

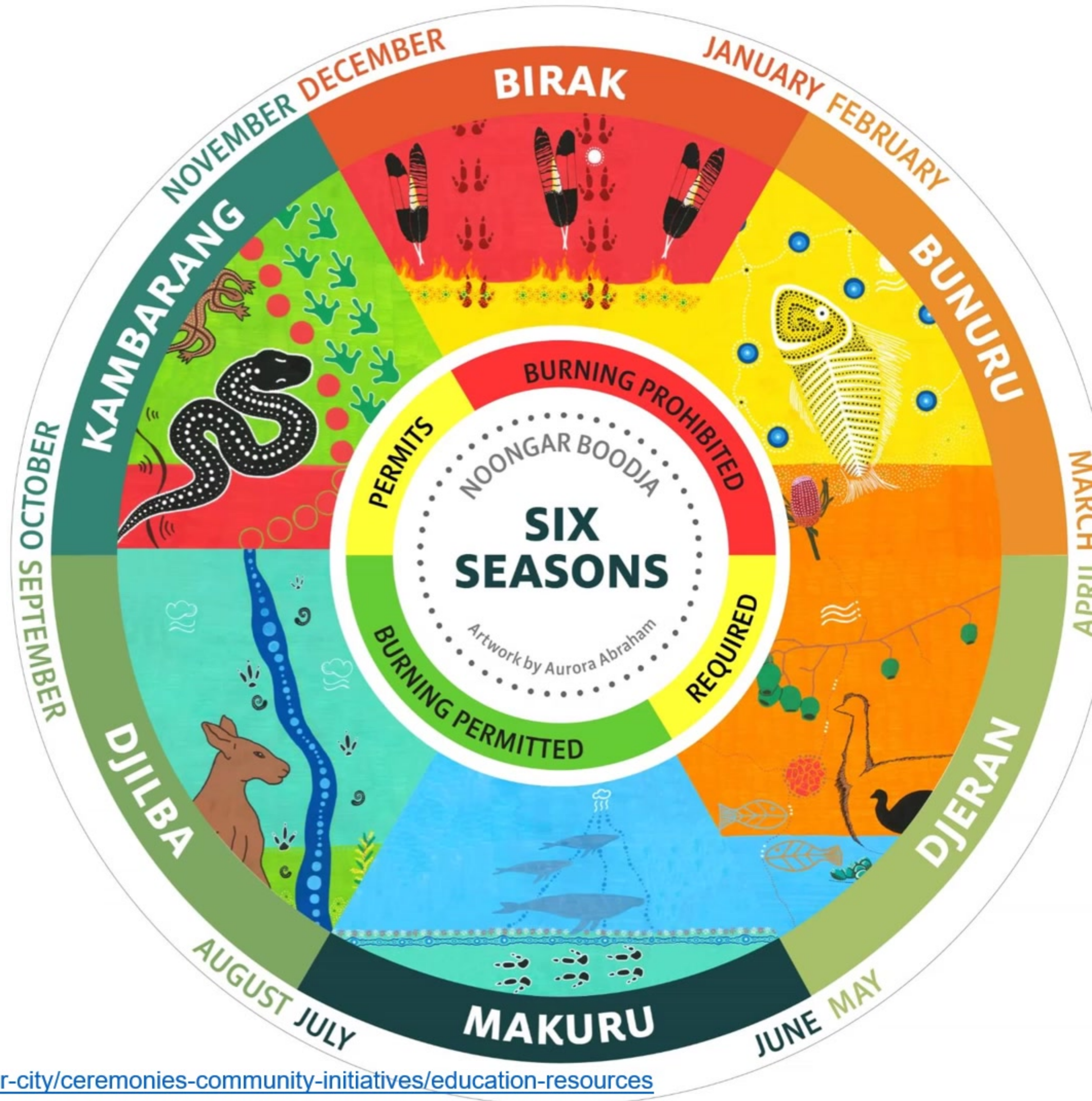
Oral Health Inequalities



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Acknowledgement of country

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Whadjuk Noongar people, in whose land, I have recorded this lecture and pay my respects to elder's past, present and emerging. Including to all those with Indigenous heritage who are listening to this recording.



Learning outcomes

- Understand the concept of oral health inequalities/inequities and its relevance to dental practice.
- What factors are associated with equitable oral health– the unifying framework.
- Inequitable burden of oral diseases in Australia.
- Knowing a population framework to tackle oral health inequalities.
- Understanding the practice of social dentistry and the role of a dental health professional in providing equitable oral health service.





Synopsis



1. What are oral health inequalities?
2. What are the determinants of oral health?
3. Relationship between social/ structural determinants and oral health inequities?
4. How does existing determinants that impact oral health/service use?
5. Inequitable burden of oral diseases in Australia.
6. Understanding equitable approaches in managing and preventing oral disease and promoting oral health – population level (Ottawa Charter)
7. Adopting practice of social dentistry – dental practice level

1. Health inequalities vs health inequities

– What's the difference?



