

# **Health Equity: where have we got to now?**

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**Evaluating equity in health care:  
regional and international experiences**

Bologna, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Definition of health inequities:

**Avoidable and unfair differences**

Two areas in which  
health inequities can arise:

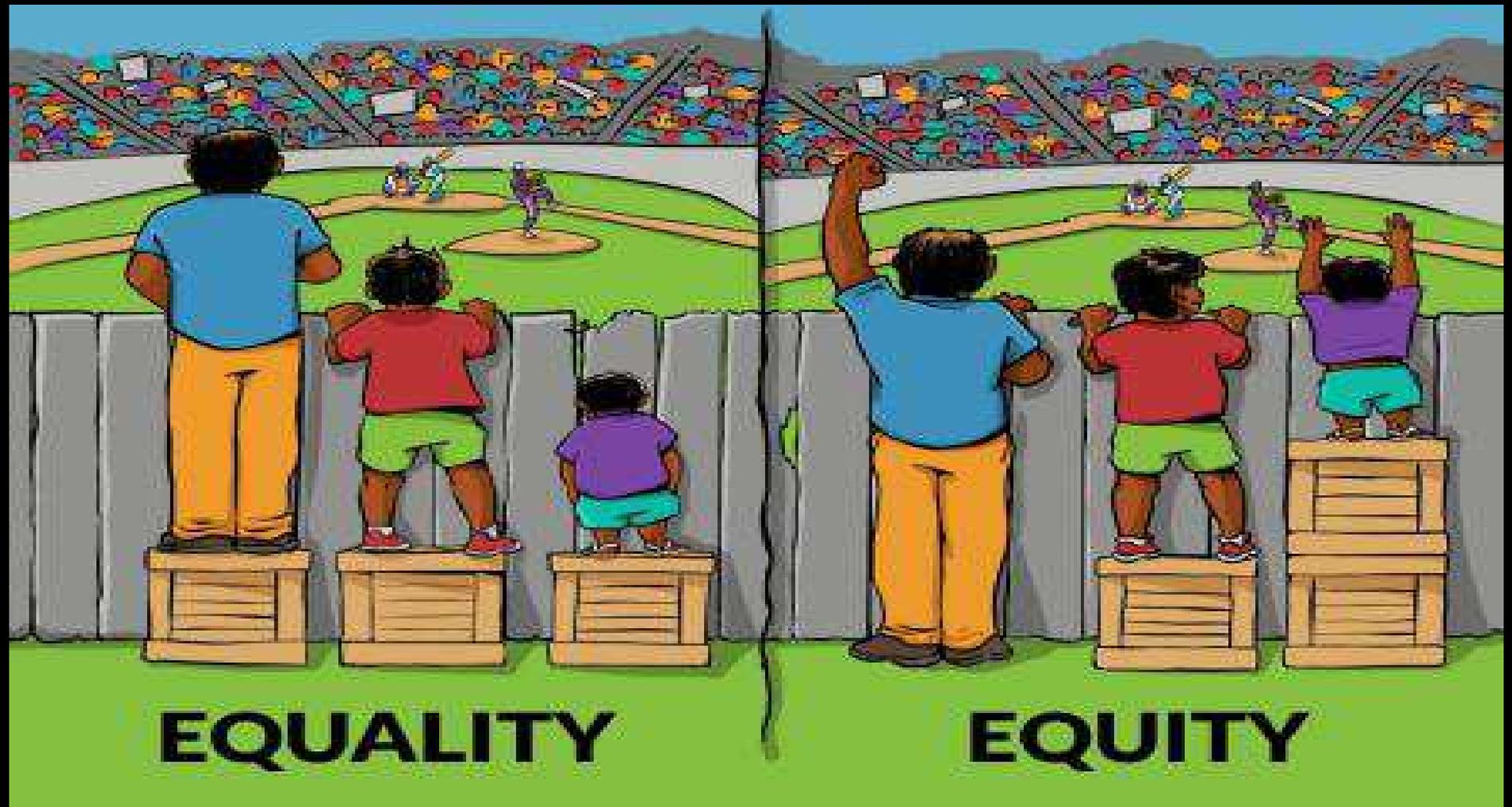
- In **state of health**
- In **health service provision**

# Different ways of labelling work on health inequities

## 1. In terms of **differences**:

Inequalities, disparities, gaps, diversity, 'person-centred care'.

