

CHAPTER 6

GLOBAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

Learning Questions

1. What is meant by global disparities in health and by global inequality?
2. Why does modernization theory imply the world's poor are responsible for their low quality of health?
3. Why is malnutrition so rampant in low-income nations?
4. Why are women in low-income nations at special risk for a range of health problems?
5. Why are natural disasters particularly devastating in low-income nations?
6. What reasons account for the high crime rate of HIV/AIDS in low-income nations?

Chapter Outline

- I. Learning Questions
- II. Understanding Global Inequality
 - A. Categorizing Global Inequality
 - B. Measuring World Poverty
 - C. Explaining Global Inequality
- III. Dimensions of Global Health Disparities
 - A. Malnutrition and Hunger
 - B. Children's Health
 - C. Women's Health
 - D. Environmental Pollution and Hazards
 - E. Substandard Health Care
 - F. HIV and AIDS
- IV. Documenting Global Health Disparities
 - A. Life Expectancy
 - B. HIV / AIDs
 - C. Tuberculosis
 - D. Child Mortality
 - E. Child Underweight
 - F. Maternal Mortality
 - G. Natural Disaster Deaths
 - H. Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel
- V. Conclusion
- VI. Summary
- VII. Giving It Some Thought

Key Terms

Dependency theory: the assumption that wealthy nations of Western Europe became wealthy because they colonized nations in Africa, South America, and other parts of the world centuries ago, took their natural resources, and enslaved many of their citizens or exploited their labor

Global inequality: the unequal distribution of nations in terms of wealth, power and influence, and resources

Global stratification: the unequal distribution of nations in terms of wealth, power and influence, and resources

Modernization theory: the assumption that the wealthy nations of Western Europe became wealthy because several centuries ago they developed certain beliefs and values that helped them become wealthy

“Giving It Some Thought”

You’re talking with a friend about a recent outbreak of cholera and diarrhea in an African nation.

Although you are very concerned about this epidemic, your friend is less troubled and finally says, “Why can’t they just take better care of themselves over there?” Needless to say, you’re a bit shocked by this callous remark. What do you do or say next?

Online Resources

1. YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN6LIMY2ApQ>
What is dependency theory? Give a brief history of dependency theory? How does it apply to health and disease?
2. Inequality.org
<http://inequality.org/inequality-health/>
Research how health and inequality relate to each other.
3. The Cranky Sociologists
<http://thecrankysociologists.com/2013/04/13/global-stratification-and-healthy-life-expectancies/>
Examine life expectancies from around the world. What areas of the world have higher life expectancy? What areas have lower life expectancy? How can you explain these differences?
4. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
<http://kff.org/global-health-policy/report/financing-the-response-to-hiv-in-low-and-middle-income-countries-international-assistance-from-donor-governments-in-2015/>

How is the response to HIV/AIDS being financed in low-income and middle-income countries?

5. World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/heli/risks/ehindevcoun/en/>

What are the risks for children living in poverty and low-income countries? How does the environment affect children living in poverty in low-income countries?