HEALTH INEQUALITIES

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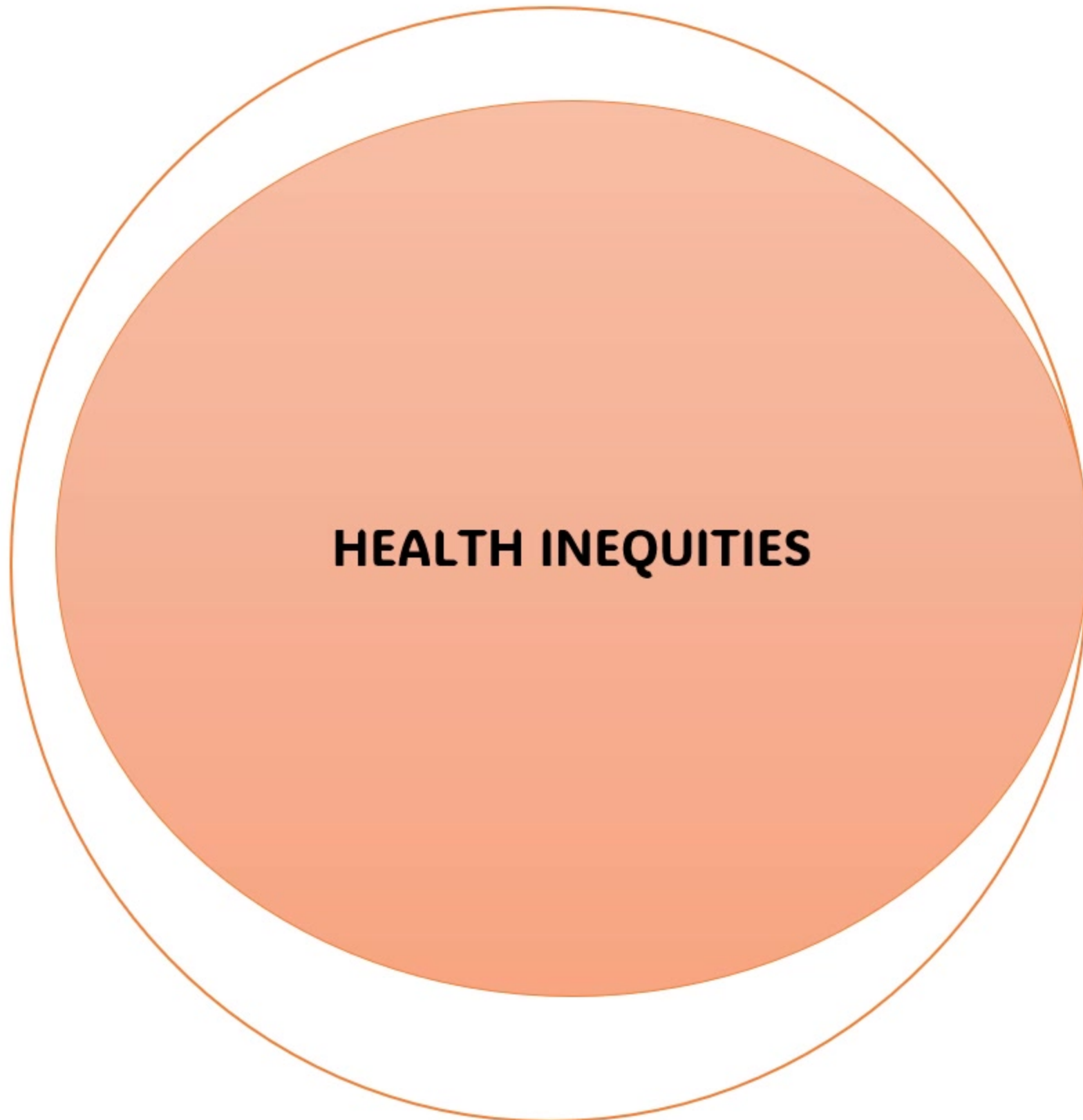
Absolute uneven differences in health outcomes/
burden of disease between different population groups
or communities

HEALTH INEQUITIES

- Subset of inequalities.
- Disparities in metrics of health outcomes due to avoidable differences in social, economic, geographical or healthcare resources that are unfair and unjust

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– What's the difference?



