



# Socio-economic Influences on Health in the CIS

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## Methodological notions

Societal transformation in former USSR societies

**GOALS** ———→ **PROCESSES** ———→ **OUTCOMES** \ Social cost

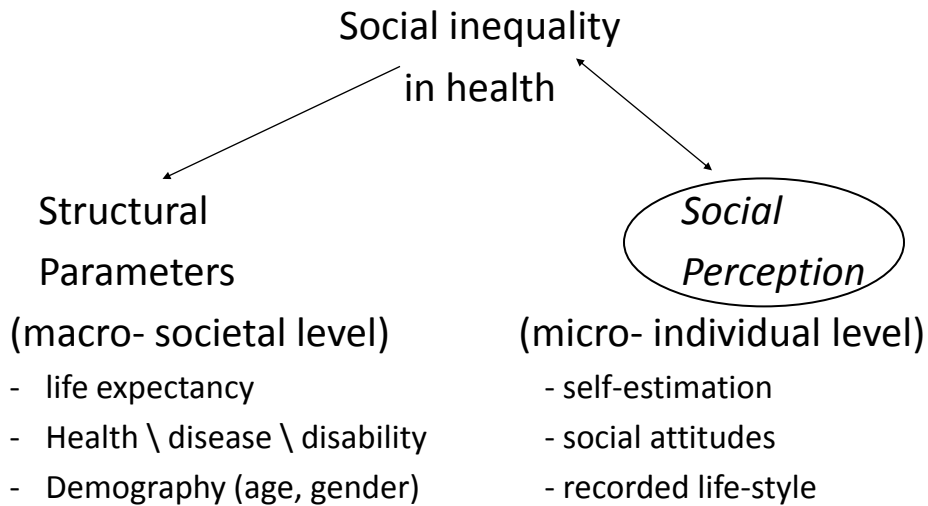
Modernization of economy, politics, quality of life

- Path dependence
- State modernization
- Institutional change
- Structural change
- Cultural shifts

**Human development**

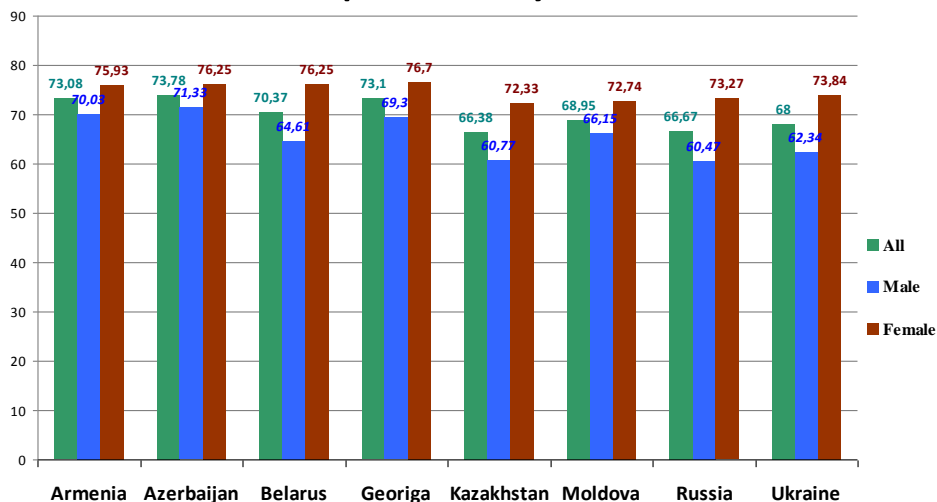
- Health
- Inequalities
- Subjective well-being
- Social integration \ solidarity
- Education, life chances
- Attitudes toward future

