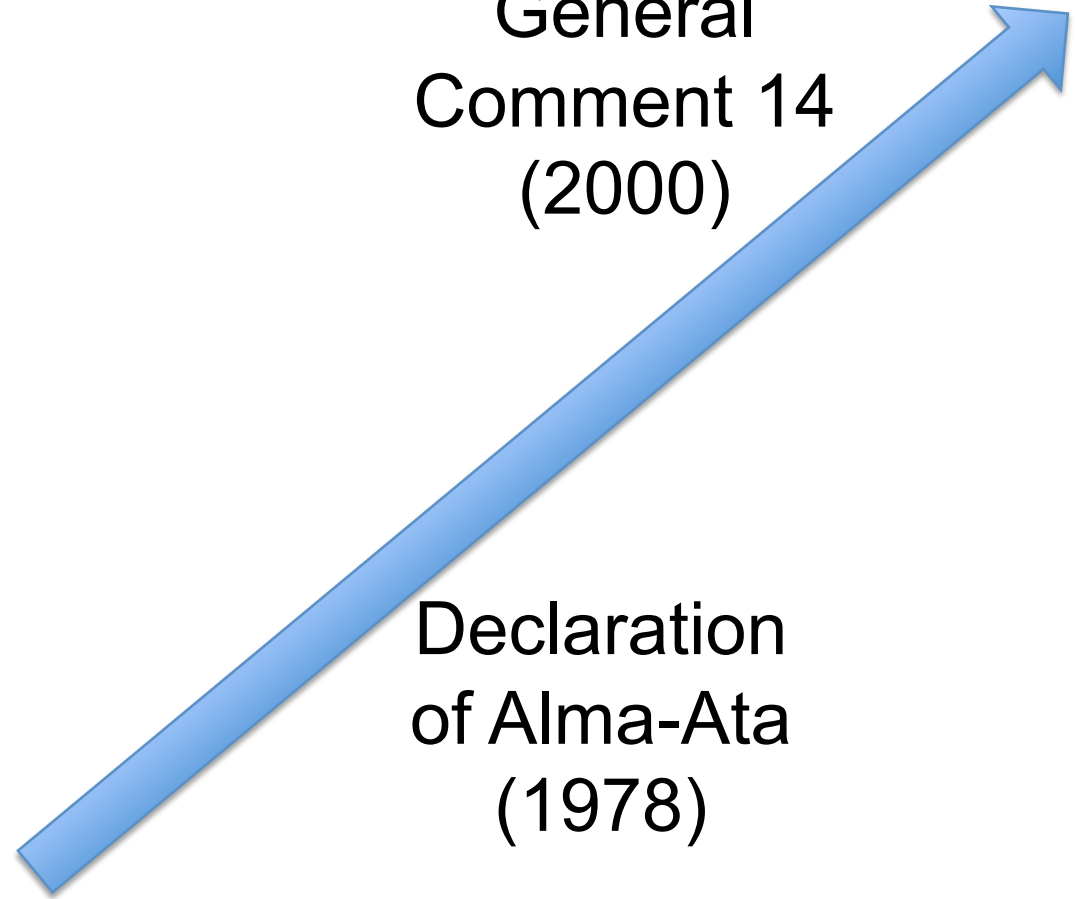
# Evolution of the Right to Health

Universal  
Declaration of  
Human Rights  
(1948)



Int'l Covenant on  
Economic, Social &  
Cultural Rights (1966)

General  
Comment 14  
(2000)



Declaration  
of Alma-Ata  
(1978)

# Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Second World War



Four Freedoms



UN Charter



WHO Constitution



**UDHR**

- Article 25
  - medical care
  - underlying determinants of health

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services...”