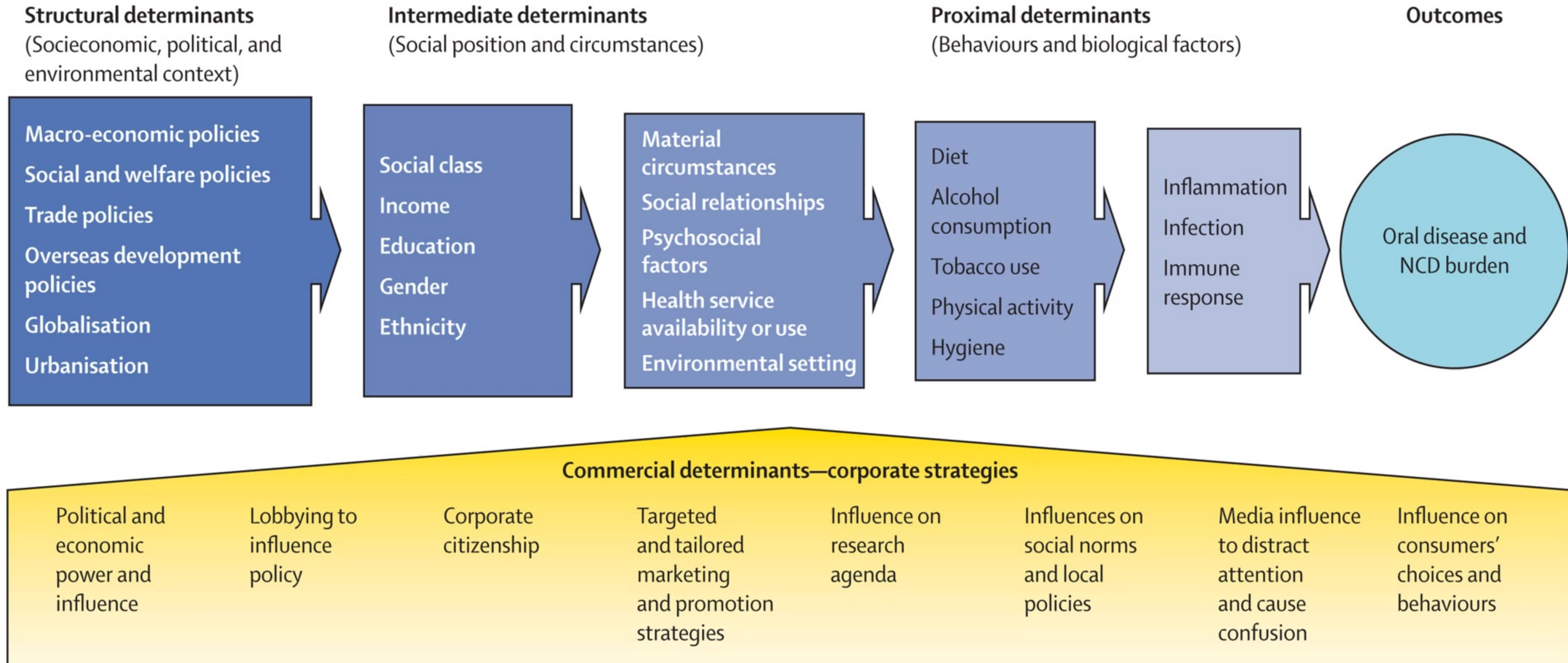
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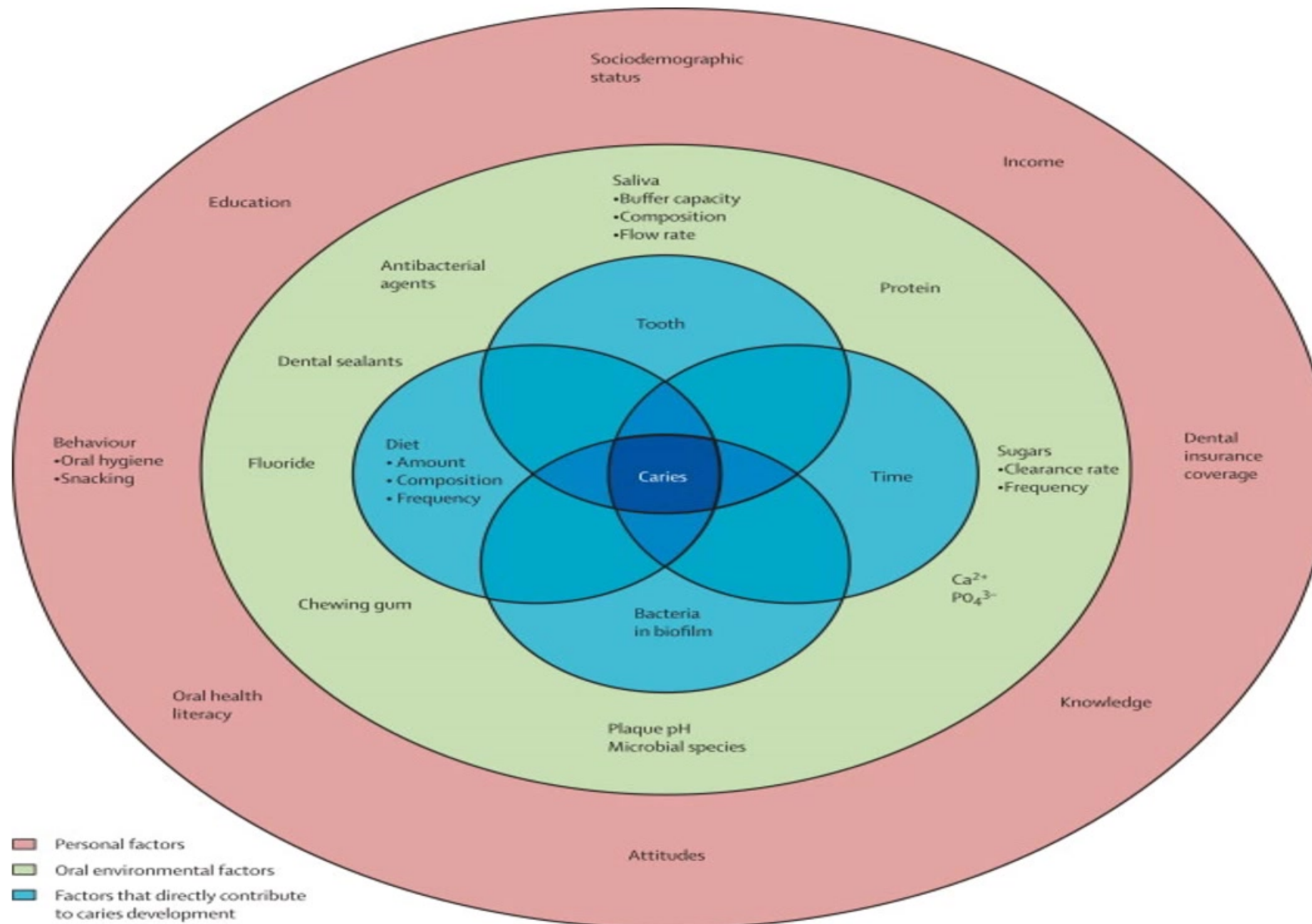
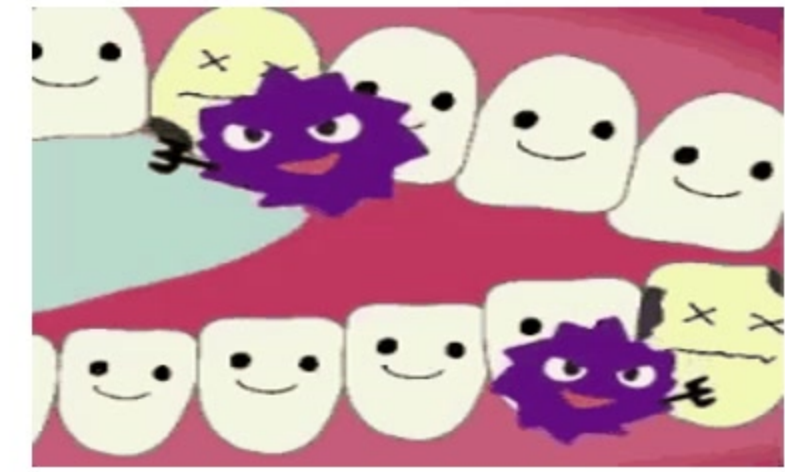
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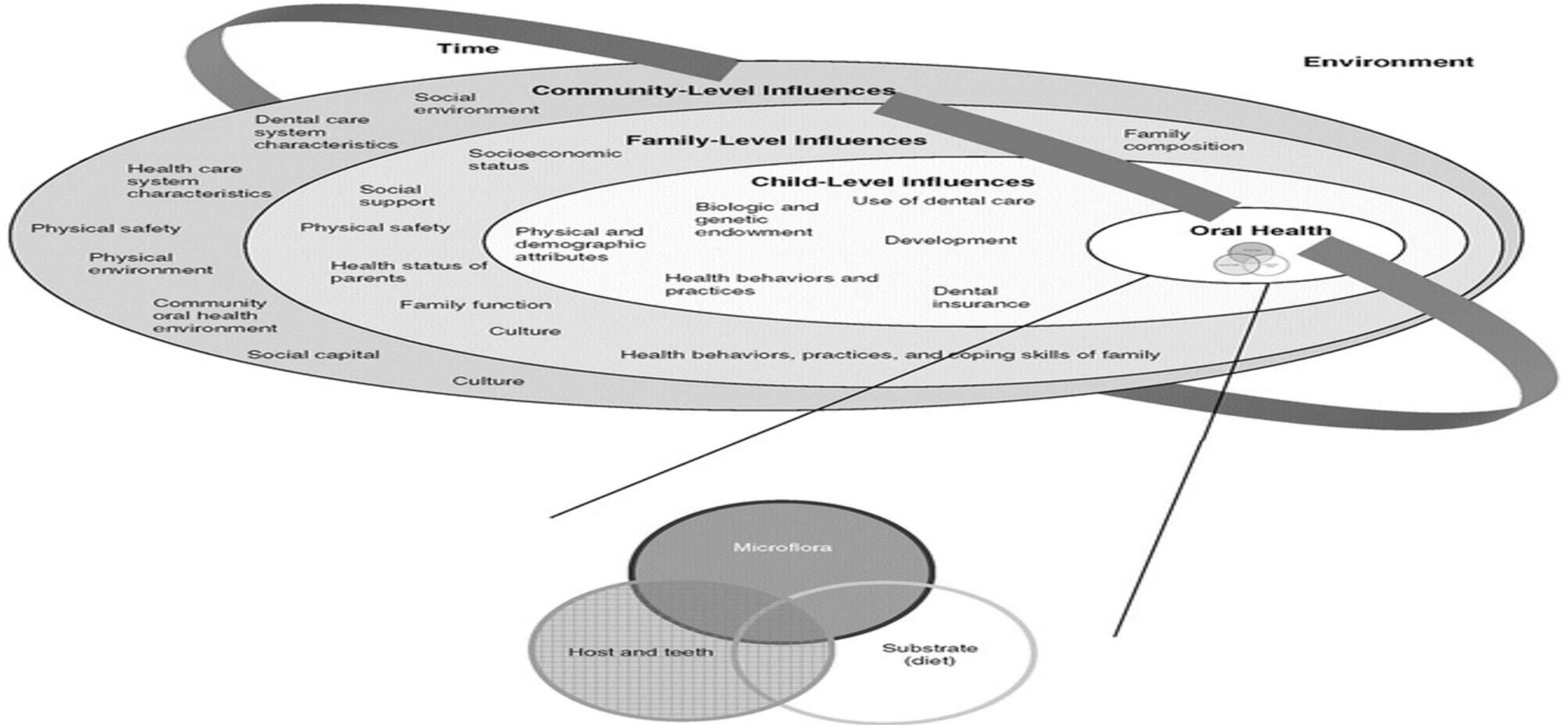
2. Determinants of oral disease