## Basic Assumptions



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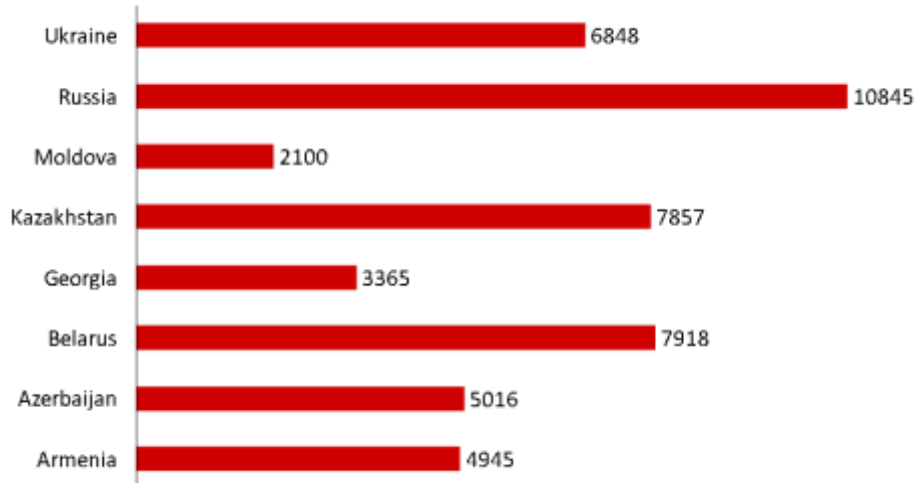
## Life Expectancy at Birth



(Source: World Health Organisation 2008)

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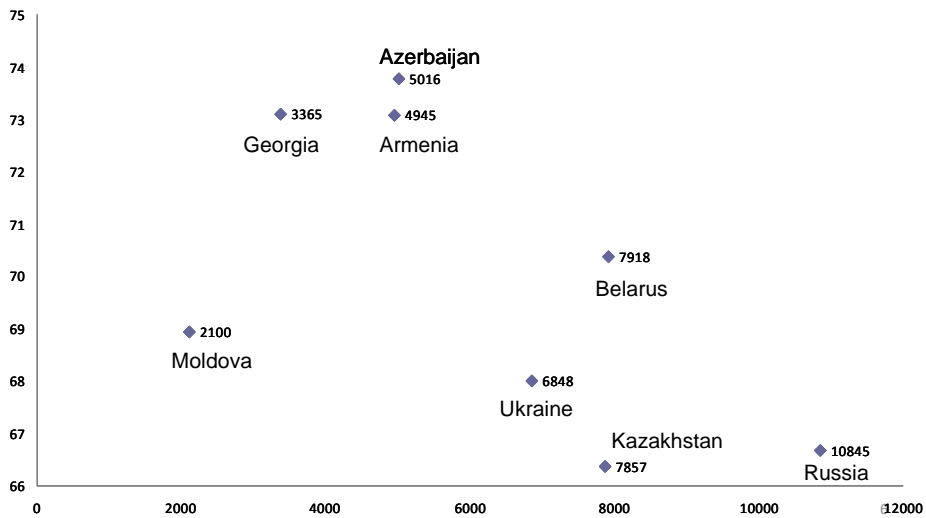
## GDP Per Capita PPP \$



(Source: World Health Organisation 2008)

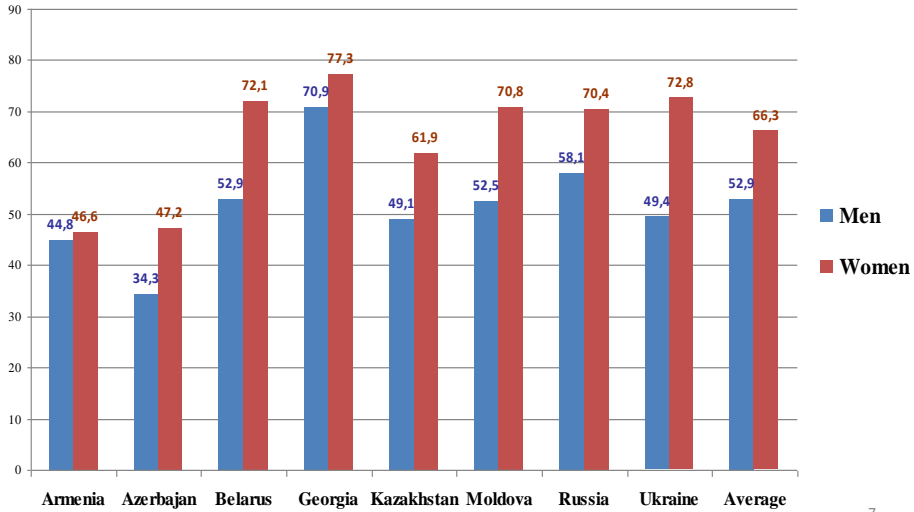
## GDP and Life Expectancy at Birth

(Source: World Health Organisation 2008)





