

4A Who should get what?

Health Issues in the 21st Century

Heart Disease is often hereditary but can also be caused through bad diet and a lack of exercise. It can be prevented, and public awareness levels are high in some countries. However, some sections of the community seem to ignore advice. Treatment is possible, but prevention is obviously preferable in the long term.

Cancer takes many forms and is caused by a number of factors. There is strong evidence that smoking and other lifestyle factors contribute significantly, especially to lung and throat cancers. Treatment can be through chemotherapy (being injected with chemicals) or radiotherapy, and success rates are increasing. Some people believe that this, like heart disease, is self-inflicted, and that patients should be asked to pay extra for their treatment.

HIV/AIDS. Awareness levels around the world vary a great deal as to the causes and risks associated with this disease. It is preventable but, as yet, although there is treatment available, there is no known cure. Research continues in the hope of finding one.

Malaria is a disease which is spread via mosquito bites. It is easily prevented with the use of mosquito repellents (electronic devices, creams and sprays). It can also be avoided by taking pills regularly, which protect the body from the disease. There is no vaccination available yet. Malaria cannot be cured as such, though its symptoms (headache, fever, and shaking) are treatable.

Road Traffic Accidents. Road safety standards vary a lot from country to country. Drink driving and the use of unsafe vehicles contribute to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people around the world. Publicity campaigns and stricter laws have made a dramatic difference in some countries.

Diarrhoea is one of the most common causes of death, especially among children, in Africa. It is caused by polluted water and a lack of food hygiene. It can be prevented by making water supplies safe. It is also important that public awareness is raised as to the causes of water contamination. Diarrhoea itself is easily treated with rehydration medicine.

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Definitions

- a _____ (adjective) passed on from parent to child
 b _____ (noun) the use of medicine or therapy to make a sick person well again
 c _____ (noun) smooth, thick liquid which you put on or rub into your skin
 d _____ (noun) small, solid pieces of medicine to swallow, e.g. aspirin
 e _____ (noun) an injection which prevents a person from getting a disease
 f _____ (noun) a change in your body which is the sign of an illness
 g _____ (noun) the removal of a disease or illness so that a person is well again

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Health spending budget

Disease	Percentage of budget	Reasons
1		
2		
3		