

CONCEPT  
EXPLAINER

WHAT IS

# Proportionate Universalism

swipe



# Proportionate universalism

01

describes actions or interventions that are implemented for the whole population but with a **scale** and **intensity**, proportionate to the degree of need. In the context of health inequalities, it acknowledges that while everyone should have access to health services, some groups need additional support due to greater disadvantages.



# The principle stems 02 from the observation

that health inequalities are *gradient-based*. It is about balancing **universal services** with **targeted support**. To level up the gradient, programs and policies must include a range of responses for different levels of disadvantage experienced within the population.



# Proportionate universalism

01

aims to improve the health of the whole population, across the social gradient, while simultaneously improving the health of the most disadvantaged fastest. For example, while all citizens have access to preventative services like vaccinations or screening programs, additional resources, support and attention are directed toward more vulnerable communities.

swipe



# In addressing the social determinants

02

of health proportionately, this approach aims to reduce health inequalities without leaving anyone behind. It ensures that public health interventions are effectively reaching those who need them most, fostering both equity and fairness.



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**Thanks for  
reading**

*Next time:  
**deprivation  
amplification***

react and share

