

Child Health in Global Perspectives Seminar

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where goal number 3 is “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”, and where one sub-goal is to “By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.”

We have chosen three critical topics which provide an opportunity to explore the global variability in child health. Global variability in child mortality rates, its determinants are important in informing global and local policies and intervention measures. The student tasks focus on three major global challenges, where there are huge outcome differentials between high and low-income countries, and high and low-income families within countries.

We want the students to work on developing a short introduction on the topic and address the challenge by responding the leading questions set for the tasks.

The presenting group should prepare a short presentation (**maximum 10 minutes/ 12 slides**) and give room for discussions in class. The second group given the same topic will be asked to pose questions as the main part of this discussion (lasting 10 minutes).

We want the students (independent of being selected for presentation or not) to use the global health course reference book, scientifically published papers, and policy documents, from various sources, to inform their topics. Supervisors will guide the work from the field. Drafts for the presentations need to be shared with the supervisor minimum **one week before the seminar** at the very latest.

Child mortality

1. Describe the global trends in child mortality rates during the past decade highlighting how variation in major determinants shape mortality rates in High Income and Low Income Countries.
2. Global forces such as pandemics may have detrimental impact on health. In 2019 the number of under-five deaths was recorded to be all-time low across the

globe. Explain to what extent and how the COVID-19 pandemic might have affected the pre-pandemic gains in reducing child mortality?

3. How is malnutrition linked to child mortality, and what is the double burden of disease as it relates to malnutrition?

Resources

1. Chapter 6: "Epidemiologic profiles of Global Health and Disease" Global health book
2. Child health. WHO. http://www.who.int/topics/child_health/en/
3. 15 minute lecture from Prof Hans Rosling from Karolinska Institute about child mortality:
http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_the_good_news_of_the_decade
4. <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/>
5. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30274-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30274-6/fulltext)
6. <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/c-change/subtopics/climate-change-and-childrens-health/>
7. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00233-9>
8. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>

Neonatal mortality

1. Provide an account on the trends in neonatal mortality globally
2. Explain why progress on reducing neonatal mortality has been slower than progress for under-five mortality
3. Present the main determinants of neonatal mortality, and the main interventions that are proposed for improving neonatal survival.

Resources:

1. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs333/en/>
2. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/newborns-reducing-mortality>
3. Lancet series on newborn health:
<http://www.thelancet.com/series/everynewborn>

4. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70002/1/WHO_FCH_CAH_09.02_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

Childhood Pneumonia

- 1) Pneumonia is the number one cause of child mortality. Explain why the distribution of childhood pneumonia differs between regions globally.
- 2) What is Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, and how has this tool helped improve detection of childhood pneumonia in low-resource settings?
- 3) How can the status of the health system and socioeconomic factors affect the detection and management of pneumonia?

Resources:

1. Integrated management of childhood illness.
http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/child/imci/en/
2. Pneumonia. WHO. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs331/en/>
3. 5 surprising facts about Childhood Pneumonia.
<https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/5-facts-about-childhood-pneumonia/>
4. Antibiotic roll-out would cut pneumonia deaths in young.
<http://www.scidev.net/global/medicine/news/antibiotic-pneumonia-deaths-young-children.html>