"The defense of this nation seeks involves a great deal more than building airplanes, ships, guns, and bombs. We cannot be a strong nation unless we are a healthy nation.” - President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1940
Chapter Outline

• The Global Context: Patterns of Health and Illness Around the World
• Sociological Theories of Illness and Health Care
• HIV/AIDS: A Global Health Concern
• The Growing Problem of Obesity
• Mental Illness: The Hidden Epidemic
• Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors Associated with Health and Illness
• Problems in US Healthcare
• Strategies for Action: Improving Health and Healthcare
• Understanding Problems of Illness and Healthcare
The Global Context: Patterns of Health Worldwide

- Countries are often classified into one of three broad categories according to their economic status:
  - **Developed countries** have relatively high gross national income and have economies made up of many different industries.
  - **Developing countries** (less developed) have relatively low gross national income and their economies are much simpler.
  - **Least developed countries** are the poorest countries of the world.
The Global Context: Patterns of Health Worldwide
Morbidity, Life Expectancy, and Mortality

• **Morbidity** refers to illnesses, symptoms, and the impairments they produce.

• In less developed countries, where poverty and chronic malnutrition are widespread, infectious and parasitic diseases, such as HIV disease, tuberculosis, diarrheal diseases (caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites), measles, and malaria are much more prevalent.

• In developed countries, chronic health problems such as cardiovascular disease and cancer are the major health threats.
The Global Context: Patterns of Health Worldwide
Morbidity, Life Expectancy, and Mortality

• **Life expectancy** refers to the average number of years individuals born in a given year can expect to live.

• Infant mortality - Number of deaths of live-born infants under 1 year of age.
The Global Context: Patterns of Health Worldwide
Morbidity, Life Expectancy, and Mortality

- **Mortality** is simply defined as death.
- The leading cause of mortality, or death, worldwide is heart disease…followed by stroke and respiratory infections.
- In low income countries, the three top causes of death are respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, and HIV/AIDS.
- The World Health Organization (2009) has identified high blood pressure as the leading global mortality risk factor (responsible for 13% of deaths globally), followed by tobacco use (9%), high blood glucose (6%), physical inactivity (6%), and obesity (5%).
The Global Context: Patterns of Health Worldwide
Morbidity, Life Expectancy, and Mortality

• This graph shows life expectancy and infant mortality rate by country income level in 2009. (Source: World Health Organization, 2010)
The Global Context: Patterns of Health Worldwide
Morbidity, Life Expectancy, and Mortality

**TABLE 2.1** Top Three Causes of Death by Selected Age Groups, United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE (YEARS)</th>
<th>FIRST</th>
<th>SECOND</th>
<th>THIRD</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Congenital/chromosomal abnormalities</td>
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<td>Suicide</td>
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<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Heart disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Heart disease</td>
<td>Unintentional injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>Heart disease</td>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Stroke</td>
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Source: National Center for Health Statistics 2011.
Mortality Rates Among Infants and Children

- **Infant Morality Rate**: The number of deaths of live-born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births (in any given year).

- **Under-5 Mortality Rate**: Refers to the rate of deaths of children under age 5. Under-5 mortality rates range from an average of 153 in least developed nations to an average of 6 in industrialized countries.
The Global Context: Patterns of Health Worldwide
Morbidity, Life Expectancy, and Mortality

• **Maternal Mortality Rates:**
  – A measure of deaths that result from complications associated with pregnancy, childbirth, and unsafe abortion.
  – Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death and disability for women ages 15–49 in developing countries.
  – The most common causes of maternal death are hemorrhage, infection, and complications related to unsafe abortion.
The Global Context: Patterns of Health Worldwide
Morbidity, Life Expectancy, and Mortality

**TABLE 2.1** Top Three Causes of Death by Selected Age Groups, United States

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Source: National Center for Health Statistics 2011.
What Do You Think? Data on deaths from international terrorism and tobacco-related deaths in 37 developed and eastern European countries revealed that tobacco-related deaths outnumbered terrorist deaths by about a whopping 5,700 times (Thomson & Wilson 2005). The number of tobacco deaths was equivalent to the impact of a September 11, 2001-type terrorist attack every 14 hours! Given that tobacco-related deaths grossly outnumber terrorism-related deaths, why hasn’t the U.S. government waged a “war on tobacco” on a scale similar to its “war on terrorism”?
Sociological Theories of Illness and Health Care: Structural-Functionalist Perspective

• According to the structural-functionalist perspective, healthcare is a social institution that functions to maintain the well-being of social members and, consequently, of the social system as a whole.

