

Chronic diseases: implications for health policy and systems research

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Key points: chronic diseases and health systems

- A major and growing development issue – neglected
- Not an MDG but a global goal
- Serious implications for health systems
- Rapid progress possible to reduce burden
- Strengthened health systems, esp. PHC, for all “chronic diseases”
- HPSR priorities identified

Projected main causes of death, worldwide, all ages, 2005

Communicable diseases, maternal and perinatal conditions, and nutritional deficiencies
30%

Cardiovascular diseases
30%

TOTAL DEATHS 2005
58 million

Injuries
9%

Cancer
13%

Other chronic diseases
9%

Diabetes
2%

Chronic respiratory diseases
7%

Chronic diseases:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancer
- Chronic respiratory diseases
- Diabetes

Main driving force of the chronic disease pandemic: ageing



Acknowledgement: www.ddb.umu.se/cbs/ageing.html

The global goal for chronic diseases: delaying 36 million deaths

- An additional 2% annual reduction in chronic disease death rates worldwide, per year, over the next 10 years.
- The knowledge to achieve this goal exists and is relatively cheap to apply.

Key findings: Lancet chronic disease series (Dec 2007)

Population-wide (tobacco control and salt reduction) and high risk interventions (drug regimes) will, in 23 large developing countries:

- **Delay 32 million deaths** by 2015: half <70 years
- Cost **US\$5.8 billion/** year with major economic benefits
- **Exceed** the global goal in these countries

HPS research priorities: fundamental

- HP approaches to the determinants
- Economic benefits of action
- Innovations, e.g. “polypill” for high risk
- Impact of HP (regulatory) approaches to reducing risks e.g. advertising to children; tobacco control

HPS research priorities: applied

- Methods for implementing existing knowledge
- Partnerships – other sectors (including private), civil society
- Building integrated HS, esp. PHC
- Alternative approaches to financial protection
- New approaches to long-term care

HPS research priorities: evaluation and monitoring

- Developing HPS indicators
- Assessing trends in indicators

Challenges

- Overcoming neglect - from resolutions to actions
- Strengthening government leadership
- Resources: global, regional and national
- Building HPS research and implementation capacity