

CFR Resources

Thomas J. Bollyky, "[Health Without Wealth](#)," *Foreign Affairs* 97, no. 6 (November/December 2018): 168–178.

An in-depth discussion of the rise of noncommunicable diseases, adapted from Bollyky's book. (4,000 words)

Thomas J. Bollyky and Amanda Shendruk, "[The Changing Demographics of Global Health](#)," Council on Foreign Relations, November 7, 2017.

A brief discussion of the rise of noncommunicable diseases with a number of graphs and visualizations. The ideas discussed here are further developed in Bollyky's article in *Foreign Affairs* and in his book. (1,600 words)

Claire Felner, "[The End of Antibiotics?](#)," Council on Foreign Relations, March 29, 2018.

An accessible backgrounder on the overuse of antibiotics. (1,600 words)

Articles

John M. Barry, "[How the Horrific 1918 Flu Spread Across America](#)," *Smithsonian*, November 2017.

A wide-ranging story about the Spanish Influenza in 1918. (4,600 words)

Aaron E. Carroll and Austin Frakt, "[The Best Health Care System in the World: Which One Would You Pick?](#)," *New York Times*, September 18, 2017.

In this tournament-style discussion of health-care systems, the *New York Times* asks a panel of experts to choose a foreign system to use as a model in the United States, discussing benefits and drawbacks along the way. (3,000 words)

Austin Frakt, "[Medical Mystery: Something Happened to U.S. Health](#)

Classroom Reading List: Global Health

[Spending After 1980](#),” *New York Times*, May 14, 2018.

An analysis, with graphs, of American spending on health care. (1,500 words)

Andrew Jacobs and Matt Richtel, “[A Nasty, Nafta-Related Surprise: Mexico’s Soaring Obesity](#),” *New York Times*, December 11, 2017.

A look at how NAFTA and a rising standard of living have led to health problems in Mexico. (3,300 words)

Oscar Lopez and Andrew Jacobs, “[In Town With Little Water, Coca-Cola Is Everywhere. So Is Diabetes](#),” *New York Times*, July 14, 2018.

A snapshot of one Mexican town that illustrates some of the causes of the rise in diabetes in that country. (2,000 words)

Nina Martin and Renee Montagne, “[Focus on Infants During Childbirth Leaves U.S. Moms in Danger](#),” NPR, May 12, 2017.

This investigation from NPR and ProPublica looks into why maternal health in the United States is worse than in any other developed country. (9,000 words)

Linda Villarosa, “[Why America’s Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis](#),” *New York Times Magazine*, April 11, 2018.

This feature article discusses maternal death among black Americans. A podcast episode featuring the reporter and one of the interviewees from this story also appears on this list. (10,200 words)

Ed Yong, “[The Next Plague Is Coming. Is America Ready?](#),” *Atlantic*, July/August 2018.

A discussion of preparations, particularly in the United States, for an infectious disease pandemic. (8,900 words)

Multimedia

Classroom Reading List: Global Health

Michael Barbaro, "[A Life-or-Death Crisis for Black Mothers](#)," *The Daily*, May 11, 2018.

A podcast episode that includes an introduction to the problem of maternal death among black mothers in the United States and an interview with a black mother. A related *New York Times* article also appears on this list. (26 minutes)

"[Sick Around the World](#)," *Frontline*, PBS, April 15, 2008.

An examination of health-care systems in developed countries around the world. The reporter in this episode also wrote a book on the same subject that appears on this list. (56 minutes)

"[Countdown to Zero](#)," Vice Media, December 1, 2015.

An excellent overview of the history of the AIDS epidemic and the effort to fight it. (50 minutes)

"[Why the U.S. Never Got Universal Health Care](#)," Axios, June 16, 2018.

A short and informative explainer about the American health-care system. (2 minutes)

Books

Thomas J. Bollyky, *Plaques and the Paradox of Progress* (2018).

Written by a CFR fellow, this book is a little less accessible than others in this list, but it features an excellent discussion about the problem of noncommunicable diseases. The ideas in the book are also discussed in the two articles by Bollyky that appear on this list. (280 pages)

David France, *How to Survive a Plague: The Inside Story of How Activists and Scientists Tamed AIDS* (2016).

This book provides a comprehensive history of AIDS that extends to the present day, with a focus on the role of activism in the fight against AIDS. (656 pages)

Classroom Reading List: Global Health

Siddhartha Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* (2010).

This Pulitzer Prize–winning book, written by a physician, explains what cancer is, where it came from, and how humanity has reacted to it. (608 pages)

Jeremy N. Smith, *Epic Measures: One Doctor. Seven Billion Patients.* (2015).

This story of physician and economist Christopher Murray’s effort to quantify global health combines discussions of major health issues and statistics. Murray’s work appears on the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation’s website, featured on this list. (368 pages)

Daniel Oshinsky, *Polio: An American Story* (2005).

Written by a social historian, this Pulitzer Prize–winning book tells the history of the fight against polio in the United States. (368 pages)

T. R. Reid, *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care* (2009).

Written by a journalist, this book examines health-care systems in industrialized countries around the world and compares them to the Affordable Care Act in the United States. Reid also worked on a *Frontline* episode on the same topic, which appears on this list. (304 pages)

Randy Shilts, *And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic*, Twentieth anniversary edition (2007).

Originally written in 1987, this award-winning book by an investigative journalist tells the story of how AIDS spread unchecked through the early 1980s as many people ignored or denied it. (660 pages)

Classroom Reading List: Global Health

Laura Spinney, *Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed the World* (2017).

This highly readable history of the Spanish flu narrates the pandemic and argues that it had consequences that reach much farther than many realize. (352 pages)

Research

Brian Fung, "[Chart: What Killed Us, Then and Now](#)," *Atlantic*, June 22, 2012.

A simple graph that clearly shows the shift from infectious diseases to noncommunicable diseases as the main health problems in the world.

[Data Visualizations](#), Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

While this website offers a wealth of detailed information, it is not as user-friendly as that from Our World in Data.

Esteban Ortiz-Ospina and Max Roser, [Global Health](#), Our World in Data.

This webpage presents extensive, detailed graphs and charts of major global health indicators in a readable, easy-to-use format.

Max Roser and Hannah Ritchie, [HIV/AIDS](#), Our World in Data, last updated April 2018.

This article presents extensive, detailed graphs and charts of HIV/AIDS statistics in a readable, easy-to-use format.

Gabriela Flores et al., [Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2017 Global Monitoring Report](#) (Geneva: World Health Organization and World Bank, 2017).

This report, available as video, infographics, and full text, summarizes progress made toward the goal of universal health coverage around the world.