# Achieving equity sometimes means creating inequalities



# Different ways of labelling work on health inequities

## 2. In terms of **target groups**:

Ethnic minorities, migrants, non-citizens, foreigners, Roma, “culturally and linguistically diverse” (CALD) groups [Australia], “Black and minority ethnic” (BME) groups [UK]; race, class, socio-economic position (SEP); sex, gender, women, children, the elderly, LGBTBI groups, etc.

# Different ways of labelling work on health inequities

## 3. In terms of **indicators of need**:

Frail, vulnerable, disadvantaged, disabled, underprivileged, marginalised, socially excluded, underserved

# Different ways of labelling work on health inequities

4. In terms of **presumed mediating variables:**

Culture, ethnicity, health literacy, genetic variations

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**The elderly, vulnerable, disadvantaged, disabled, underprivileged, marginalised, underserved; culture, ethnicity, health literacy, genetic variations.**

**Inequalities, disparities, gaps, diversity, 'person-centred care'; ethnic minorities, migrants, non-citizens, foreigners, Roma, CALD groups, BME groups; race, class, socio-economic position, sex, gender, LGBTI groups.**

# Advantages of grouping together all work on health equity

- encourages **intersectional** approach



**JOINT ACTION**

**HEALTH EQUITY EUROPE**



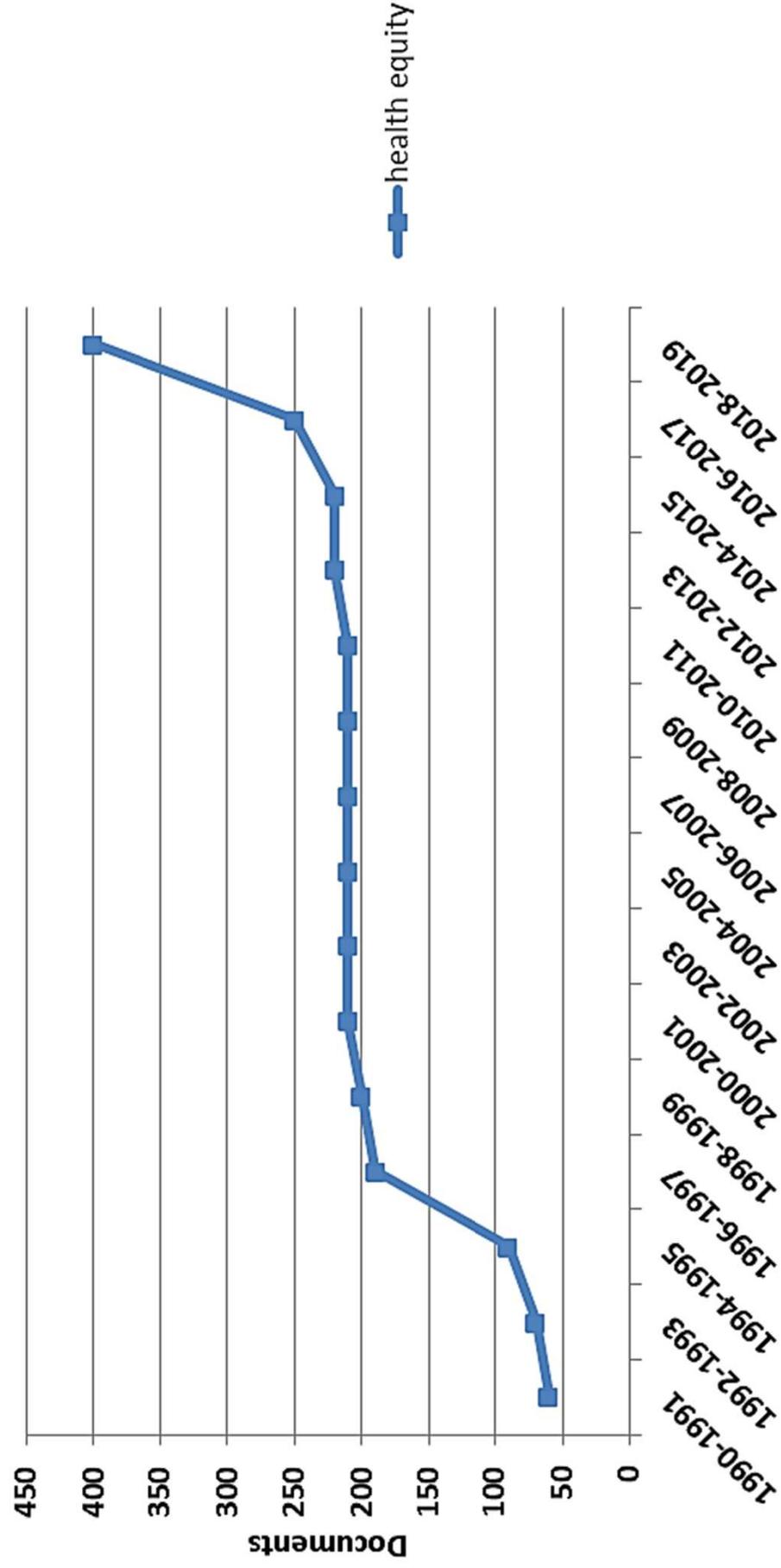
# Advantages of grouping together all work on health equity