# ICESCR – Codifying a Right to Health

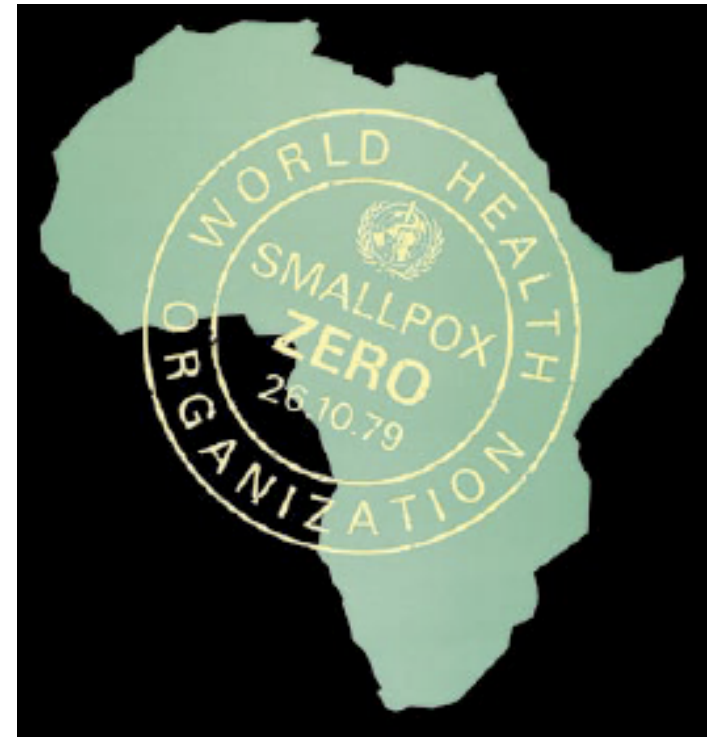
## UN General Assembly Debate

- Abandonment of “complete” health
- Neglect of Underlying Determinants of Health
  - Nutrition
  - Housing
  - Health promotion
  - Social services



# Transitions to Public Health

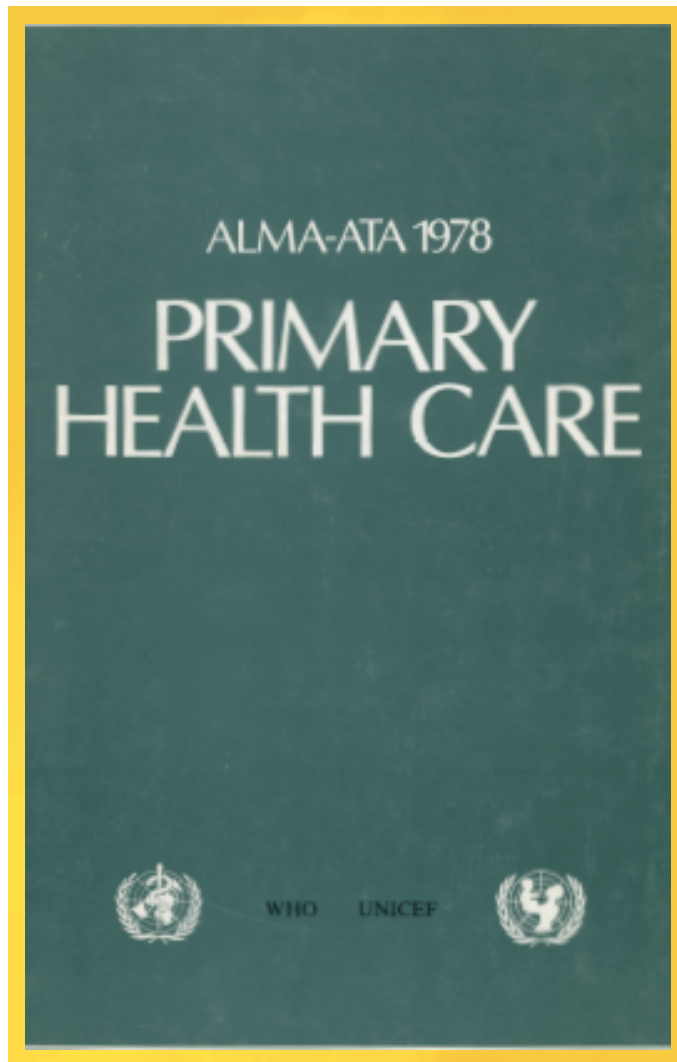
- From Public Health to Medicine and Back Again
  - Curative medicine
  - Underlying determinants of health
  - Primary health care
- From Public Health Discourses to Human Rights Obligations



# Declaration of Alma-Ata

## International Conference on Primary Health Care

- Culmination of Rights-Based Approach to Underlying Determinants
- WHO definition of “complete” health



health—which is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity—is a fundamental human right [that] requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector.

# An Evolving Right to Health

## General Comment 14 (2000)

“not only to timely and appropriate health care but also to the underlying determinants of health, such as access to safe and potable water and adequate sanitation, an adequate supply of safe food, nutrition and housing, healthy occupational and environmental conditions, and access to health-related education and information, including on sexual and reproductive health.”

- Obligations for *Public Health Systems*
- Underlying Determinants of Health through Primary Health Care
- AAAQ
  - **Availability**
  - **Accessibility**
  - **Acceptability**
  - **Quality**

# A Rights-Based Approach to Health System Reform

- A Right to Underlying Determinants of Health
- A Duty to:
  - Respect
  - Protect
  - Fulfill
- Public Health Approach to Health Care Reform
  - **A** - Universality & Equity
  - **A** - Private vs. Public
  - **A** - Integration of Prevention & Care
  - **Q** - Evidence-based Evaluation

# Health **is** a Human Right



Americans Speak on Health Reform:  
Report on Health Care  
Community Discussions



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