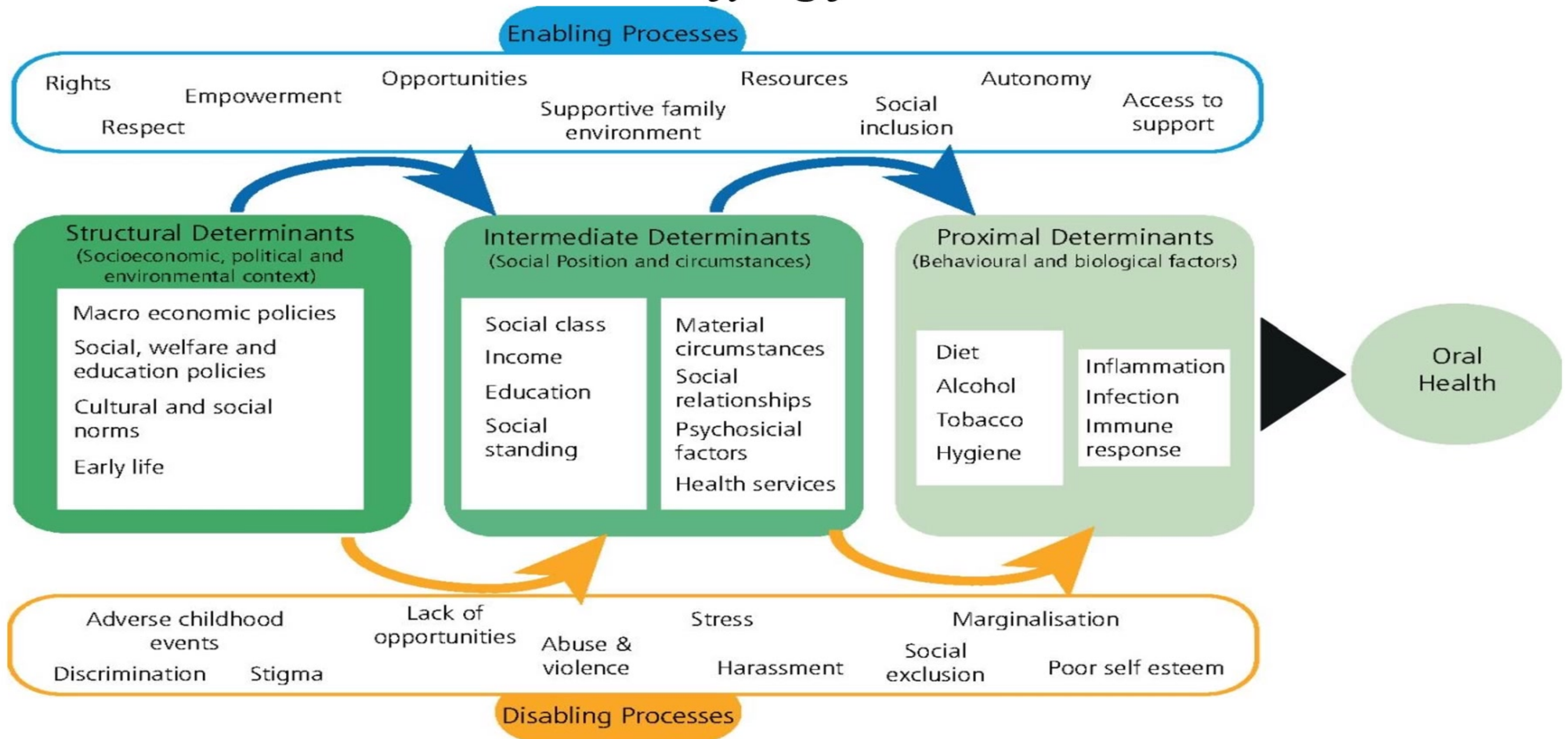
Dental caries – Keyes triad- Does it explain everything??



