

GPH 740 Final Project: Policy Brief

You will be **acting as a high ranking public health official** in a department of health in the country you choose and **writing a policy brief to the Minister of Health**.

Choose a topic and then a country:

- Undernourished children < 5 years of age
 - India, S. Sudan, Somalia, or Syrian refugees
- Obesity in children OR adults
 - Morocco or China
- Maternal mortality (defined as dying during pregnancy and childbirth)
 - Afghanistan, Chad, or Somalia
- Pneumonia in children < 5 years of age
 - Niger, Chad, or Somalia
- Cancer of the cervix
 - Zambia, Peru, or Ghana
- Type II diabetes in adults
 - China, Belize, India, or Morocco
- Alcohol abuse
 - China or Russia
- Lack of sanitation or open defecation
 - India, Ghana, Pakistan, or Sudan
- Indoor air pollution from cooking stoves using biomass (wood, charcoal, wastes)
 - Ethiopia, China, or Laos
- Ambient air pollution
 - China, Bangladesh, or Saudi Arabia
- Avian influenza H7N9
 - China
- COVID-19 in adults
 - Brazil, India, Malawi, or S. Africa
- TB in adults
 - S. Africa or Morocco
- HIV/AIDS among key populations
 - Ghana, Kenya, Ukraine, or Vietnam
- Malaria in children
 - Mali, Nigeria, or Thailand
- Zika in women of reproductive age in Brazil
- Suicide in young women
 - India or China

Sections

Each paper should follow the outline below and address each of the following topics.

1. Title Page
 - a. The title page should introduce the reader to the topic and be formatted in accordance with your role as a high-ranking public health official, representing your agency or department of health in your chosen country.
 - i. Thought-provoking and descriptive name for brief
 - ii. Author's name and title
 - iii. Representative logos/images
2. One-page Executive Summary
 - a. The executive summary must provide the reader with a summary of the relevance and importance of the brief. It should contain:
 - i. a clear statement of the problem or issue
 - ii. who is most affected and where
 - iii. an overview of the root causes of the problem, major risk factors
 - iv. a statement about the priority action steps that need to be taken to address the problem.
3. Introduction, Nature and Magnitude of the Problem
 - a. **In the Introduction**, make sure to define your health problem clearly and describe briefly how the health problem impacts your country and global health more broadly. Include one or two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) your health problem relates to. When relevant, include the SDG's targets and indicators (For SDG goals, targets and indicators see: [World Health Statistics 2022](#) and the [UN SDG data portal](#)). For the **Nature and Magnitude of the Problem** cite relevant statistics, studies, etc. to describe the nature and magnitude of the problem in your selected country.
 - i. Review Week 2 and include burden of disease data: prevalence, incidence, mortality rates, morbidity data, DALYs, other composite measures if applicable. Use the data and studies in this section of the policy brief to show not only the **health effects of your problem, but also its social and economic effects/costs in your selected country.**
4. Persons Most Affected
 - a. Are there certain racial/ethnic groups or a certain gender, religion, age, class/occupation who are more affected? A certain region? Urban vs rural?
5. Major Risk Factors for the Health Problem
 - a. For the Week 5 Assignment: Include any key behavioral, social, and lifestyle risk factors. Also, refer to lecture 1 where the WHO social determinants of health were discussed and include these, if relevant. Include cultural beliefs and attitudes.
 - b. For the Week 6 Assignment: Are there any environmental factors (unsafe and/or lack of water, food insecurity, lack of sanitation, globalization, climate change,

war/conflict) which are associated with the health condition? And what role does access to health care and services play?

6. What key priority action steps do you recommend be taken to address the problem and **what is your rationale for these recommendations? Are your recommendations evidence based, realistic?**
 - a. Include one action step that addresses policy, such as a national regulation or law to address the health problem
 - b. Include an action step which demonstrates cultural proficiency/sensitivity and community collaboration. Which global health organizations might be involved with local and national organizations? Refer to Week 1 document, “**740 Global Health Resources**”. This document is under “Readings” for the week and includes many health organizations after the section on data sources.

Submission Requirements

- No more than 10 pages long
 - Excluding title page and references
 - NO Abstract needed, but DO include Executive Summary
- Double spaced
- 12 point Times New Roman font

Visit the following for examples of policy briefs:

- [Section 4.1 Preparing policy briefs](#) from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization’s [Food Security Communications Toolkit](#)
- [Health Systems Readiness for UNAIDS 95-95-95 in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa](#)
- [U.S. State Anti-Transgender Bathroom Bills](#)
- [Sustaining Gains in Control of Communicable Diseases in Kenya](#)
- [Telehealth in Rural America](#)
- [Urban Water Supply and Sanitation in India](#)