LETTER FROM PAHO’S DIRECTOR

Upon initiating my second term leading PAHO, I am pleased to present the 2008 publications catalog. The catalog achieves one of our Organization’s core mandates: to create and disseminate pertinent health information to address the most pressing issues confronting public health in today’s world.

One of the priorities for my second term will be to promote the application of interventions of proven effectiveness and to incorporate scientific knowledge and ethical considerations into policy decisions and the information that we transmit to our readers. Furthermore, I intend to promote collaborative and transparent forms of research and knowledge-sharing, while at the same time facilitating the preservation and documentation of traditional knowledge, good practices, and the dissemination of lessons learned. In this regard, the publications that are presented in this catalog are essential tools for the consolidation of these objectives.


For PAHO, it is fundamental to take advantage of the information technology to expand the dissemination of our publications, thus facilitating access to a larger audience. Hence, we continue to increase our collection of publications in electronic format and offer it on different servers on the Internet. At the same time, we continue to strengthen the interactive site of the *Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública/Pan American Journal of Public Health* (http://journal.paho.org) by offering free access both to the most recent and previous issues of the *Journal*. We also continue to improve PAHO’s online bookstore (http://publications.paho.org), which was recently redesigned to facilitate access to a broader list of publications and ensure access to the newest updates. We likewise continue to improve the PAHO Publishing site (http://www.paho.org/publishing), where you will find full-text publications, selected chapters of books, expert opinions and testimonies, book reviews, statistical information, and other highly useful tools.

To ensure the highest level of quality, usefulness, and accessibility in the information that we provide our global readership, we continuously measure the needs and demands of our users, especially in light of the trend toward electronic dissemination. Thus, in 2007, we conducted three studies to ascertain where our Internet readers come from, what their needs are, and what their degree of access is to electronic information. These studies will allow us to strike an adequate balance between our printed and electronic dissemination methods, but above all, to reduce the digital gap in access to our information.

PAHO of the 21st century looks inward searchingly from day to day as it renews its mission of solidarity and joint Pan American action. At the same time, it is doggedly moving forward in its efforts to complete the unfinished agenda, protect health achievements, and respond to the challenges in public health and socioeconomic development faced by its Member States. We hope that the publications presented in this catalog serve as instruments for meeting these goals.

—Dr. Mirta Roses Periago
PAHO Publishing on the Web

Where you will find valuable information resources related to the Western Hemisphere’s most pressing public health issues in easily accessible formats on topics such as: epidemiology - maternal health - child health - food and nutrition - injuries and violence - research and scientific writing - healthy lifestyles - gender and health - health promotion and communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

With this service, PAHO offers health workers and the general public information that is useful, timely, and from reliable sources.

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* scientific journal articles;
* expert opinions and testimonials, book reviews, and a calendar of events on a variety of topics;
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NEW DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADDED TO THIS PAHO SERVICE ON AN ONGOING BASIS.
PLEASE VISIT US AT: http://www.paho.org/publishing

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DENGUE AND DENGUE HEMORRHAGIC FEVER IN THE AMERICAS: GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL

These guidelines stress the fact that dengue is primarily a problem of domestic sanitation. Through physical means and without the overuse of chemicals, *A. aegypti* and the disease’s other important vector, *A. albopictus*, can be eliminated. Contrary to the centralized and vertically structured programs of the past, these guidelines emphasize ways to transfer the responsibility, capability, and motivation for dengue control and prevention to the community.

Prepared by 18 representatives from seven countries in the Americas and several PAHO experts, this publication fills a critical niche in the fight against dengue in the Americas and is an invaluable tool for health professionals working in vector control everywhere.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MALARIA IN THE AMERICAS 2006–2010

The plan to combat malaria over the next five years takes into account the need for continuous efforts to achieve specific goals as well as the reduction of the burden on human health and the negative social and economic effects of the disease among the most affected population groups. It emphasizes the need for access to malaria diagnosis, appropriate treatment, preventive interventions, and sufficient health service coverage—meaning that strategies must be coupled with concrete actions and an enduring commitment.

OTHER RELATED WORKS:

HANTAVIRUS IN THE AMERICAS: GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND CONTROL

ZOONOSES AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES COMMON TO MAN AND ANIMALS, THIRD EDITION

VIHDEO AMERICA: AN ANTHOLOGY OF 10 YEARS OF HIV TV SPOTS IN THE AMERICAS

VIHdeo America is an initiative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to disseminate 198 TV spots about HIV created and produced in 24 countries of the Americas between 1995 and 2005. VIHdeo America is meant to serve as a learning tool for communicators. It is a historic collection and not intended as a showcase of best practices.

The best way to benefit from the collection is to make an analysis of the TV spots. Even if you don’t have all the background about the objectives and impact of a particular TV spot, you can learn many communication issues by jointly answering with colleagues the following questions:

1. What is the TV spot’s specific objective?
2. Can you identify its target audience?
3. Do you think the spot is appropriate for this target audience?
4. Does the spot promote individual behavior change, social change, or policy change (advocacy)?
5. Does the spot tell viewers what to do (use imperative language), or does it challenge them to think about personal choices?
6. Does it contain language or images that convey: fear/risk, support, hopelessness, empowerment, stigma and discrimination, solidarity, blame, dialogue, moral judgment, pity, compassion, other feelings and emotions?
7. Make a list of the spots you consider to be good examples of HIV communication and another of those that are poor examples. What criteria did you use to separate the two groups?
8. Did you discover elements in the spots that are relevant to your own country’s HIV response? If so, how might these be adopted or incorporated?
9. Try answering questions 1 to 8 again, now based on TV spots from your own country.

Other materials related to VIHdeo America, including evaluations and discussions, are available on the Internet at www.paho.org/vihdeoamerica.
MANAGEMENT OF DEAD BODIES AFTER DISASTERS: A FIELD MANUAL FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

“ [...] a clear, concise, and well-written resource that provides much-needed guidance to first responders who are recovering and handling dead bodies immediately after a natural disaster.”


Management of the dead is one of the most difficult aspects of disaster response. It has profound and long-lasting consequences for survivors and communities. Globally, disasters claim thousands of lives each year. However, care of the deceased is often overlooked in disaster planning and the absence of guidance for first responders has recently been highlighted following several large disasters. This field manual for first responders presents simple recommendations for non-specialists to manage the recovery, basic identification, storage, and disposal of dead bodies following disasters. It also makes suggestions about providing support to family members and communicating with the public and the media.