• It examines how changes in society affect health.

• It also draws attention to latent dysfunctions, or unintended an often unrecognized negative consequences of social patterns or behaviors.
Sociological Theories of Illness and Health Care: Conflict Perspective

• The **conflict perspective focuses** on how wealth, status, and power influence illness and health care.

• It points to ways in which powerful groups and wealthy corporations influence health-related policies and laws through lobbying and financial contributions to politicians and political candidates.

• Criticizes the pharmaceutical and health care industry for placing profits above people.
Symbolic Interactionists focus on the following:

1. How meanings, definitions, and labels influence health, illness, and health care.

2. How such meanings are learned through interaction with others and through media messages and portrayals.
Sociological Theories of Illness and Health Care: Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

- **Medicalization** is defining or labeling behaviors and conditions as medical problems.
- Includes:
  - A new phenomena defined as a medical problem in need of medical intervention such as post-traumatic stress disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.
  - Normal conditions that are defined as medical problems such as childbirth, menopause, and death.
Symbolic interactionists also focus on the stigmatization of individuals who are in poor health or who lack health insurance.

A stigma refers to any personal characteristic associated with social disgrace, rejection, or discrediting.

Symbolic interactionists focus on stigmatizing effects of being labeled “ill.”

Individuals with mental illnesses, drug addictions, physical deformities and impairments, and HIV and AIDS are prone to being stigmatized.
HIV/AIDS: A Global Health Concern

• HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) continues to threaten the health of populations around the world.

• More than 33 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, most of whom (97%) live in low or middle-income countries.

• Most people infected with HIV do not know it.
HIV/AIDS: A Global Health Concern

HIV/AIDS in Africa

• HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa.
• More than 2/3 of people with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa, where 1 in 20 adults (ages 15 to 49) has HIV.
• Much more prevalent in women than in men.
HIV/AIDS: A Global Health Concern

HIV/AIDS in Africa

• There are 16.6 million AIDS orphans (one or both parents have died of AIDS) living in Africa.
HIV/AIDS: A Global Health Concern

HIV/AIDS in the United States

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over 1 million people in the United States are living with HIV/AIDS.

- Most common forms of transmission in the United States

- HIV/AIDS among race and gender
The Growing Problem of Obesity

• Obesity is a major problem throughout the industrialized world. In recent years, the prevalence of obesity in the United States has risen significantly.

• 2/3 of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese.

• Researchers predict that obesity will shorten the average U.S. life expectancy by at least 2 to 5 years over the next 50 years; reversing the mostly steady increase in life expectancy that has occurred over the last 2 centuries.
The Growing Problem of Obesity

Childhood Obesity

- Childhood obesity is becoming more common throughout the developed world.
- At 8 years of age, Connor McCreadie, shown here with his mother, weighed 218 pounds.
What Do You Think?

• In North Carolina, a mother whose 7-year-old son weighed more than 250 pounds reported that the local Division of Social Services threatened to take her child away if he did not lose weight.

• Do you think severely obese children should be considered victims of child abuse and taken from their parents and placed in foster care?
• **Mental health** refers to the successful performance of mental function, resulting in productive activities, fulfilling relationships with other people, and the ability to adapt to change and to cope with adversity.
Mental Illness: The Hidden Epidemic

- **Mental Illness** collectively to all mental disorders which are characterized by sustained patterns of abnormal thinking, mood, or behaviors that are accompanied by significant distress and/or impairment in daily functioning.