- encourages **intersectional** approach
- brings together **upstream** and **downstream** work

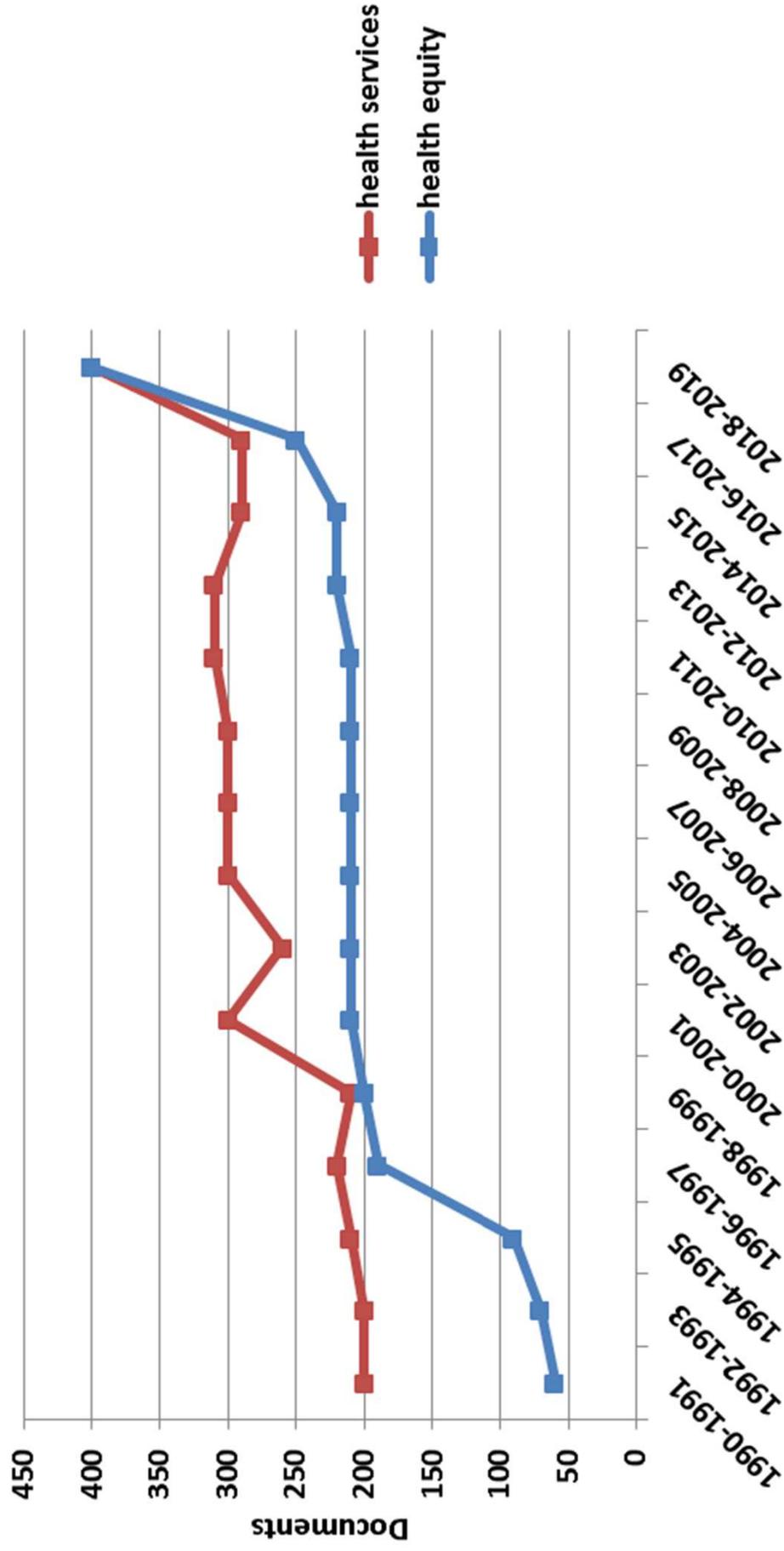
"Why treat people and send them back to the conditions that made them sick?"

