Knowledge Organiser

Geography of Health

THE BIG QUESTION — Do we live in a healthy world?

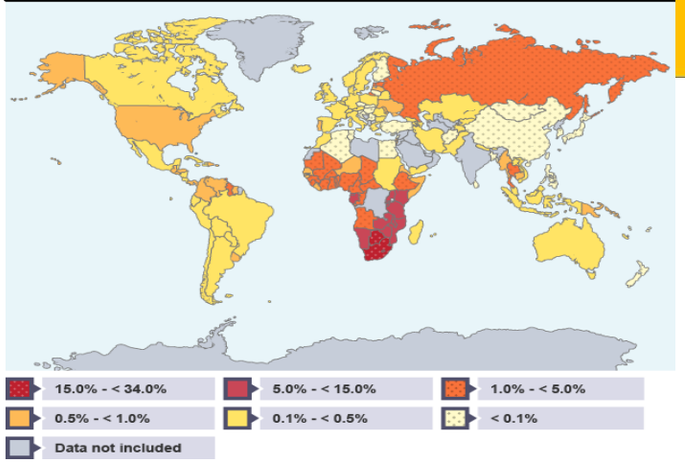
Measuring Health

WHO states that there are over a 100 ways to measure a countries Health, all with advantages and disadvantages. The most common are life expectancy and child mortality. Both of these measures can tell us a lot about a countries development. There are many different factors which allow a child to live to be 5 such as medicine and vaccines available, what the sanitation is like in that country, whether people live in poverty for instance. It is important to measure health so that lessons can be learnt about countries with good health and countries with poor health can be targeted for interventions.

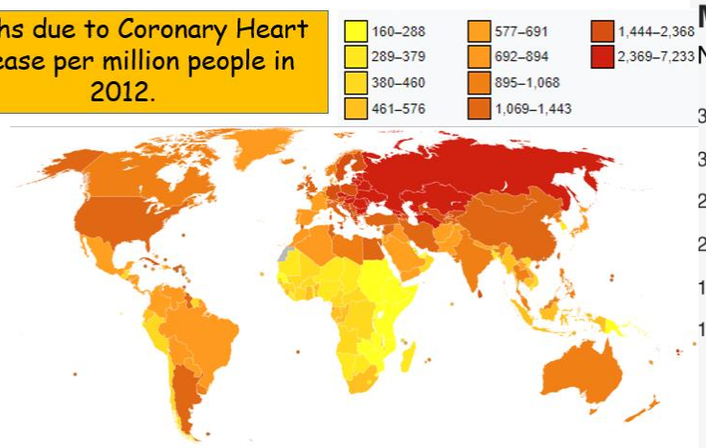
How does development link to Health?

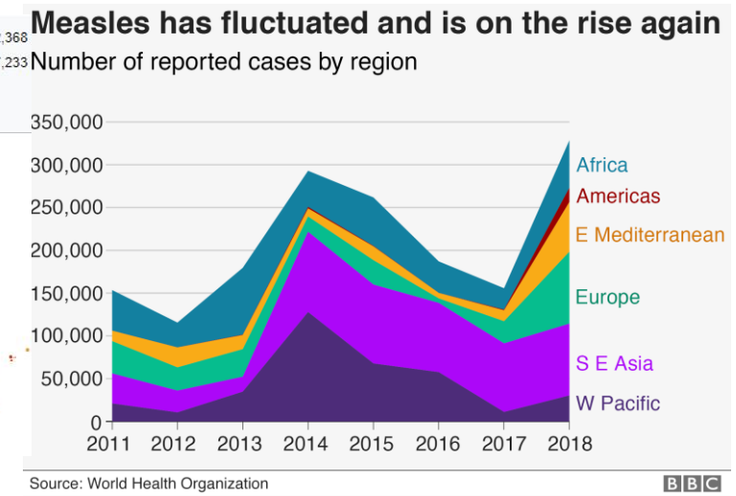
Often a countries level of development directly relates to its health. Countries that are well developed such as the UK have a well structured health system which is free for everyone, while a country such as Angola has no healthcare system and people must pay for their own healthcare. Diseases are often unevenly distributed across the world, affecting the must vulnerable people in society, which is often as a result of wealth.

Percentage of the global population with AIDS



Deaths due to Coronary Heart Disease per million people in 2012.





HIV/AIDS

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) targets the immune system and weakens people's defence systems against infections and some types of cancer. When left untreated, HIV can develop in to AIDS. HIV can be transmitted via the exchange of a variety of body fluids from infected individuals. The breakdown of a person's immune system can lead to other illnesses becoming more dangerous as the person will not be bale to fight the disease. HIV can be prevented by increased access to Antiretroviral treatment, improved education programmes and programmes aiding young women.

Malaria

Malaria is a life threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of certain types of infected female mosquitos. This typically occurs in countries with warm climates, such as Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. In 2017, 219 million people had Malaria, with 430,000 of them being fatal cases. Malaria is preventable and treatable. For as little as £5 a net could save the life of many people who would usually be at risk.