- It is a “hidden epidemic” because the shame and embarrassment associated with mental problems discourage people from acknowledging and talking about them.
## Mental Illness: The Hidden Epidemic

### Mental Disorders Classified by the APA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety disorders</td>
<td>Disorders characterized by anxiety that is manifest in phobias, panic attacks, or obsessive-compulsive disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissociative disorders</td>
<td>Problems involving a splitting or dissociation of normal consciousness, such as amnesia and multiple personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorders first evident in infancy, childhood, or adolescence</td>
<td>Disorders including mental retardation, attention-deficit/hyperactivity, and stuttering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating or sleeping disorders</td>
<td>Disorders including anorexia, bulimia, and insomnia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impulse control disorders</td>
<td>Problems involving the inability to control undesirable impulses, such as kleptomania, pyromania, and pathological gambling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mood disorders</td>
<td>Emotional disorders such as major depression and bipolar (manic-depressive) disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic mental disorders</td>
<td>Psychological or behavioral disorders associated with dysfunctions of the brain caused by aging, disease, or brain damage (such as Alzheimer’s disease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personality disorders</td>
<td>Maladaptive personality traits that are generally resistant to treatment, such as paranoid and antisocial personality types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders</td>
<td>Disorders with symptoms such as delusions or hallucinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somatoform disorders</td>
<td>Psychological problems that present themselves as symptoms of physical disease, such as hypochondria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance-related disorders</td>
<td>Disorders resulting from abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, such as barbiturates, cocaine, or amphetamines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mental Illness: The Hidden Epidemic
Extent and Impact of Mental Illness

• Prevalence rates of mental illness in the U.S. are based primarily on results from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which does not include people who are homeless, in an institution, or in the military.

• Among the non-institutionalized population, as many as 1 in 5 U.S. adults experiences mental illness.
Mental Illness: The Hidden Epidemic
Extent and Impact of Mental Illness

• Untreated mental disorders can lead to:
  – poor educational achievement
  – lost productivity
  – unsuccessful relationships
  – significant distress
  – violence and abuse
  – incarceration
  – poverty
Mental Illness: The Hidden Epidemic

Causes of Mental Illness

• Stigma surrounding mental illness is partly due to misconceptions about their causes, such as the misconception that mental illness is caused by personal weakness, or results from engaging in immoral behavior.
Mental Illness: The Hidden Epidemic
Causes of Mental Illness

• Scientific and medical explanations of mental illness focus on:
  – Genetics
  – Neurological Conditions
  – Social and Environmental Influences
    • Poverty
    • Relationship Abuse
    • Death of a Loved One
    • War
    • Natural Disasters
Social Problem Research Up Close

• The National College Health Assessment is a survey developed by the American College Health Association to assess the health status of college students across the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH PROBLEM</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allergies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinus infection</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back pain</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strep throat</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary tract infection</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors

Globalization and Health

• **Globalization** is the growing economic, political, and social interconnectedness among societies throughout the world. It has eroded boundaries that separate societies, creating a “global village.”

• Global communications make it easier to monitor and control disease and share scientific knowledge and research findings.

• Increased travel and the expansion of trade and transnational corporations are linked to a number of health problems.
Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors
Poverty and Health

• Poverty is associated with malnutrition, indoor air pollution, hazardous working conditions, lack of access to medical care, and unsafe water and sanitation.

• The percentage of Americans reporting fair or poor health is more than three times as high for people living below the poverty line.
Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors
Education and Health

• Individuals with low levels of education are more likely to engage in health-risk behaviors.

• Women with less education are less likely to seek prenatal care and are more likely to smoke during pregnancy.

• In some cases, lack of education means that individuals do not know about health risks or how to avoid them.
Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors
Gender and Health

• Gender discrimination and violence against women produce adverse health effects in girls and women worldwide.

• In many societies, women and girls are viewed and treated as socially inferior, and are denied equal access to health care.

• Gender inequality also exposes women to sexual and domestic abuse. In the U.S., at least one in three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused.
Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors
Gender and Health

• Physical abuse is a major cause of injury, disability and death among women.
Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors
Gender and Health

• In the United States today, the live expectancy of U.S. women (80.4 years) is greater than that of U.S. men (75.4 years).

• The lower life expectancy in men is caused by several factors:
  – A more dangerous work environment
  – Men engage in riskier behavior
Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors
Race, Ethnicity, and Health

• U.S. racial and ethnic minorities are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to rate their health as fair or poor.

