

## Population Health Quiz ANSWERS

This section contains answers to the quiz, as well as some citations to verify the information.

### PART I

1. United States of America is the richest and most powerful country in the world with half the world's billionaires.  
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_? (see Forbes March 27, 2006, we have 371 out of 793 and the next country has only 55, and the third 33)
2. The USA won the most gold medals in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games  
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_? (New York Times Olympic Summary)
3. The USA is the country with the most Nobel Prize winners.  
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_? (see <http://dataranking.com/English/ed06-1.html>)
4. What percentage of the world's health care bill (as reported to the WHO) does the USA spend? (USA is 4.6 % of the world's population).  
- 5 %  
- 6-20%  
- 11-30%  
- 31-40%  
- **41-50%** (WHO Annual Report 2005)  
- above 50%
5. The USA spends per capita on health care, more than is spent per capita in any other country  
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_? (same as above)
6. Spending on health care per capita, by the government at the US at federal, state & local levels, is more than is spent per capita in any other country for health services. (that is do we already spend more money out of our tax dollars for health care than any other country?)  
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_? (see Woolhandler, Health Affairs **21**, 88-98, (2002))
7. Our health as a nation (measured by life expectancy) would improve significantly if we had universal health care coverage.  
- True \_\_\_\_\_ False ? (see Oxford Textbook of Public Health pg 238 (2002))
8. Ranking all countries by life expectancy, where does the USA stand (using 2004 data reported in the 2006 United Nations Human Development Report) (<http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/> table 1 of indicators)  
- top 5 (highest life expectancy)  
- 6-10  
- 11-15  
- 16-20  
- 21- 25  
- **below 25?** (in fact 30<sup>th</sup> this year, slipping from tied for 29<sup>th</sup> the year before)
9. Where did the USA rank in life expectancy ~ 55 years ago?  
- **top 5 (highest life expectancy)** (see Science pg 1029, May 20, 2002)  
- 6-10  
- 11-15  
- 16-20  
- 21- 25  
- below 25?
10. What country ranks # 1 in the health olympics (ranking of countries by life expectancy)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Japan (see Table 1, Human Development Report, UN 2006) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Why is this country the healthiest?  
\_\_\_\_\_ social cohesion, small economic hierarchy in that society \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (see PHF website <http://depts.washington.edu/eqhlth/>) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. The USA was responsible for giving the 'medicine' to a country 59 years ago that propelled it to become the healthiest country in the world in a mere 33 years, starting from a position in which it was less healthy compared to other countries than the USA is today.  
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_? (Bezruchka, APHA Annual Meeting Abstract 67160 (2003))
13. An African American man in Harlem, New York lives longer than a man in Bangladesh.  
- True \_\_\_\_\_ False ? (see McCord, NEJM **322**, 173-77 (1990))
14. If we eradicated all deaths from heart disease, our number one killer, and kept the other disease death rates unchanged, we would be far and away the healthiest country in the world.  
- True \_\_\_\_\_ False ? (see Marmot Status Syndrome pg 171 (2004))
15. Among sub-populations in the USA, (as reported by Chris Murray at Harvard in 1998), the largest gap is life expectancy is:

- < 5 years
  - 6-10 years
  - 11-20 years
  - 20-30 years
  - 30-40 years
  - **>40 years** (see Murray US Patterns of Mortality by County and Race: 1965-1994)
16. Among countries of the world, as reported in the 2005 UN Human Development Report, the largest gap is life expectancy is:
- < 5 years
  - 6-10 years
  - 11-20rs
  - 20-30 years
  - 30-40 years
  - **>40 years** (according to the UN Human Dev. Report above, the gap is >50 years)
17. In Sweden, boys raised in single-parent families have a 50% higher mortality rate compared to those raised in two-parent families.
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_? (see Weitoft, Lancet **361**: 289–95 (2003))
18. Among all rich countries USA has the highest homicide rate
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_?
- ([http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/world\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/) )
19. If the level of trauma care in the USA was at the standard present in 1960, our homicide rate would be roughly five times higher than it is now.
- True  False \_\_\_\_\_? (see Harris Homicide Studies 6 128-166, (2002))

