Money and resources

1 in 5 of the UK population live in poverty. Over half of these people live in working households. Poverty damages health and poor health increases the risk of poverty.

An inadequate income can cause poor health because it is more difficult to:

- Avoid stress and feel in control
- Access experiences and material resources
- Adopt and maintain healthy behaviours
- Feel supported by a financial safety net

Living with the day-to-day stresses of poverty in early childhood can have damaging consequences for long-term health.

Money can allow people to access the basics they need to fully participate in society. Yet, 48% of 21-24 year-olds earn less than the living wage.

Healthy behaviours can feel unattainable. It is 3 times more expensive to get the energy we need from healthy foods than unhealthy foods.

A safety net enables people to invest in their future. In a recent study, 40% of people with unmanageable debt said they were less likely to study or retrain.

References available at www.health.org.uk/healthy-lives-infographics

© 2018 The Health Foundation.