• Non-Hispanic black men and women have higher rates of heart disease and associated complications.

• The highest rates of obesity are among black Americans, followed by Hispanics.
Social Factors and Lifestyle Behaviors
Race, Ethnicity, and Health

• Health disparities among racial/ethnic minorities is largely due to differences in income, education, housing, and access to health care.

• Health disparities are sometimes explained by differences in lifestyle behaviors.

• Another factor could be the stress resulting from prejudice and discrimination.

• Finally, regarding mental health, research finds no significant difference among races in their overall rates of mental illness.
Life Expectancy in the United States by Race and Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALL RACES</th>
<th>NON-HISPANIC BLACK</th>
<th>NON-HISPANIC WHITE</th>
<th>HISPANIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>MALE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fair or Poor Health Status by Race/Ethnicity

- **White, non-Hispanic**: 8.0%
- **Hispanic**: 13.3%
- **African American, non-Hispanic**: 14.6%
- **Asian**: 8.6%
- **American Indian/Alaska Native**: 16.5%
- **Two or more races**: 12.6%
Problems in U.S. Health Care

• The World Health Organization (2000) did an analysis of the world’s health systems and found that, although the United States spends a higher portion of its GDP on health care than any other country, it ranks 37 out of 191 countries according to its performance.
Problems in U.S. Health Care
Coverage by Type of Health Insurance (2009)
Problems in U.S. Health Care

Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)

- Prepaid group plans in which a person pays a monthly premium for comprehensive health care services.
- HMOs attempt to minimize hospitalization costs by emphasizing preventive health care.
Problems in U.S. Health Care

Preferred provider organizations (PPOs)

• Health care organizations in which employers who purchase group health insurance agree to send their employees to certain health care providers or hospitals in return for cost discounts.

• Health care providers obtain more patients but charge lower fees to buyers of group insurance.
Problems in U.S. Health Care

Managed Care

• Any medical insurance plan that controls costs through monitoring and controlling the decisions of health care providers.

• Doctors must call a utilization review office to receive approval before they can hospitalize a patient, perform surgery, or order an expensive diagnostic test.
Problems in U.S. Health Care

Medicare

• Medicare is funded by the federal government and reimburses the elderly and the disabled for their health care.
• Medicare’s medical insurance program is not free; enrollees must pay a monthly premium as well as a copayment for services.
• Medicare does not cover long-term nursing home care, dental care, eyeglasses, and other types of services.
Problems in U.S. Health Care

Medicaid

• Provides health care coverage for the poor, and is jointly funded by the federal and state governments.

• Medicaid does not cover all poor people.

• Eligibility rules and benefits vary from state to state, and in many states Medicaid provides health care only for the very poor who are well below the federal poverty level.
Problems in U.S. Health Care

Inadequate Health Insurance Coverage

• Universal Health Care – a system of health care, typically financed by the government that ensures health care coverage for all citizens.

• Unlike other industrialized countries that provide universal health care coverage, 16.7% of Americans (50.7 Million People) did not have health care coverage in 2010.

• Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage

• Inadequate Insurance for the Poor

• Consequences of Inadequate Health Insurance
The High Cost of Health Care

• Total U.S. spending on health care in 2009 was $2.5 trillion, which translates to $8,086 per person and more than 17.6% of the GDP – far more than any other industrialized nation.
The High Cost of Health Care
Factors in Escalating Medical Costs

- Several factors have contributed to escalating medical costs:
  - Increased longevity.
  - Cost of hospital services and medical technology
  - Cost of prescription drugs
  - Cost of health insurance

Expensive medical technologies contributes to high health care spending.
The High Cost of Health Care
Cutting Back on Medical Care Due to Cost

**TABLE 2.5** Cutting Back on Medical Care Due to Cost

*In the past 12 months, because of cost, have you or another family member living in your household . . . ?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percent Saying “Yes”</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relied on home remedies or over-the-counter (OTC) drugs instead of seeing a doctor</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipped dental care or checkups</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put off or postponed getting health care you needed</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipped recommended medical test or treatment</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not filled a prescription for medicine</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut pills in half or skipped doses of medicine</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had problems getting mental health care</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did ANY of the above</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Adapted from Kaiser Family Foundation 2009a.
The High Cost of Health Care
Inadequate Mental Health Care

• The fragmented system of mental health care leaves many people with mental health problems to fall through the cracks.

