CFR Resources


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


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)

Thomas J. Bollyky via Think Global Health, “Think Global Health.”

A CFR forum that examines why global health matters and engages in efforts to improve health worldwide.


A look at the COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic consequences for women. (1,700 words)

Claire Klobucista, “The End of Antibiotics?”

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

Articles


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

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)


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


An essay calling for a larger response to the threat of cardiovascular disease. (2,600 words)


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


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


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)


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)


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

Multimedia


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)


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)

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

Books


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)


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)


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)


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)


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

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)


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)


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**

- 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.


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

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


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


Articles on the national rates of COVID-19 infection and fatality for 177 countries and territories.