

Summary

Scientific research shows that social status is an important factor influencing an individual's health. People with a higher socioeconomic status live longer and enjoy better health than their peers from lower social classes. Existing social inequalities in Poland constitute an important challenge for public health, as they are related to inequalities in the health status of the population. Social mobility (migration between social classes) is a phenomenon that significantly reduces the amount of social stratification, also in the current health status of a given population. Therefore, it is significantly related to the biological well-being and overall health of society. On the other hand, the biological condition of an individual may be one of the factors responsible for his or her social advancement opportunities. Social mobility may manifest itself in many dimensions: educational achievements, professional status, or income, and occur both between generations (parents and children - intergenerational mobility) and throughout an individual's life (intragenerational mobility). Intergenerational social mobility reflects the state of balance or change between generations in relation to social strata. It is measured by comparing the social status of parents with the status of their offspring achieved in adulthood. There are indications that social mobility may be selective due to an individual's health condition or body height. People with good health and greater body height may be more able to show upward social mobility.

We propose to conduct survey of Polish 40-year-olds, determining their current social position, based on their socio-economic status, in order to analyze the phenomenon of selective social mobility. The proposed longitudinal study will allow us to determine which of the anthropometric parameters, health status, social, economic and demographic situation of the respondents at the age of 14 (i.e. in the period of intensive psychobiological development), and perinatal data, increase the probability of upward social mobility, i.e. social advancement, and modulate its intensity. In other words, the aim of our research project is to identify socio-economic, demographic and biological factors occurring during puberty and perinatal parameters that increase the chance of intergenerational social advancement, i.e. upward social mobility.

For this purpose, we will analyze anthropological, socio-economic, demographic and health data collected in 1996-1997, when the respondents were 14 years old, perinatal data, and data collected again from the same participants, but nowadays, at the age of approximately 40, on a target sample of 500 people. The analysed data will enable an original attempt to compile an individual's life history regarding physical, social and health development and will create unique opportunities for an in-depth analysis of the phenomenon of selective social mobility. This is particularly important in the context of strategies for dealing with social inequalities and their effects, including health ones, the reduction of which is the basic strategic goal of health protection in many countries and is among the main guidelines of the World Health Organization.

The proposed interdisciplinary project will constitute an original and significant contribution to the understanding of social processes in Poland, with their biological consequences. Moreover, the obtained results of the project will make it possible to present the shape, mobility and structure of Polish society (based on the same group studied over the years during the period of vast socio-political changes) both in the socio-economic aspect and in the context of the biological condition of the population.