Social determinants of oral health



3. What has this got to do with oral health equity/inequity? – The unifying framework



4. Factors that influence access to dental services

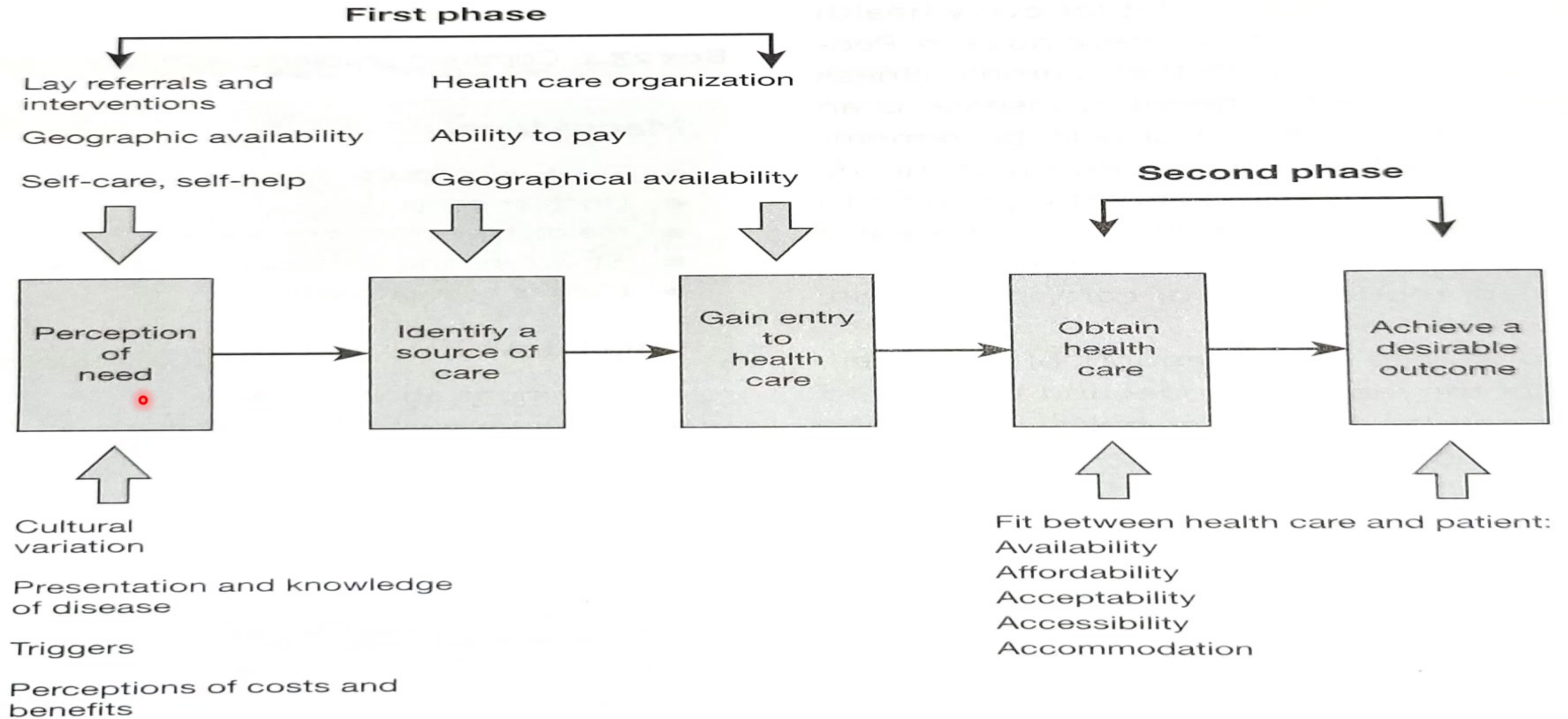
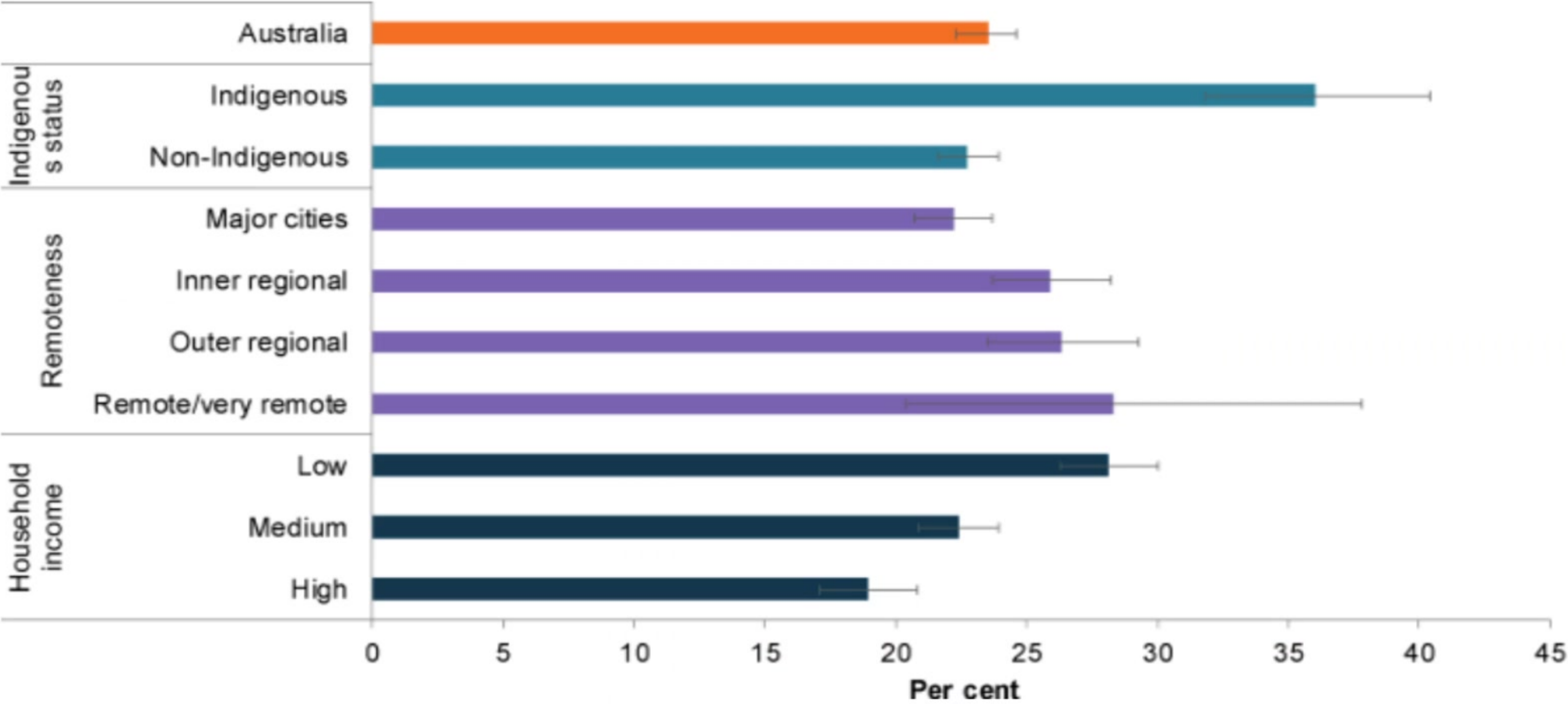