This manual will be useful during the immediate response to a disaster and where forensic response is unavailable. Furthermore, it will be useful for those preparing mass fatality disaster plans. The recommendations are relevant for local, regional, and national authorities as well as for nongovernmental organizations. The principles outlined in this manual are being implemented and promoted by a variety of organizations, including the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

PROTECTING NEW HEALTH FACILITIES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

Technical knowledge and experience have taught us that it is possible to reduce to a minimum the risks and damage caused by disasters if preventive measures are incorporated early in the design, construction, and maintenance of new health facilities.

This publication is an overview of prevention guidelines and includes recommendations on how to promote their use among national authorities, planners, and financing agencies involved in the development of these projects. It emphasizes the substantial social and economic benefits of applying disaster mitigation measures to the design, planning, and construction of health facilities. Equally important, it describes how to apply these measures to achieve protection levels that ensure not only human safety but also the security of infrastructure and the continuity of services.

This is the premise of the Guidelines for Vulnerability Reduction in the Design of New Health Facilities for those responsible for design, construction, and inspection of new health facilities projects.

DISASTERS: SELECTED READINGS

Disasters: Selected Readings highlights various aspects of planning before a disaster strikes and an effective response in its aftermath. The selections touch on such topics as the handling of supplies, dealing with mass casualties, protecting various elements of the health sector, and coping with mental health issues among survivors.

The publication is divided into three parts. The section on “Good Planning and Preparation for Safety” deals with various aspects of planning and taking measures to mitigate the effects of disasters, including how to prepare for mass casualties, how to plan for processing and handling emergency supplies, and how to think ahead and protect water supply and sewerage systems. The section on “Protecting the Health Sector” deals with assessing the risk of damage from disasters to various components of the health sector and how to protect them before a disaster strikes and during its aftermath. The last section, “Responding Effectively,” deals with various aspects of a response to a disaster, including effectively deploying field hospitals, coping with mental health issues, and processing supply donations.

GUIDELINES FOR VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN THE DESIGN OF NEW HEALTH FACILITIES

It is almost always the case that, when struck by large-scale natural disasters, hospital services are interrupted temporarily or permanently, mainly due to damage to their infrastructure. The operational loss of these facilities signifies more than the loss of the capital investments. Far more importantly, it has a major negative impact on the well-being and the socioeconomic development of the population and the country.
aged to reduce the vulnerability of their hospitals; several of them withstood the effects of subsequent disasters. Even countries with limited financial resources can serve their populations well by providing them with hospitals and other health facilities that are resistant to earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural hazards.

This publication, produced in conjunction with the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for Disaster Mitigation in Health Facilities at the University of Chile, puts forward three potential levels of protection from adverse events, or performance objectives: life safety, investment protection, and functional protection. PAHO/WHO recommends that essential areas and components of hospitals be built to achieve the third and most demanding performance objective, and that new health facilities be built entirely so as to meet, at least, the first level of protection, namely life safety.

International experience has shown that applying this philosophy to the construction of a new hospital only adds about 4% to the total cost of the project. This is the maximum amount that hospital authorities, project designers, builders, and financial agents must weigh against the social, political, and economic costs arising from the interruption or total loss of vital services at the very time that they are most needed. By contrast, applying innovative approaches when designing and selecting the site of a new facility can improve its safety and efficiency without significantly increasing overall costs.

THE CHALLENGE IN DISASTER REDUCTION FOR THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR: IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE BY REDUCING VULNERABILITIES

This joint publication (PAHO, UNICEF, ISDR, and IFRC) was introduced at the 4th World Water Forum that took place in Mexico in March 2006 to draw attention to the importance of ensuring that water and sanitation systems remain fully operational in the aftermath of natural disasters. This is critical if countries are to ensure there are no setbacks to the hard-won achievements in terms of access to these services. Additionally, it will allow countries to meet, by the year 2015, the goal of reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation. Risk management is an important tool for the fulfillment of global challenges to provide water and sanitation services to all at all times.

DISASTER MITIGATION IN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SYSTEMS

This CD-ROM contains an assortment of training and dissemination material on disaster mitigation in water and sanitation systems. An effort has been made to assemble or create the most effective material, including a slideshow and a compilation of technical papers on the subject that describe the theoretical and practical aspects of vulnerability assessment and introduce basic mitigation measures that can be taken in response to each of the natural hazards common in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Professionals and technicians involved in the design, construction, maintenance, and management of water and sanitation infrastructure are the target audience of this package, the purpose of which is to promote and facilitate the incorporation of disaster mitigation measures in such infrastructure in order to reduce the damage caused by natural disasters and to ensure that services can continue to function in their aftermath.

NATURAL DISASTERS: PROTECTING THE PUBLIC’S HEALTH

This publication outlines the health sector’s role in reducing the impact of disasters, laying out a framework that an administrator can rely on to make effective decisions in managing the health sector’s activities to reduce the consequences of disasters. It describes the overall effects of disasters on health, highlighting myths and realities, and summarizes how the health sector must organize itself to cope with disasters. The book emphasizes the multisectoral nature of disaster preparedness and sets forth guidelines for preparing health sector disaster plans, means of coordination, and special technical programs before a disaster hits. The book also includes groundbreaking information on the management of supplies in a disaster.

The book is primarily aimed at health sector professionals who work in disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation activities. Disaster management has become such an intersectoral enterprise, however, that anyone interested in disaster mitigation will find here a useful primer. Public health students and professors also can rely on this book in formal and informal courses.
This book, written by experts from PAHO, the European Commission, and the East Carolina University School of Medicine, reviews the fundamental concepts related to the technical and legal aspects of data protection and summarizes the scope and degree of implementation of pertinent regulations in 51 countries. Even though the emphasis of the book is on data protection and privacy issues as they relate to person-identifiable electronic databases, data privacy regulation and legislation being implemented in many countries will likely apply to all data, regardless of whether they are collected offline or online. Health professionals, legislators, and other interested parties will find this publication a valuable, carefully researched, and extensively referenced source of information on the status of health data protection regulation.
Fluoridating salt to prevent dental caries is one of the most successful—and cost-effective—public health interventions in modern times. For a mere 6 cents per person per year, a country can reduce dental caries by as much as 84%. And, for every US$ 1 spent on the effort, there are savings to be gained in no-longer-needed dental treatment on the order of US$ 250 per person per year. Salt fluoridation also is highly equitable, as its benefits reach rich and poor, young and old, urban and rural dwellers, even those living in remote areas who do not have access to dental care services. For countries that have unreliable water supply systems, salt fluoridation programs avoid the problems posed by fluoridating water.