• Among the 11 million U.S. adults with “serious mental illness” in 2009, 40% received no mental health services in the past year.

• Mental health services are often inaccessible, especially in rural areas.
The High Cost of Health Care
Inadequate Mental Health Care

• Receipt of Mental Health Services among U.S. Adults, by level of Mental Illness, 2009
The High Cost of Health Care
Inadequate Mental Health Care

• Reasons for Not Receiving Mental Health Services in the Past Year among Adults with an Unmet Need for Mental Health Care, 2009

- Could not afford cost: 42.5%
- Could handle problem without treatment: 31.9%
- Did not know where to go for services: 18.5%
- Did not have time: 17.0%
- Treatment would not help: 13.1%
- Concerned about confidentiality: 10.4%
- Health insurance did not cover enough treatment: 10.2%
- Did not feel need for treatment: 9.4%
- Might cause neighbors/community to have negative opinion: 8.7%
- Fear of being committed/Having to take medicine: 8.7%
Strategies for Improving Health and Health Care

• **Selective primary health care** focuses on using specific interventions to target specific health problems, such as promoting condom use to prevent HIV infections.

• **Comprehensive primary health care** focuses on the broader social determinants of health, such as poverty and economic inequality, gender inequality, environment, and community development.
Strategies for Improving Health and Health Care
Improving Maternal and Child Health

• Between 1990 and 2008, 147 countries had a decline in maternal mortality rates; 23 countries had an increase.

• Declines in maternal mortality can be attributed to several factors:
  – Deliveries by skilled health workers
  – Contraceptive Use
  – Family Planning Services
  – Decline in Child Marriage
  – Education and Income
  – Immunization Programs
Strategies for Improving Health and Health Care
Improving Maternal and Child Health

• Childbearing at an early age involves higher risks for women and infants.
Strategies for Improving Health and Health Care
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Alleviation Strategies

• Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent HIV infection. A number of other strategies are available to help prevent and treat HIV/AIDS:
  – HIV/AIDS Education and Access to Condoms
  – HIV Testing and Treatment
  – Fighting Against HIV/AIDS Stigma and Discrimination
  – Needle Exchange Programs
  – Financial and Medical Aid to Developing Countries
Cynthia Leshomo is the 2005 winner of the Miss HIV Stigma Free beauty pageant.

The Miss HIV pageant is a way of showing that HIV-positive individuals need not be ashamed and that with treatment, they can look good and lead productive lives.
What Do You Think?

In 2008, 42-year old Willie Campbell was sentenced to 35 years in prison for harassing a public servant with what Texas law views as a “deadly weapon”: his saliva (Kovach 2008). Campbell, who is HIV-positive, had spat in the face of a police officer who was arresting him for public intoxication. The officer did not become infected with HIV, which is not surprising given that saliva has never been shown to transmit HIV. What do you think of a law that labels the saliva of an HIV-infected person as a “deadly weapon?”

Public health messages encourage people to get tested for HIV. Are billboards like this appropriate? Why or why not?
Strategies for Improving Health and Health Care
Reasons for Not Getting Tested

Reported Reasons for Not Being HIV Tested among Young Adults

- You don’t think you’re at risk: 70%
- Your doctor never recommended it: 33%
- You don’t like needles or giving blood: 9%
- You don’t know where to go to get tested: 7%
- You worry about confidentiality: 4%
- You’re afraid you’ll test positive: 2%

Note: Percent is among the 45% of those ages 18-29 who have never been tested.
Strategies for Improving Health and Health Care

Fighting the Growing Problem of Obesity

• In general, reducing and preventing obesity requires encouraging people to eat a diet with sensible portions, with lots of high-fiber fruits and vegetables, and with minimal sugar and fat.

• Some of the strategies include:
  – Restrictions and Advertisements
  – Public Education
  – School Nutrition and Physical Activity Programs
  – Interventions to Treat Obesity
What Do You Think?