Figure 2: Proportion of children aged 6–14 who have experienced decay in permanent teeth by selected population groups, 2012–14



Source: National Child Oral Health Study 2012–14, published in Ha et al. 2016.

Who bears the cost for dental care?

In 2011-12, individuals were responsible for 57% of the total cost of dental care compared with only 12% of the cost of all other health services (Figure 5).⁴⁶

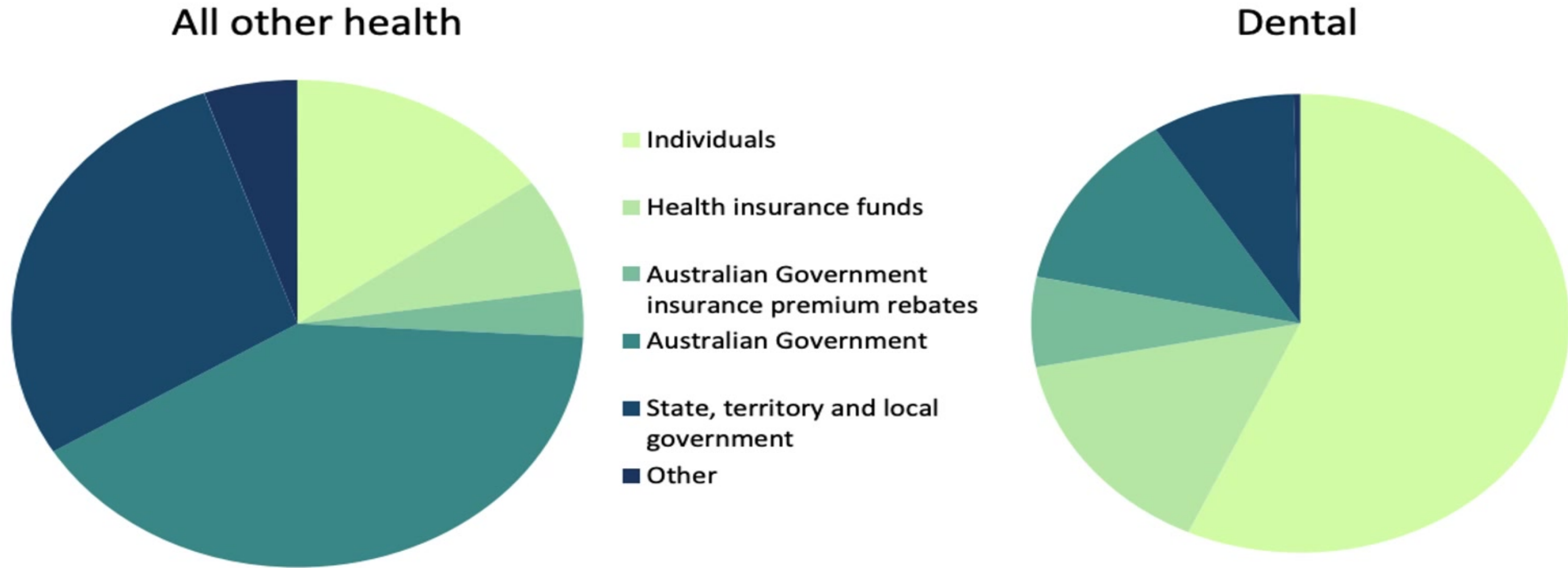
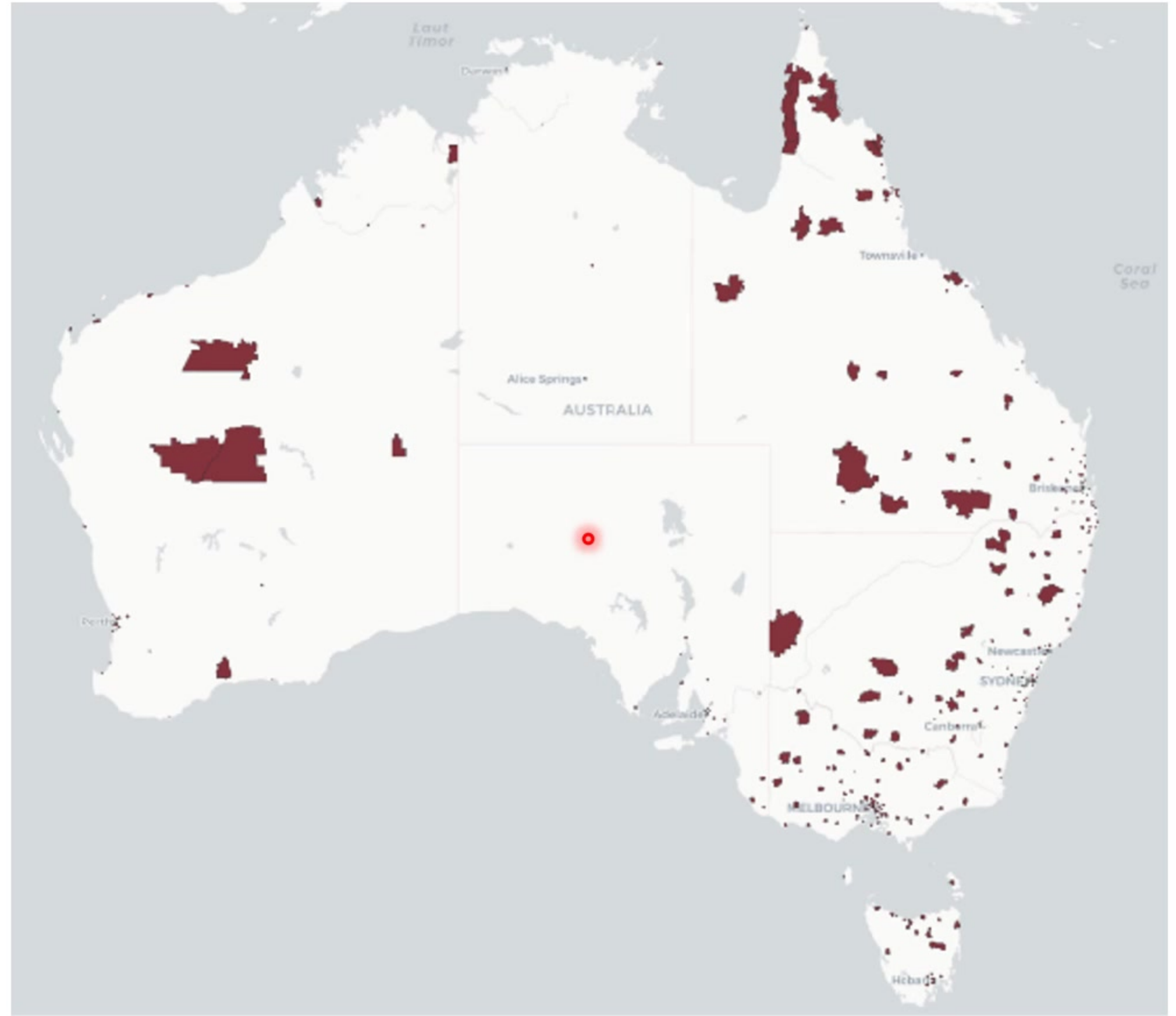