In *Promoting Oral Health: The Use of Salt Fluoridation to Prevent Dental Caries* you will find everything you need to know about salt fluoridation. The book’s first part traces the history of salt fluoridation programs, beginning with the earliest attempts in Switzerland in the 1950s to more recent success stories in Europe and the Americas. The second section is a how-to treatise for planning, launching, running, monitoring, and evaluating salt fluoridation programs. The third section offers recommendations for launching a salt fluoridation program, blueprints for proposing and enacting salt fluoridation legislation, and detailed standardized research protocols and sample forms for conducting epidemiological research—all essential tools for public health workers.

As more and more countries start salt fluoridation programs, *Promoting Oral Health: The Use of Salt Fluoridation to Prevent Dental Caries* will become an essential road map for those charged with planning and implementing them.

ISBN: 9 78 11615 6
US$ 8.00/0.00 in Latin America and the Caribbean
Order code: SP 615

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**TOOL-KIT FOR DECISION-MAKERS, HEALTH PLANNERS, LEGISLATORS, EPIDEMIOLOGISTS, AND HEALTH WORKERS**

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*Overall, this is an excellent, cost-effective reference for oral health educators and community oral health programs. It is filled with well-researched, practical scientific, historical, technical and behavioral information about salt fluoridation.*

—Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene
For example: how healthy are the years of life gained? Which public health interventions will bring about gains in life expectancy free of disability? The survey to evaluate the determinants of health and well-being among the elderly in Latin America and the Caribbean (known by its Spanish acronym, SABE) tapped more than 11,000 persons 60 years old and older in seven of the Region’s cities: Buenos Aires (Argentina), Bridgetown (Barbados), São Paulo (Brazil), Santiago (Chile), Havana (Cuba), Mexico City (Mexico), and Montevideo (Uruguay). SABE gathered data about older adults’ physical and mental health, financial situation, family support, work history, and housing conditions. The results included in the country reports represent a contribution to the research agenda on the health of older adults.

**HEALTH, WELFARE AND AGING IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS. SABE 2000**

Reaching a satisfactory old age hinges on many factors that affect persons, families, communities, and nations. We must foster research that will uncover empirical evidence about the aging process in the Region of the Americas, as well as studies that will help us understand the risks and threats to the health of older adults.

**PAN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH: SPECIAL ISSUE ON HEALTH, WELL-BEING, ANDAGING**

This special issue presents a series of papers covering multiple dimensions of the aging process. The majority of these studies use data generated by a multicenter project that was directed by PAHO and that was called Health, Well-Being, and Aging (the “SABE project”). The articles in this issue are the fruits of the investment made by PAHO and its funding partners to develop an up-to-date body of knowledge on public health and aging. Despite abundant evidence of increased inequity and loss of social protection during the past decade, national sociopolitical agendas have, in many cases, dealt with this situation in only a fragmented and indirect manner.

**ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN THE AMERICAS: MAGNITUDE AND CONTAINMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The Pan American Health Organization shares the growing concern of the scientific and medical community regarding antimicrobial resistance resulting from the overuse of antibiotics in both humans and animals. This book is a valuable contribution to the surveillance of resistance to antibiotics. It includes articles in two broad categories: the monitoring of bacterial resistance to antimicrobial drugs and the factors determining the use of antimicrobials. Some of the articles were presented at a conference on antimicrobial resistance held in Venezuela in the late 1990s, and other pieces were prepared specifically for this book. Within the wide range of materials in the publication are articles that address general subjects, such as choosing a method to monitor antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, and other pieces that deal with situations specific to various countries of the Americas.

This publication aims to increase awareness of the problem, to promote surveillance activities, and to find the best way to apply preventive measures, so that antibiotics are used judiciously with both humans and animals. The book is critical reading for official health entities in the Region of the Americas as well as for health professionals in both private and public practice.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY: THE CONTRIBUTION AND PERSPECTIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE AMERICAS**

This publication is the result of a collaborative effort between the Pan American Health Organization and the WHO Collaborating Center for International Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch. The chapters are based on the proceedings from a seminar-workshop held in Galveston, Texas, in 1998. The objective of this forum was to examine the impact of the economic globalization process and technological change on health trends in the Region of the Americas, and, even more specifically, to explore how civil society groups can influence the formulation of healthy public policies and monitor equity, in terms of both the health situation and the distribution of health care resources.
This publication addresses a wide range of issues affecting health in the global economy, including various types of economic organization and potential dangers the world faces in this new century. It centers on experiences, opportunities, and risks in the Americas, and on the value of health in human development and of international and regional integration processes in the formulation of a new global economy. It includes articles analyzing the impact of economic reform policies on health in general, as well as monographs written from the perspective of civil society groups in specific countries.

The variety of viewpoints and lessons learned presented in this publication will be of use to decision-makers, health and development experts, and emerging civil society groups in Latin America and the Caribbean. They provide guidance in better addressing the enormous risks facing all sectors of society as a result of globalization by enabling them to take advantage of the tremendous potential this process affords.

TRADE IN HEALTH SERVICES: GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND COUNTRY PERSPECTIVES

This publication gathers some of the papers presented at the Inter-regional Meeting on Health and Trade: Toward the Millennium Round organized by the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization in 1999. The principal objective of the meeting was to identify and explore possible cooperation mechanisms between the health services and trade sectors in order to develop effective health protection and promotion strategies. Participants included experts on trade and health issues from nine countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United States.

The overarching conclusion emanating from the meeting is that unless the health and trade sectors develop strong linkages, health priorities will not be adequately taken into account by trade agreements currently under negotiation.

EXCLUSION IN HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Millions of people in the Region of the Americas currently do not have access to health services and are excluded from the benefits of health protection systems. This issue is growing in importance in the public policy arena, not only as a social phenomenon that must be confronted and resolved, but also because of its potential use as an analytical tool to develop and evaluate interventions aimed at improving people's health status and the performance of health systems.

Despite abundant evidence of increased inequity and loss of social protection during the past decade, national sociopolitical agendas have, in many cases, dealt with this situation in only a fragmented and indirect manner, without sufficient data regarding its magnitude, causal factors, and the affected populations.

This publication presents the results of studies conducted between 2001 and 2003 in six countries of the Region—the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, and Peru—with the objective of characterizing and measuring exclusion in health. The study forms part of a joint initiative between the Pan American Health Organization and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and its findings will be of great use to decision- and policymakers at all levels throughout the regional public health community.