Michael Marmot, 2004

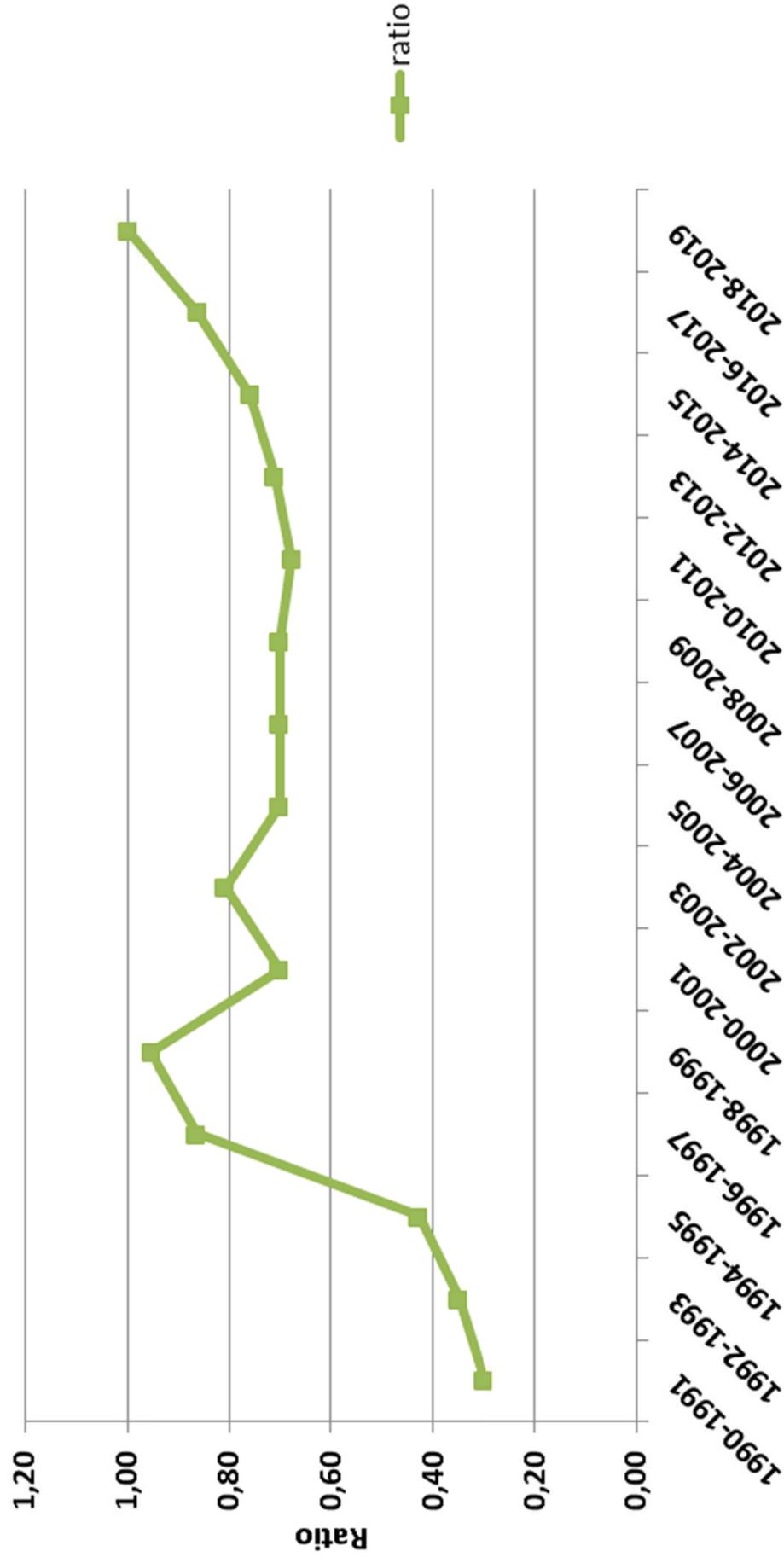
# Number of documents containing "health equity" 1990-2019



## Number of documents containing "health equity" and number containing "health services", 1990-2019



## Ratio of documents containing "health equity" to documents containing "health services", 1990-2019



# **Changing strategies for promoting health equity since World War 2**

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

- *Martin Luther King Jr., 1966*



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- Adaptations seen as a matter of understanding “cultural competence”, not the social situation of minorities
- Overcoming language barriers
- Developing **organisational** competence (CLAS standards, 2000)