Figure 5: Total expenditure by source⁴⁶

Distribution of adult public dental services— Australia



Source: Parliamentary Library using Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2016 (ASGS 2016) spatial unit State Suburb (SSC 2016) and National Map.

Inequalities in oral health care eventually lead higher preventable hospitalisations

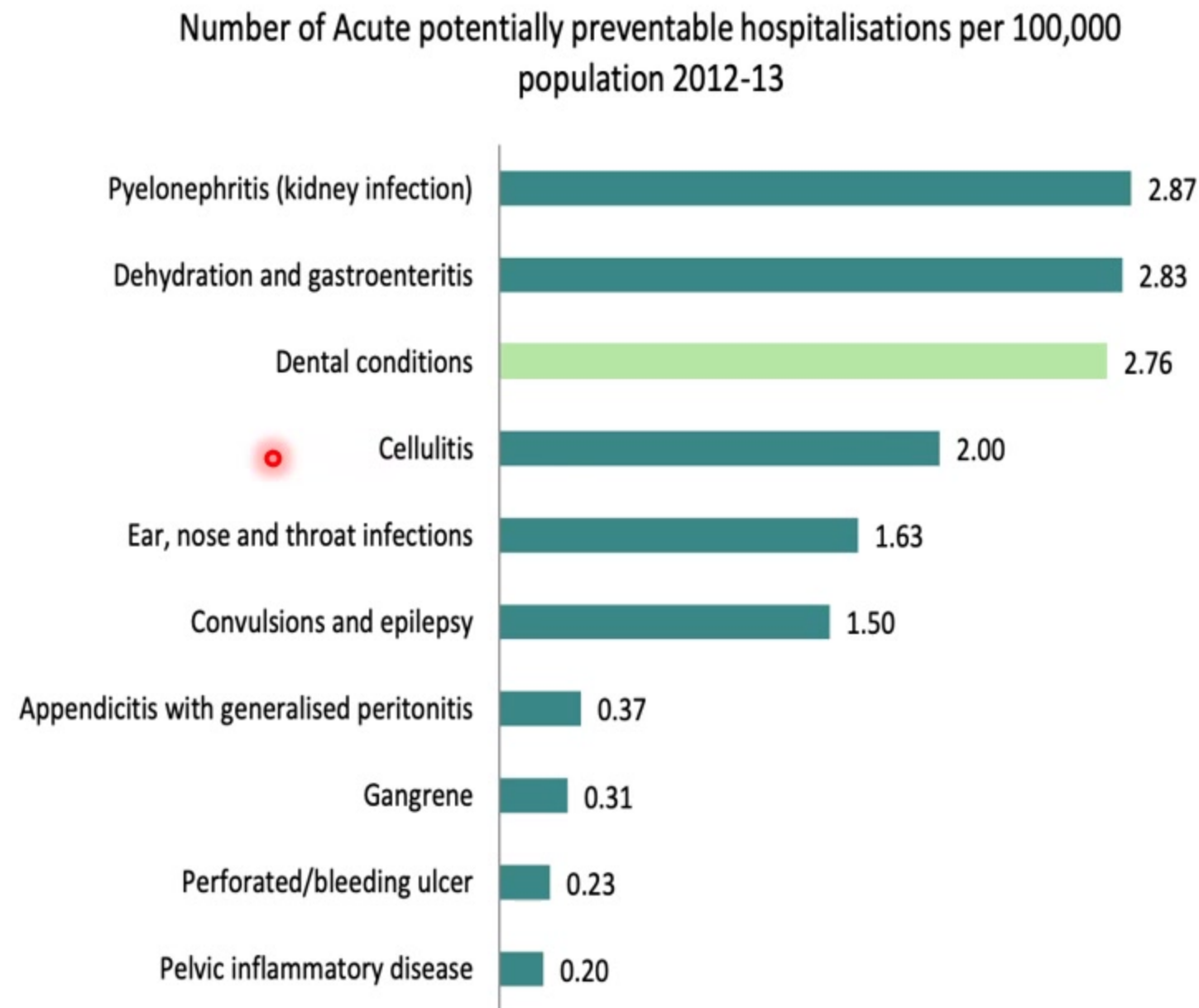
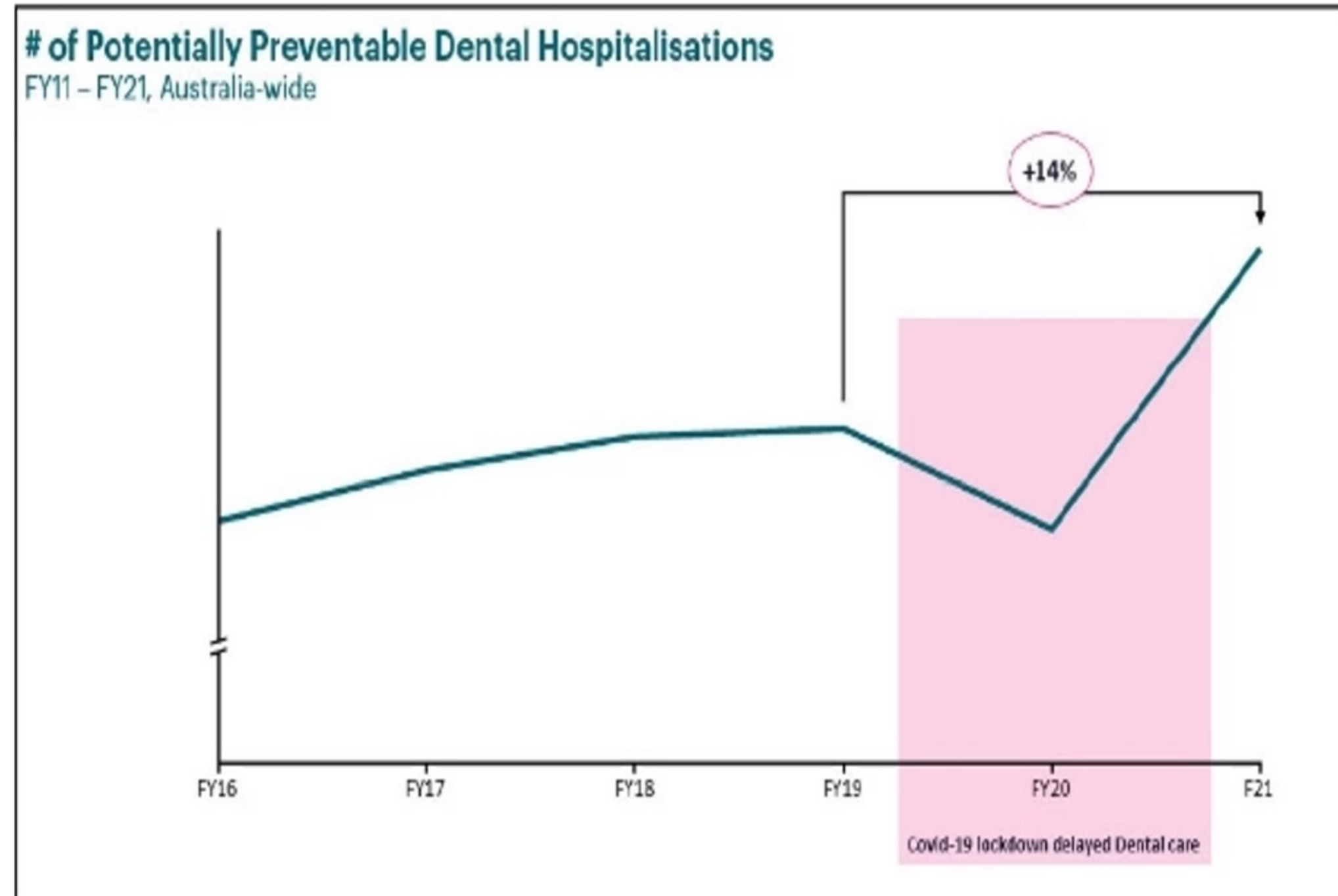