INVESTMENT IN HEALTH: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RETURNS

The Pan American Health Organization joined hands with the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, and also worked with the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to explore how investing in health can benefit economic growth, household productivity, and poverty alleviation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This publication collects the final reports of three research projects that examined these issues. The work published here includes noteworthy research by economists interested in health issues and by health workers who are concerned about the broader implications of good health. These findings will go a long way towards defining the critical role that health plays in overall human development.
Building Better Health: A Handbook of Behavioral Change blends tried-and-true disease prevention practices and behavioral science principles into a hands-on manual for health workers, community health promoters, nurses, and family physicians. Many others, such as social workers and teachers, can also learn here how to promote health and prevent disease. The book offers step-by-step instructions in behavioral change techniques to use at the society, community, family, and individual levels.

The book is structured into five sections, which detail theoretical and practical aspects of health promotion. Within the handbook’s pages there is an overview of principles of disease prevention and strategies of community health intervention, including practical examples and step-by-step planning. The book also includes an in-depth examination of the causes of morbidity, disability, and premature mortality that most seriously burden broad age groups across the life cycle and a review of the protective and risk factors for each of the leading forms of disability and death. Throughout its chapters, the book recommends simple, hands-on preventive interventions.

2003, 378 pp., ISBN 92 75 11590 7. US$ 30.00/22.00 in Latin America and the Caribbean
Order code: SP 590
Available in Spanish, order code: PC 590

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This Strategic Plan for Strengthening the Health-Promoting Schools Regional Initiative during the 2003–2012 period is the result of a long process of analysis of the current status of the Health-Promoting Schools Strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean, and of the needs of children and adolescents and the countries in these subregions. It is also the result of discussion sessions, consensus, and final validation with a group of professionals, mainly from the health and education sectors, with wide experience in the management of the strategy and school health programs at the country level. The Strategic Plan, presented in this document, reflects the vision of the Pan American Health Organization for strengthening the Regional Initiative throughout the next 10 years. Once again, PAHO encourages all Member States to continue their efforts to improve the health and quality of education of all school-age children and adolescents through the Health-Promoting Schools Strategy.

HEALTH PROMOTION: AN ANTHOLOGY

“[Health Promotion: An Anthology] will fill a gap on many individuals’ bookshelves, including health promotion practitioners, other health workers, and students.”

—Canadian Journal of Public Health

The studies included in this book have had a lasting impact and attest to the belief that public health requires a holistic point of view, rather than one limited to disease prevention and control. More than 50 public health experts from four continents contributed to the anthology. Their papers illustrate the diverse nature of health promotion topics and are presented in five parts: Developing a Framework, Building Healthy Public Policy, Strengthening Community Action, Developing Personal Health Skills, and Health Promotion for Specific Groups.

TOBACCO-FREE YOUTH: A “LIFE SKILLS” PRIMER

The book’s first part describes the scope of the tobacco problem in the Region, especially as it affects youth and adolescents. It delves into such issues as tobacco-related illnesses and reviews various approaches for substance-abuse prevention. The second part discusses the application of the “life skills” approach to programs designed to prevent the use of tobacco and other substances. “Life skills” programs have a proven track record of effectiveness: by teaching such skills as self-awareness, stress management, assertiveness, and negotiation, they give young people the necessary tools to resist social and media pressures to use tobacco. As such, “life skills” programs have become one of the most effective weapons in the anti-tobacco arsenal.

Health professionals, program planners, educators, and policymakers will find here a useful overview of the tobacco situation in the Region, as well as guidelines for the planning and development of “life skills” substance use prevention programs that are tailored to the needs of the Region.

NURSING IN THE AMERICAS

As we move through the 21st century, nurses will continue to play a predominant role in helping to develop better and more equitable public health services for the most vulnerable population groups. Nursing in the Americas highlights nursing’s progress and achievements in the Region of the Americas and reflects on what the nursing community can do in the future to bridge the gaps of inequality in all communities.

This publication is composed of 21 articles that examine such issues as health in development, innovative strategies for addressing priority problems, the organization and management of health services, education, and research as they pertain to nursing. The articles appear in English, Portuguese, or Spanish, depending on the native language of the author(s), and abstracts are provided in the other languages for broad application by all health professionals in the Americas. Nursing in the Americas will inspire nurses across the globe.
DEVELOPING HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The first part of this publication provides an introduction to health technology assessment (HTA): why it is important; who does the evaluations; when and how the evaluations are done. The World Health Organization’s programming activities regarding HTA are also discussed. In the second part, the authors look at health technology in Latin America and the Caribbean. PAHO’s recommendations for promoting health technology assessment are outlined in this section.

This publication will serve as a useful tool for policymakers and health care professionals in this field, especially those interested in PAHO’s role in developing health technology assessment in the Region. It is hoped that this publication will help facilitate the incorporation of HTA as a regular part of health services processes and development throughout the Americas.

ORGANIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY ASSURANCE, AND RADIATION PROTECTION IN RADIOLOGY SERVICES: IMAGING AND RADIATION THERAPY

This publication explores organizational and technical aspects of radiology, analyzed within the context of the Pan American Health Organization’s strategic and programmatic orientations during the late 1990s. It seeks to strike a balance between basic principles of decentralized health services and the requirements that emerge as advances in medical knowledge are incorporated and applied in various areas of the health services. As a complement to the concepts developed in the text, the appendices in the second half of the book present examples of equipment specifications and legislation on practices and specialties, and provide information on technical aspects of quality assurance and radiation protection.

Politicians, administrators, planners, and health professionals, as well as ministries of health staff, will find this publication useful as they allocate resources and determine technological configurations for the provision of services. Moreover, it is hoped that this book will help ease the task of those who must reconcile universal health care coverage with quality assurance and radiation protection.

SETTING UP HEALTH CARE SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEMS: A GUIDE FOR REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS, APPLICATION SPECIFICATION, AND PROCUREMENT. BOOK AND CD-ROM

This publication caps a successful partnership between the Pan American Health Organization and the IBM Corporation that set out to study health information issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. The book contains practical guidelines and suggestions for health care and health systems professionals as they prepare to plan and develop information systems.

The book discusses the implementation of information systems and the application of information technology in terms of the requirements in health care services and provides a comprehensive review of information systems and information technology solutions. One of this book’s most significant contributions is the description of the functional specifications of information systems applications in the health care services.

