

Note for the Media WHO/Bulletin
1 July 2011

NOTICE TO READERS: The Bulletin of the World Health Organization was created by WHO as a forum for public health experts to publish their findings, express their views and engage a wider audience on critical public health issues of the day. Consequently, *the views expressed by the writers in these pages do not necessarily represent the views of WHO.*

Forecasting the next 90 years of global health

Does increased car ownership increase road deaths? Will climate change affect child survival? How can smokers improve the economy by quitting?

For the first time, the global health community may have a clearer picture of these future scenarios with a new health forecasting model, according to research published today in the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*.

This unique forecasting model integrates health statistics with other markers of human development such as economic growth, fertility, education and agricultural production. Using vast and diverse global data, the model can generate different health scenarios as far in advance as the year 2100.

“The global health community needs long-term integrated forecasts to help set priorities and measure achievements,” says co-author Randall Kuhn, from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, United States of America.

“Until now, no forecast has covered such a wide range of nations over a long time span. This model helps us to understand the complex effect of many factors

on population health. It also shows the profound effect that disease and population changes can have on other drivers of development such as economic growth.”

One projection created by this model forecasts a 70% reduction in global deaths from infectious diseases by the year 2060, in spite of a substantial growth in population.

This health forecasting model is made possible using data on death and diseases gathered by the World Health Organization (WHO) from 193 countries.

Read the paper here:

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/7/10-083766/en/index.html>

Access WHO's Global Health Observatory at: <http://www.who.int/gho>

Access the International Futures project at Denver University:

<http://www.ifs.du.edu>

The *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* is one of the world's leading public health journals. It is the flagship periodical of WHO, with a special focus on developing countries. Articles are peer-reviewed and are independent of WHO guidelines. Abstracts are now available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Further items in this month's issue include:

- Preparing for a new dengue vaccine
- Debate on the definition of pandemic influenza
- Brazil gets tough on drinking and driving
- Reducing childhood diarrhoea in Bangladesh
- Drugs for treating malaria in African children
- Overcoming barriers to immunization among migrants in Thailand

The July issue table of contents can be found at:

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/7/en/index.html>

The complete contents of the *Bulletin*, since 1948, is available free to all readers worldwide through PubMed Central, available at:

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/tocrender.fcgi?journal=522&action=archive>

For further information please contact:

Sarah Cumberland

Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

Office: +41 22 791 2570, mobile: +41 79 206 1403, e-mail: cumberlands@who.int

Colin Mathers

Department of Health Statistics and Informatics
World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

Office: +41 22 79 14529, mobile: +41 79 509 0620, e-mail: mathersc@who.int

Randall Kuhn

Josef Korbel School of International Studies
University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA.

Office: +880 19 4354 8159 (in Bangladesh until 5 July), +1 303 928 9111 (from 6 July), e-mail: rkuhn@du.edu

Dale Rothman

Josef Korbel School of International Studies
University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA.

Office: +1 303 871 2373, mobile: +1 303 997 2678, e-mail: drothman@du.edu