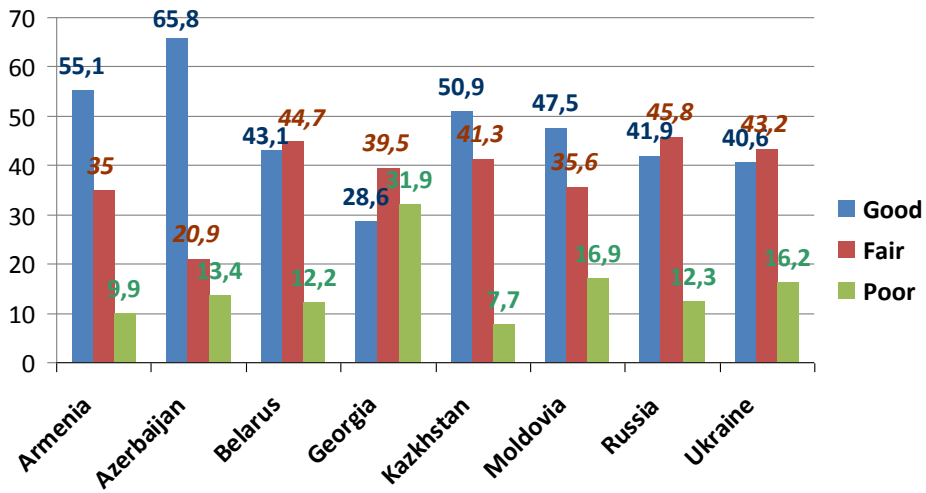
## Less than Good Health HITT Data 2010



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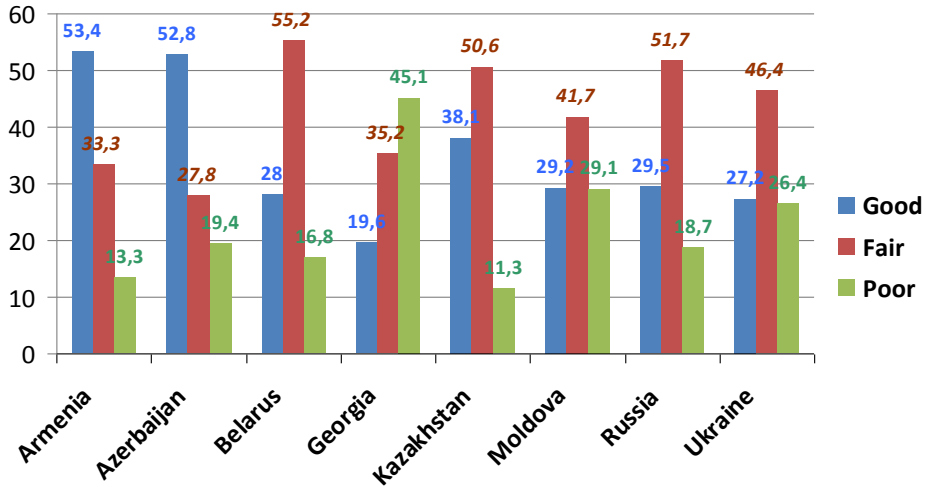
## Subjective Health - Men



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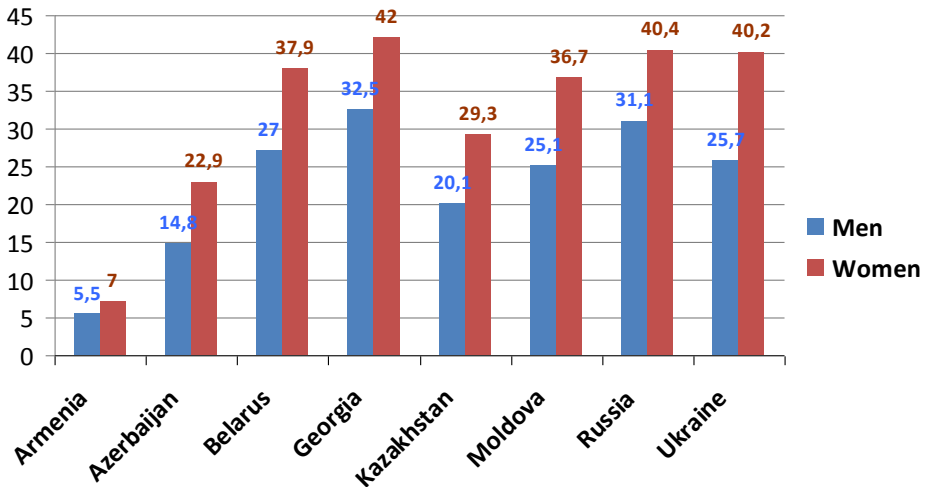
## Subjective Health - Women