This publication specifically targets health care executives, health services administrators, information technology professionals and managers, and other interested professionals who work in health care institutions and who have an immediate and pragmatic interest in information systems and related technology.

The publication comes with a CD-ROM which contains all chapters in PDF (Portable Document Format). The CD-ROM’s contents are in English and Spanish.

WELL-BEING

Published in a very unique format, this collection of quotations—from Homer to the authors of books of the Bible to the drafters of the Constitutions of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization—attests to a universal understanding of health in its all-encompassing sense: “physical, mental and social well-being.” These voices from over the centuries and from many different cultures eloquently and entertainingly characterize the varying components of physical well-being (nutrition, exercise, lifestyle, and leisure). At the same time they recognize the requisite harmony of the individual with nature, and in dimensioning the concept of health, these sages likewise seize the contribution of mental well-being. For its part, the genius of the Constitutions of PAHO and WHO rest on their embrace of social well-being as a sine qua non of health.

Order code: OP 168. Also available in Spanish, order code: OT 168
THE CHALLENGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY: ISSUES AND SELECTED READINGS
Edited by four eminent epidemiologists, this book consolidates, for the first time, a core of landmark articles on the evolution, scope and limitations, uses, and prospects of epidemiology. An outstanding feature of the book is the inclusion of the editors' assessments of the realm of epidemiology, where it is and where it should be going. It represents a useful tool for both students and practicing professionals and provides a much-needed frame of reference for reorienting the practice of epidemiology.

The book is a collection of 91 articles, grouped in five sections. The first two sections deal with the historical evolution of the discipline, and sections 3 and 4 address the application of epidemiology. Finally, section 5 offers the editors' views on epidemiology's future.

HEALTH TRENDS ASSESSMENT SET
This set included:
- *Health in the Americas*, 2007 Ed., Volumes I and II
- CD ROM version of *Health in the Americas*, 2002 Ed.

US$ 140.00/80.00 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Order code: ST 059. This set includes: 2 books and 2 CD-ROMs. This offer is not valid for sales agents.

HEALTH STATISTICS FROM THE AMERICAS, 1998 EDITION
This edition is the fourth in a series begun in 1991 to complement the quinquennial publication *Health in the Americas*. Marking a first for the series, Part I of this edition is devoted to a special topic—health during childhood.

Part I deals with selected demographic aspects, presents estimated death rates for broad groups of causes for children under 1 year and children 1–4 years of age, and examines selected health topics of particular importance during childhood.

Part II presents data on registered mortality in specific age groups. In addition to providing a summarized presentation of causes of death in children under 5 years of age, it also includes mortality data for several age groups immediately following early childhood. These data have not been published previously in this age detail, and they should be invaluable in the study of adolescent health.

In Part III, as have previous editions, this volume presents summarized mortality data by age group and sex for all country-years received after the previous edition (1995).

With this book, PAHO once more brings to analysts, researchers, policymakers, and other interested parties the full richness of statistical information available about health in the Region of the Americas.

HEALTH STATISTICS FROM THE AMERICAS, 2003 EDITION
As part of the Pan American Health Organization’s constitutional mandate to disseminate information on the health situation and trends in the Region of the Americas, this on-line publication presents mortality data submitted by individual countries of the Americas, as well as other useful health information, for dissemination to the international health community. The statistical information presented in this publication was prepared by the Health Analysis and Information Systems Area (AIS) of PAHO, which was also responsible for the selection, tabulation, and technical review of the data presented. The data collection process includes technical collaboration with the Member States to strengthen routine national vital statistics systems.

This publication marks the first time that detailed causes of death statistics according to the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)* are presented.

PRESS COPIES FOR REVIEW
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One of the Pan American Health Organization’s core mandates is to collect and disseminate information on health conditions and trends in the countries and territories of the Americas. One key mechanism to accomplish this mandate is to publish *Health in the Americas*, a comprehensive report exclusively devoted to tracking and analyzing the Region’s health situation. This book has been published every four years since 1954, and beginning in 2002, every five years. As such, *Health in the Americas* has become the Organization’s flagship publication, informing Member Governments on public health issues critical to policy development and decision-making.

The two volumes of *Health in the Americas* present information for the 2000–2005 period. Volume I examines health in the Americas from a Regional perspective. Among other issues, the volume’s six chapters analyze:

- the political, social, and economic context of health, as well as important demographic and mortality trends;
- the leading diseases and health problems and efforts to prevent and control them;
- the interrelationship between the environment and human living conditions;
- the structure and functioning of health systems in the Region and efforts to reform them, and the scope and impact of international cooperation in health;
- the prospects for improving health in the Region addressed by a group of internationally renowned experts who offer their comments on the “Health Agenda for the Americas, 2008–2017.”

Volume II tackles these same issues from a national perspective and includes information on progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals. This volume has 46 chapters covering information and analysis for each of the countries or territories in the Americas. *Health in the Americas* offers up-to-date information on health in the Region to government officials, public health and medical professionals, researchers, medical librarians, students, and anyone interested in health and human development in the Americas.

**2007; 1,212 pp. (both volumes)**
ISBN 978 92 75 11622 9
US$ 95.00/50.00 in Latin America and the Caribbean
Also available in Spanish, order code: PC622

“In its *Health in the Americas* 2007 report, PAHO notes that “At least 80% of premature heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes, and 40% of cancer in the Americas could be prevented through healthy diet, regular physical activity, and avoidance of tobacco products.” In an odd twist, the prosperity that has resulted from improvements in trade, commerce, and advances in health has itself become a problem for public health.”

–The Lancet
IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Four field guides are essential tools in the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases.

**POLIO ERADICATION: FIELD GUIDE**

The strategies that made polio eradication in the Americas possible are the same ones currently being implemented on a global scale and, essentially, those that will make it possible to keep the countries of the Americas polio-free: to achieve and maintain high vaccination coverage and adequate epidemiological surveillance.

This guide provides the knowledge and strategies necessary for health workers to keep the Hemisphere polio-free and to enable them to quickly and effectively control new outbreaks. More than a guide to achieving eradication, it is a reference manual for maintaining polio eradication.

**ELIMINATION OF RUBELLA AND CONGENITAL RUBELLA SYNDROME: FIELD GUIDE**

This guide offers local health workers, physicians, nurses, and other members of the health team pertinent, practical information to facilitate early detection of congenital rubella syndrome, and thereby contribute to the surveillance and control of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome. It stresses the clinical and epidemiological aspects of the disease, which will help health workers to better evaluate and appropriately manage suspected cases.