• Many states are passing laws that require school lunchrooms to provide healthier food options and that require snack and drink machines on school campuses to have healthier options as well. Do you think that laws like this are fair or do you think children should make their own food choices?
Strategies for Improving Health and Health Care
Strategies to Improve Mental Health Care

• Two areas for improving mental health care in the United States are eliminating the stigma associated with mental illness and improving access to mental health programs.
  – Eliminating the Stigma of Mental Illness
  – Improving Access to Mental Health Care
Strategies for Improving Health and Health Care
Strategies to Improve Mental Health Care

• This public education brochure on men and depression is available from the National Institute of Mental Health.
U.S. Federal Health Care Reform

• Multiple presidential administrations have advocated health care for all Americans going all the way back to Theodore Roosevelt in 1912.

• Health care reform efforts in the U.S. generally fall into 1 of 3 categories:
  – Creation of a public single-payer health program
  – Expansion of existing government health insurance programs
  – Making private insurance more affordable through tax credits or deductions and other means.
U.S. Federal Health Care Reform

• In March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), commonly referred to as the Affordable Care Act or “Obamacare,” was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama.

• Just a few of the many provisions of the recent health care reform legislation includes:
  – Establishing an “individual mandate”
  – Creating health insurance exchanges
  – Providing tax credits to business that provide insurance
  – Expanding Medicaid
  – Providing discounts on brand-name drugs and free preventative services
What Do You Think? In 2005, Representative Pete Stark (D-California) proposed an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to guarantee health care as a right for every American. Stark argued that “the health of every American is vital to their unalienable rights of ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ . . . To ensure these rights are fully enjoyed, we must be certain that every American can access quality health care—regardless of their income, race, education or job status” (“Stark Introduces Constitutional Amendment” 2005). Do you favor or oppose amending the Constitution to guarantee health care as a right for every American?

President Barack Obama signs the “Affordable Care Act” into law, March 2010
Understanding Problems of Illness and Health Care

• Although human health has probably improved more over the past half-century than over the previous three millennia, the gap in health between rich and poor remains wide, and the very poor suffer appallingly.

• Poverty may be the most powerful social factor affecting health, other social factors that affect health include globalization, increased longevity, family structure, gender, education, race, and ethnicity.
Quick Quiz

1. How does symbolic interactionism view health conditions such as mental illness?
   A. As society's failure to meet the needs of the have-nots.
   B. As a biological condition.
   C. As a result of globalization.
   D. As a label conferred on those who are different.
Symbolic interactionism views health conditions such as mental illness as a label conferred on those who are different.
Quick Quiz

2. Medicalization refers to the trend in:
   A. the increase in the number of new viruses that are found.
   B. treating mental illness in hospitals.
   C. turning normal events into medical events.
   D. the growing hospitalization of HMO patients.
Answer: C

- Medicalization refers to the trend in turning normal events into medical events.
Quick Quiz

3. In developing countries, what is the leading cause of death and disability for women ages 15 to 49?
   
   A. malnutrition and starvation
   B. sexually transmitted diseases
   C. maternal mortality
   D. tobacco related deaths
Answer: C

• In developing countries, the leading cause of death and disability for women ages 15 to 49 is maternal mortality.
Quick Quiz

4. Which of the following is a new approach to measuring the health status of a population?

A. patterns of burdens of disease
B. infant mortality rates
C. maternal mortality rates
D. under 5 mortality rates
Answer: A

- **Patterns of burdens of disease** is a new approach to measuring the health status of a population.
Quick Quiz

5. What is the predominant mode of HIV transmission worldwide?
   A. heterosexual contact
   B. prenatal transmission
   C. homosexual contact
   D. intravenous drug use
Answer: A

• **Heterosexual contact** is the predominant mode of HIV transmission worldwide.
Quick Quiz

6. The type of health insurance plan that tries to minimize hospitalization costs by emphasizing preventable health care is called what?
   A. Medicare
   B. a preferred provider organization
   C. a health maintenance organization
   D. Medicaid
The type of health insurance plan that tries to minimize hospitalization costs by emphasizing preventable health care is called a health maintenance organization.