Figure 6: Number of acute PPH separations per 100,000 population²

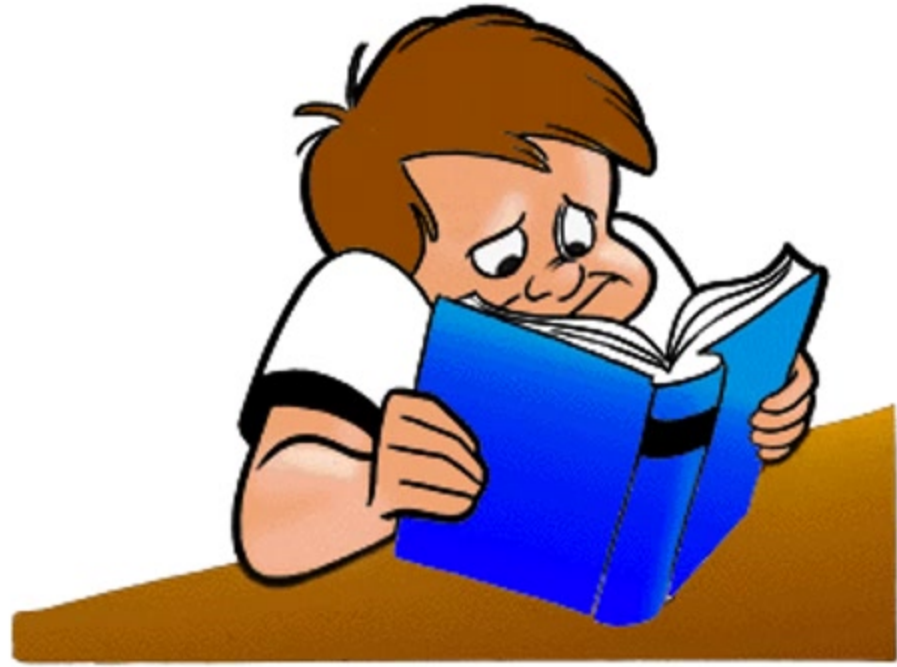


Source: Government of Australia. Healthy Mouths Healthy Lives - AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH PLAN 2015 - 2024. Adelaide; 2016.

Parliament of Australia, Senate enquiry 2023-24:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Dental_Services_in_Australia/DentalServices/Final_report/Chapter_2_-_A_system_in_decay

Lets revise..



- 1. What are inequalities vs inequities.*
- 2. Social determinants of oral health*
- 3. Barriers and enablers for oral health equity*
- 4. Inequitable burden of oral diseases in Australia.*





To be continued...