**ELIMINATION OF NEONATAL TETANUS: FIELD GUIDE**

This publication offers a unique approach to the strategies that have made the elimination of neonatal tetanus in the Americas possible. The guide provides up-to-date information and describes innovative field techniques that can be adapted and applied throughout the Region.

This book highlights the progress made in surveillance to identify and monitor high-risk areas as well as immunization activities geared especially toward women of child-bearing age who live in those areas. The objective of these activities is to complement measures such as proper care during childbirth and the puerperium and the administration of the triple vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT) to infants and children, and of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid (TD/Td) to schoolchildren and pregnant women.

**CONTROL OF YELLOW FEVER: FIELD GUIDE**

Yellow fever remains an important public health problem in the Americas. Occasional cases of jungle yellow fever and the proliferation of *Aedes aegypti* across the Hemisphere are evidence of the continued high risk of reurbanization that this disease poses. The guide stresses clinical and epidemiological aspects of the disease, as well as prevention and control strategies. It also contains practical exercises related to a clinical case and the control of yellow fever outbreaks. These exercises require the use of local and regional data for training in prevention and proper case management, as well as in the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance.

**IMMUNIZATION FIELD GUIDES SET**

Set includes:

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- Control of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, *Haemophilus Influenzae* Type B (Hib), and Hepatitis B: Field Guide

US$ 48.00/36.00 in Latin America and the Caribbean
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Thanks to the work of immunization programs throughout the Region’s countries, the peoples of the Americas now live free of indigenous polio and measles; neonatal tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis have been well-controlled; and new vaccines have been added to national immunization programs and their application has been sustained. High coverage levels have been achieved for the diseases originally covered by the Expanded Program on Immunization, as well as for hepatitis B, rubella, mumps, and Haemophilus influenzae.

This progress, while extraordinary, has not been even, however. Some countries still have significant proportions of their populations living in districts where coverage remains below 95%, putting them at risk for large measles outbreaks when importations of measles virus occur. Clearly, an unfinished agenda needs to be completed. Reaching children and families who live in low-coverage areas will be essential for sustaining the success of measles elimination and for achieving the new targets of eliminating rubella and congenital rubella syndrome. Some countries also will need to seriously consider the introduction of new or underutilized life-saving vaccines. And immunization programs will need to evolve from targeting just children to including the whole family. Including the whole family will enable countries to attain higher vaccination coverage of adolescents and adults for influenza and human papillomavirus, as well as for human immunodeficiency virus and other diseases when future vaccines against them become available.

The future portends new opportunities to tackle important public health priorities with modern technologies, but the latest vaccines are much more expensive than the traditional vaccines used in childhood immunization programs. Evidence-based, informed decisions will be critical if the success of immunization programs is to be sustained. This second edition of *Recent Advances in Immunization* could not come at a better time in the evolution of national immunization programs.
Vaccines: Preventing Disease and Protecting Health 
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Welcoming Remarks. George A. O. Alleyne 

Summation. Donald A. Henderson
JUVENILE VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS: INNOVATIVE STUDIES IN RESEARCH, DIAGNOSIS, AND PREVENTION

This book briefly discusses several published works on violence among children and adolescents, organizing the research on factors related to violence by age group and type of environment and examining the environmental factors that contribute to violence and the role played by the mass media. It also presents a theoretical model that identifies the factors and processes that lead to violence or follow from it as a frame of reference for understanding how to prevent this phenomenon. Based on the model’s components, the study reviews research on violence prevention in families, schools, and communities and analyzes important case studies from the United States and Colombia. Finally, it issues recommendations for future action to reduce violence by and against children and young people in the Americas.

OPERATIONS RESEARCH ON INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESS

This publication aims to enhance the role of the health services in generating knowledge and in collective efforts to improve the health of the population. This publication was also designed to establish closer ties between investigators and academicians, the health services and the community, through a joint effort to generate knowledge and evaluate the interventions included in the IMCI strategy.

YOUTH-CENTERED COUNSELING FOR HIV/STI PREVENTION AND PROMOTION OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: A GUIDE FOR FRONT-LINE PROVIDERS

This guide for youth-centered counseling is a tool developed to assist front-line providers in reaching young people and effectively promoting sexual health. It contains detailed and theory-based actions and methods to improve the quality of services for young people. This guide aims to help providers engage in counseling that best fits the needs and wants of youth, providing the young person with the opportunity to learn essential skills for sexual and reproductive health development.

GUIDE FOR PARTICIPATORY LOCAL ASSESSMENT: COMMUNITY COMPONENT OF THE IMCI STRATEGY

This document is intended for local personnel in the health services, the Red Cross, and other social players involved in the health area, to support them in carrying out an assessment of their local situations and its health problems, especially those related to children under the age of 5. It also seeks to understand why the situation has occurred, so that a plan of work can finally be developed that will be effective in tackling the problem.
YOUTH: CHOICES AND CHANGE

“This excellent book is recommended to medical practitioners, health educators and planners, and those of all disciplines interested in promoting healthy behaviours in adolescents. Its comprehensive and clearly designed layout, with a summary for each section, makes it an ideal reference for both the detail and the overall view of health promotion in this age group.”

— Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health

This publication by PAHO on adolescent health and positive behavior change greatly enhances the knowledge base on this important public health issue. It presents the first-ever systematic collection and reporting of the application of behavioral change theories and models specifically to adolescents. At the same time, it represents the first attempt to incorporate a developmental perspective in the conceptual analysis of these classical theoretical constructs when applied to the various stages of adolescence.

Cultural, ethnic, and gender differences are also given special consideration, as is the role of poverty and the ability of some adolescents to secure physical and emotional well-being despite circumstances of adversity.

This book additionally breaks new ground in explaining why some health promotion interventions aimed at positive adolescent behavior change produce the desired results, while others fail. The thoroughness of the analysis extends to the diversity of geographical settings cited: from Africa to the United States, Canada to Jamaica, Brazil to the Netherlands, El Salvador to Japan, and India to Mexico, to name only a few.

The experiences of the global research community presented here will undoubtedly find fertile ground among a variety of publics, including local health promoters, designers of community health promotion programs, health professionals, the academic and research community, ministries of public health and of youth affairs, those who study and those who create mass media trends, parents and teachers, school counselors, and all others who play a significant role in adolescents’ lives.