Ebola

Ebola virus disease is a rare but severe often fatal illness, with a death rate of up to 90%. Ebola is such a dangerous disease because it spread extremely quickly as an infected person is likely to pass it on to two others. Also, the death rate is incredibly high. It is thought that Ebola is caused by infected animals, particularly fruit bats. Ebola can cause Fever, Fatigue and muscle pain, which can lead to vomiting, diarrhoea and low blood cell counts. Ebola can be prevented through controlling the spread of the disease by washing hands and avoiding contact with body fluids. There is yet no proven cure for Ebola, though supportive care of the specific symptoms improves survival rates. There was a huge outbreak in 2014 in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The outbreak killed 11,325 people, and was eventually stopped in 2016.

CVD

Cardiovascular Disease
Heart diseases can be caused by genetic factors and lifestyle and stress, but most commonly from a lack of exercise, poor diet and smoking. Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), a type of CVD, is most common in HIC countries as people in these countries have the money and the ability to exhibit behaviours which can lead to CHD. CHD is not equally spread throughout the UK, with poor areas being far more likely to suffer from heart disease as they do not have the money to live the healthiest lifestyles. Often the local area does not create an environment where healthy lifestyles are encouraged. In order to prevent CVD across the world, better education is needed of the causes and the measures that can be put in place to prevent. Furthermore, a growing economy and taxes on sugary foods can also lead to its prevention.

Measles

Measles is an infectious viral disease causing fever and a red rash, typically occurring in childhood. This is a disease which is preventable through the use of vaccines. Prior to the widespread use of the vaccine, there were thousands of cases each year in the UK alone. The number of cases has decreased consistently now that our understanding of vaccinations has improved. However, in recent years their has been a resistance to using vaccines to prevent measles as it was wrongly believed to cause autism and not fit with certain religious values. To add to this some healthcare systems across the world, charge for vaccines which often leads to the poorest and most vulnerable people in the community most at risk.

Key Terms

Healthcare- The organisation of people, institutions and resources that deliver services to meet the health needs of a population.

Life expectancy- The average period that a person may expect to live.

Child mortality- The number of children out of 1000 who die under the age of five years old.

Government Spending- How much money the government spends on healthcare out of it's total budget.

Vaccination- Treatment with a vaccine to produce immunity against a disease.

Herd Immunity- the resistance to the spread of disease within a population that results if a sufficiently high proportion of individuals are immune to the disease, especially through vaccination.

Health Revision

Healthcare Systems

What makes a good Healthcare system?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a well functioning healthcare system requires a financing mechanism, a well-trained and adequately paid workforce, reliable information on which to base decisions and policies, and well maintained health facilities to deliver quality medicines and technology.

Beveridge Model- The Beveridge Model provides healthcare for all citizens and is financed by the government through taxes. This allows it to be free at the point of service. This is the model used in the UK.

Bismarck Model- The Bismarck model uses an insurance system and is usually financed jointly by employers and employee. This model is used in France and Japan.

Out of Pocket Model- The Out of Pocket Model is what is found in countries that are too poor or disorganized to provide any kind of health care system. In this model, if you are poorly, you must pay for your treatment with your own money. If you have no money, then you will have no treatment.

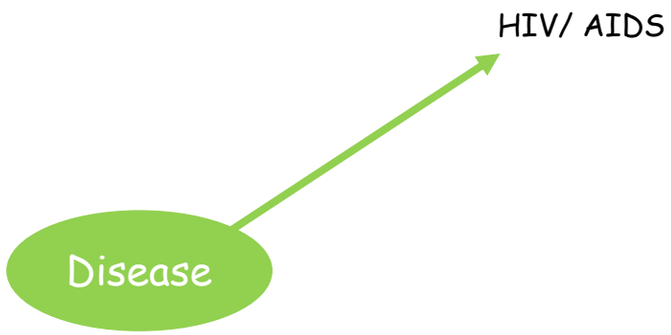
Pharmaceutical Companies

How do we get new medicine?

1. Pre-discovery- Researchers will examine whether there can be cures for a disease.
2. Drug Discovery- Once a target has been identified, scientists look for drugs that could help to cure it.
3. Clinical Trialing- Once a drug has been designed it goes through a number of testing stages on a growing number of test subjects.
4. Licensing Approval- Agencies then check the results and give a license to the drug company
5. Medicine is available- Medicine then becomes available to the public.

This process on average takes 12.5 years an costs £1.15 billion

- The global pharmaceuticals market was worth $934.8 billion and is expected to rise to 1.2 trillion in 2021.
- These companies are businesses and are focused on their profits, which can sometimes lead to overpricing and putting the needs of people below their own. This happened in 2012, when GlaxoSmithKline were forced to $3 billion in settlements because they sold drugs which were not safe and bribed doctors to prescribe their medicine.

Generic vs Branded Drugs

- After a period of 17-20 years, companies can begin to copy the exact recipe that is used for a particular drug. As they have not had to pay the huge research fees, they can charge much less for the drug, making it cheaper for customers.