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## Health Problem



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## Psychological Health

Country	Mean All	Standard Deviation	Mean Women	Standard Deviation	Mean Men	Standard Deviation
Armenia	24.2	3.5	24.0	3.6	24.5	3.4
Azerbaijan	25.2	3.0	24.7	3.3	25.8	2.7
Belarus	23.9	3.4	23.4	3.5	24.6	3.2
Georgia	23.6	3.8	23.2	3.9	24.3	3.5
Kazakhstan	24.9	2.9	24.6	3.1	25.3	2.7
Moldova	23.4	3.7	22.8	3.8	24.2	3.4
Russia	24.7	3.2	24.3	3.3	25.2	3.0
Ukraine	24.0	3.5	23.4	3.7	24.8	3.1



## Measures of Health- Dependent Variables

- **Subjective Health** ( 1 = VG, 2 = G, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = VP)
- **Psychological Distress** (Q 28 1 – 14 – 14 = high psychological distress and 28 = low psychological distress ( CA = .77)
- **Health Problem** – 1 = yes 2 =no



## Correlation Between Measures of Health

	Subjective Health	Health Problem	Psychological Distress
Subjective Health	-----	.51**	-.44**
Health Problems	.51**	-----	.33
Psychological Distress	-.44	.33	-----

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## Social and Economic Factors Influencing Health

1. Control variables – age, gender
2. Economic variables - household income
  - Household Financial Situation 1 = Very Good, 5 = Very Bad
  - Unable to Afford Basic Food 1 – always
3. Social variables – measurers of social capital
  - General Trust - 10 point scale 1 = Low, 10 = High
  - Married – 0 = M/C 1 = other
  - Social resource – Scale computed from Q128 5 = high, 10 = low. CA = .86
  - Active in organisation 0 = Yes 1 = No

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## Influences on Subjective Health

	M 1		M2		M3	
	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE
Gender	.11***	.01	.09***	.01	.09***	.01
Age	.51***	.00	.44***	.00	.44***	.00
HH Finance			.24***	.01	.23***	.01
Lack Food			-.06***	.01	-.06***	.01
Social Resource					-.03***	.01
Married					NS	
Active Org.					NS	
Trust					-.05***	.00
Meet Friends					-.05***	.00
R2	.280		.347		.351	



## Influences on Having a Health Problem

	M1		M2		M3	
	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE
Gender	-.46***	.04	-.42***	.04	-.38***	.04
Age	-.06***	.00	-.05***	.00	-.05***	.00
HH Finance			-.42***	.03	-.40***	.03
Lack Food			NS		NS	
Social Resource					.11***	.02
Married					-.18***	.05
Active Org.					.39***	.08
Trust					.04***	.01
Meet Friends					.08***	.01
R2	.234		.254		.264	



## Influences on Psychological Health

	M1		M2		M3	
	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE
Gender	-.13***	.06	-.12***	.06	-.11***	.06
Age	-.24***	.00	-.18***	.00	-.19***	.00
HH Finance			-.20***	.04	-.17***	.04
Lack Food			.09***	.05	.07***	.05
Social Resource					-.09***	.03
Married					-.07***	.06
Active Org.					.03***	.11
Trust					.11***	.01
Meet Friends					.04***	.02
R2	.081		.136		.163	



## Discussion

- Age and gender major determinants of health with age being the main one for subjective health and gender for having a health problem. Explains less of the variance for psychological distress with age being more important than gender.
- When economic variables are added household finance makes a strong and significant contribution suggesting a linear relationship. Lack of basic food (as a indicator of absolute poverty) makes a significant but less strong contribution to the variance explained.
- Social capital variables make a modest contribution and make a stronger contribution in influencing psychological distress and having a health problem than subjective health.

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