2005, 416 pp. ISBN 92 75 11594 X. US$ 38.00/26.00 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Order code: SP 594

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NUTRITION, HEALTH, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT: RESEARCH ADVANCES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

"[Nutrition, Health] is an excellent book. It should be in every medical library in the developing world...well-written, scientifically informative without being full of technical jargon...not only helpful but also an inspiration."

—Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

This publication reviews the state of knowledge on the effects of health, nutrition, and stimulation on children’s development and offers policy recommendations in this area. The book’s 18 chapters—written by leading professionals in nutrition research—deal with topics ranging from generalized undernutrition, iron and iodine deficiencies, neonatal feeding, short-term food deprivation, parasitic infection, and psychological deprivation. In addition, the book evaluates results from early childhood interventions, including nutritional supplementation and psychosocial stimulation, as well as interventions in later childhood, such as school feeding and deworming programs. The authors focus on children in less developed countries, but the material also touches on the problems of the many children in developed countries who are at risk of similar conditions as the ones addressed here.

This publication will become invaluable to policymakers and international agencies, and it will also be a prized tool for professionals working in health, nutrition, and education.

OBESITY AND POVERTY: A NEW PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE

"The editors have assembled an impressive range of authors, whose contributions provide strong motivation for addressing this important public health challenge [...] an invaluable and most welcome publication."

—Obesity Newsletter, International Association for the Study of Obesity

Obesity and Poverty: A New Public Health Challenge is an essential source for understanding the new face of poverty in the Americas. This recent examination of the prevalence of overweight and obesity in Latin American and Caribbean countries looks at these conditions’ medium- and long-term harmful consequences and explores their implications for planning public health interventions.

The book analyzes how the Region’s countries experience the nutritional transition process that is underway worldwide, a process that is tied to the global demographic and epidemiological transition. In this context, the increase in obesity and overweight observed in Latin America and the Caribbean coexists with a risk factor that differs from traditional risk factors seen in developed countries—the persistence or the increase of inequalities and inequities in health.

The Pan American Health Organization offers this publication to the general public and to researchers, students, communicators, and politicians involved in planning and executing activities designed to promote the population’s health and well-being.

HEALTH

This book, prepared by the Pan American Health Organization, presents a collection of quotes across the millennia on the place of health in the course of human events. Published in a “mini” format, this book is a journey on the meaning of health from ancient Greece and Rome to Medieval Arabia and Renaissance Europe through 19th century New England all the way to the 20th and early 21st century. By reading this book you will discover how health has always been the greatest gift to men and women.

"There is much to be learnt here, whether you are from a developed or developing country, and much of this is put across in a genuine and clear way. This book will be of use in many spheres, from health promotion and education to planning and policy development sectors, as well of course for those who wish to provide global examples of effective practice in their teaching."

— British Food Journal

Nutrition and an Active Life: From Knowledge to Action is an anthology by leading public health experts from PAHO and the international development community. The book’s selections focus on how research in nutrition and the promotion of active lifestyles can provide vital input for the creation of public policy and planning and for the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs.

You and I, in one way or another, stand to directly benefit from this science and its effective application. The knowledge gained from the research presented here has the power to transform the lives of mothers and children, the economically active population, older adults, and all age groups whose sedentary lifestyle places them at greater risk of developing life-threatening chronic diseases.

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HANTAVIRUS IN THE AMERICAS: GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND CONTROL

This publication presents an extensive view of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS), its clinical manifestations, methods of preventing infection, and measures taken by governments in the Region of the Americas to monitor hantaviruses and educate health professionals and the general public about the disease.

This comprehensive manual begins by describing the different hantaviruses known in the Americas and their reservoirs, rodent ecology and zoology, and the epidemiology of human disease in the Region. Upon this foundation, the manual describes the disease’s clinical presentation and diagnosis and presents guidelines for HPS surveillance, treatment, and case management. It also provides detailed, easy-to-follow instructions for preventing infection in the home, hospital, and laboratory, as well as for cleaning rodent-infested areas.

The importance of educating health professionals and the general public about the disease is stressed through examples of communication strategies used in different countries of the Region. The publication also provides an overview of communication tools that may be adapted to educate diverse populations about HPS and other communicable diseases.

An essential tool for anyone involved in hantavirus prevention, control, treatment, or health education activities, *Hantavirus in the Americas: Guidelines for Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Control* contains useful, stand-alone annexes, such as sample case report forms, guidelines for safe handling and transfer of specimens, educational resources, and descriptions of prevention campaigns undertaken by countries in the Region. The book’s handy format allows for quick reproduction and distribution of the annexes and infection prevention and control measures.

INTERSECTIORAL COORDINATION BETWEEN HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE: ZOONOSES, FOOD SAFETY, AND FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE. FINAL REPORT AND PROCEEDINGS: XII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE (RIMSA XII)

Preventing and controlling foodborne diseases and protecting consumers has emerged as a serious public health challenge at the onset of the 21st century.

*Intersectoral Coordination between Health and Agriculture: Zoonoses, Food Safety and Foot-and-Mouth Disease* presents the final report and selected documents from the XII Inter-American Meeting at the Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA XII), which was held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 2 to 4 May 2001. At that meeting, the first in which both agriculture and health ministers took part, participants analyzed and evaluated progress made in veterinary public health and animal health by the countries of the Americas working with the Pan American Health Organization. This publication details the meeting’s discussion on the role of community participation in developing healthy markets and food safety, as well as that on zoonoses that affect the economy and public health, such as brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and other emerging zoonoses.

PAHO convenes RIMSA meetings—which have been held for more than 30 years—as a mandate from its Governing Bodies. RIMSA is now a one-of-a-kind forum that provides the highest-level intersectoral coordination between the health and agriculture sectors for the prevention, control, and eradication of socially and economically important zoonoses and other animal diseases, and of foodborne diseases.

PERSPECTIVES AND POSSIBILITIES OF CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF HYDATIDOSIS: REPORT OF THE PAHO/WHO WORKING GROUP

This publication presents experiences on eradicating and controlling hydatidosis, offers perspectives on eradication, examines advanced technology in control methods, and looks at the hydatidosis panorama in Latin America. The book gathers the contributions of distinguished field scientists with experience in control and eradication programs, as well as surveillance activities and the preparation of plans of action for the eradication of the disease in various situations. The methods included can be tailored to local conditions.

Hydatid disease has been eradicated from Iceland; New Zealand and Tasmania are on the verge of being declared hydatid-free; the disease is under control in Argentina, Chile, and Cyprus; and the incidence of hydatidosis has been reduced in Spain and Uruguay. Yet much remains to be done worldwide. This publication provides guidance to political and technical authorities in countries where hydatid disease remains a public health problem, both in terms of decision-making and for organizing programs directed toward the elimination of this zoonosis.
In recent years, zoonoses and communicable diseases common to man and animals have gained increasing attention worldwide. Human diseases that have their origins in infected animals, such as West Nile fever or Creutzfeldt-Jakob, have highlighted the need for a better understanding of animal diseases. The ease and speed of modern travel facilitate the spread of diseases once confined to specific geographic areas, as recently occurred with the widely publicized severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic. Animal migration and trade pose a similar threat, as was shown by the outbreaks in the United States of West Nile fever, and most recently, monkeypox—two diseases not previously known in the Western Hemisphere. Each of these examples highlights the need for accurate, up-to-date information, such as that presented in the latest edition of Zoonoses and Communicable Diseases Common to Man and Animals.

This edition, published for the first time in three volumes, covers:

Vol. I. Bacterioses and Mycoses
Vol. II. Chlamydioses, Rickettsioses, and Viroses
Vol. III. Parasitoses

This series provides a detailed overview of the most important historic and emerging zoonotic diseases, such as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, foot-and-mouth disease, influenza, giardiasis, Japanese encephalitis, shigellosis, and spongiform encephalopathies, with information ranging from their first appearance and most important outbreaks to the latest scientific knowledge of the diseases and their causative agents.

The chapters provide the following key information on each disease:
- etiology
- geographic distribution
- symptoms and occurrence in man and animals
- source of infection and mode of transmission
- role of animals in its epidemiology
- diagnostic techniques
- prevention and control measures

Numerous tables and figures diagramming modes of transmission complement the text.

This book is an essential tool for biologists, parasitologists, virologists, veterinarians, physicians, epidemiologists, and workers in public health and animal health institutions, as well as professors, researchers, and students in these areas. All of these groups will find Zoonoses and Communicable Diseases Common to Man and Animals: 3rd Ed. to be an invaluable addition to their collection of most-consulted reference works.

Vol. I Bacterioses and Mycoses

Vol. II Chlamydioses, Rickettsioses, and Viroses

Vol. III Parasitoses

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VIOLence AGAINST WOMEN: THE HEALTH SECTOR RESPONDS

“This book is an important information resource for public health professionals involved in tackling gender-based violence (GBV) because it offers a summary of the main strategies developed by PAHO in Latin America. The strength of this information resource is the human perspective of GBV that makes visible women and professional voices. It is also interesting for other professionals because it breaks with the health sector’s absence in actions for tackling GBV.”

—JECH Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health

“Although based in Latin America, the stories told and the lessons learned are unsurprisingly all too familiar to workers in the field in Australia. The appeal of this book rests not only in its richness, through quotes and stories, but also in the simplicity of the ideas that it conveys about the ways in which we as a community can address gender-based violence.”

—Monique Keel, Researcher, Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of the Family

Millions of women in the Americas and around the globe suffer the effects of physical, sexual, and emotional violence in their own homes every day. Their pain is too often silent and invisible to the rest of the world. Yet as many as one out of every three women are victims of gender-based violence, one of the most widespread human rights and public health problems in the world today.

Gender-based violence—and how communities can put an end to it—are the focus of a book by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Violence against Women: The Health Sector Responds is the fruit of nearly a decade of field experiences by PAHO and its partners—at the community, national, and international levels—in 10 Latin American countries. The book’s production, a collaborative effort with the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO), shares the findings of PAHO’s early research into the health situation of women, what they revealed about the extent of gender-based violence, and the launching in 1995 of a pilot project in Central America to address this issue. Using an integrated community approach involving the health sector, along with the legal, juridical, educational, religious, and NGO sectors, buttressed by the development of national policies and laws, the PAHO strategy has helped create hundreds of local anti-violence networks throughout Latin America.

The second part of Violence against Women: The Health Sector Responds highlights the results of the project’s recent evaluation and includes numerous insights by health workers, schoolteachers, police and court officials, women’s advocates, and other community leaders regarding the effectiveness of the project’s approach. Most revealing of all, however, are the voices of the women themselves, as they describe living with violence and the community’s response to their needs.

The book’s final chapter presents a global perspective on how the lessons learned in Central America and PAHO’s integrated strategy may be applied in other communities around the world.

As world human rights activist and Nobel laureate Nelson Mandela notes in the chapter’s closing, “Violence can be prevented. In my own country and around the world, we have shining examples of how violence has been countered. Governments, communities, and individuals can make a difference.”

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: WOMEN'S WAY OUT

This book is a weapon in the battle against violence in society, particularly violence perpetrated against women and children. It sets forth a protocol that can be used to investigate the paths women follow as they search for care and try to solve their domestic violence problems.

The book introduces the issue of violence against women by presenting a conceptual framework for approaching domestic violence as a health and development problem in Latin America. It also describes how the proposed protocol was designed, the steps to be followed in the course of field work, and other pertinent characteristics. The protocol was applied in 15 communities in 10 countries (seven in Central America and three in the Andean subregion). The information was obtained through field interviews with women, service providers, and various community members.

We hope that this book will contribute to placing violence against women as a high-priority problem and will help to develop a model for the prevention of domestic violence and the care of its victims.

OTHER RELATED WORK:

JUVENILE VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS: INNOVATIVE STUDIES IN RESEARCH, DIAGNOSIS, AND PREVENTION (See page 19)

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT:

Lessons Learned from the United States of America for Developing Countries

This text provides guidance to policymakers considering the development of a formal complex emergency medical services (EMS) system. The book is predicated on the experience and history of models commonly found in the United States and in many European countries, and analyzes and profiles common aspects of the core elements of those systems. It is anticipated that policymakers in health and public safety ministries, national emergency commissions, nongovernmental organizations, and other bodies charged with the responsibility of establishing, overseeing, or providing EMS care can use this compilation as a frame of reference when designing their system’s model.

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Separately and together, the components of the PAHO Electronic Collection are valuable reference tools for decision-makers in health-related issues, public health and medical professionals and students, scientific researchers, and all others interested in the potential contribution of human health to socioeconomic development and well-being.

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- Vaccines: Preventing Disease and Protecting Health;
- Youth: Choices and Change;
- Zoonoses and Communicable Diseases Common to Man and Animals;
- Coming soon: Public Health in the Americas

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