**PART II** The questions in this part below refer to the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries which are the 29-30 richest countries in the world. Currently they include:

Australia	Denmark	Hungary	South Korea	Norway	Sweden
Austria	Finland	Iceland	Luxembourg	Poland	Switzerland
Belgium	France	Ireland	Mexico	Portugal	Turkey
Canada	Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Slovakia	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Greece	Japan	New Zealand	Spain	United States

20. The following table looks at rankings for various factors reported by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre based in Florence Italy. Please indicate where the USA ranks by marking that box. (<http://www.unicef-icdc.org/>)

RANKING FOR	1 (worst)	2-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	> 25 (best)
Teen birth rates	<b>X</b>						
Child Poverty <sup>1</sup>		<b>X</b>					
Child Injury Deaths <sup>2</sup>		<b>X</b>					
Educational Disadvantage <sup>3</sup>			<b>X</b>				
Child Abuse Deaths <sup>4</sup>		<b>X</b>					

21. The USA spends more per capita (public and private combined) on education from kindergarten to college than any other country - True   X   False \_\_\_\_\_? (Table B1.6  
[http://www.oecd.org/document/11/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_33712011\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/11/0,2340,en_2649_201185_33712011_1_1_1_1,00.html))
22. Among OECD countries, in 1995, USA had the greatest percentage of one-person households  
 - True   X   False \_\_\_\_\_? (Table GE7.2  
[http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,2340,en\\_2825\\_497118\\_2671576\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,2340,en_2825_497118_2671576_1_1_1_1,00.html))
23. Among OECD countries, in 1997, our public social expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product ranked  
 - 1 (highest social expenditure)  
 - 2-5  
 - 6-10  
 - 11-15  
 - 16-20  
 - 21- 25  
 - **below 25?** (see Figure 7J pg 412, Mishel, State of Working America 2004/2005 (2005))
24. Compared to the other 28 OECD countries, where does the USA rank in percentage of the population that smokes cigarettes (late 1990s data)  
 - 1 (highest smoking rates)  
 - 2-5  
 - 6-10  
 - 11-15  
 - 16-20  
 - 21- 25  
 - **below 25?** (see <http://dataranking.com/default.htm>)
25. Compared to the other 30 OECD countries, where does the USA rank in percentage its GDP (Gross Domestic Product) that it gives to poor countries in foreign aid? (2001 data)  
 - 1 (gives the most foreign aid and has the highest ranking)  
 - 2-5  
 - 6-10  
 - 11-15  
 - 16-20  
 - 21- 25 .....
- below 25th?** (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/42/3/2087495.pdf>)

<sup>1</sup> defined as percentage of children living in households whose income is 50% below the national median

<sup>2</sup> defined as annual number of deaths from injuries (intentional and unintentional among 1 to 14 year old children during 1991-95)

<sup>3</sup> defined combining five measures of absolute educational disadvantage for 15 year olds (reading literacy, maths and science literacy, maths and science for 8th grade achievement)

<sup>4</sup> defined as the age standardized death rate from child maltreatment, including neglect, among children aged 15 years or less averaged over five years

### PART III

26. Who are consistently the top three recipient countries of US foreign aid? The answers are in the list of countries below.
1. ISRAEL
  2. EGYPT
  3. COLOMBIA
- Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, East Timor, Egypt, Haiti, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leon, South Africa, Turkey, Vietnam
27. Economic growth (defined as annual percentage increase in Gross National Product) among countries were greater in the world during the last two decades during globalization (corporate-centered trade) than in the previous two decades.  
- True \_\_\_\_\_ False X? (see Weisbrot <http://www.cepr.net/globalization/Scorecard.pdf>)
28. Health improvements (defined as decreases in infant mortality rates, or increases in life expectancy) among countries were greater in the world during the last two decades during globalization (corporate-centered trade) than in the previous two decades.  
- True \_\_\_\_\_ False X? (see Weisbrot <http://www.cepr.net/globalization/Scorecard.pdf>)
29. USA houses one quarter of the world's prisoners.  
- True X False \_\_\_\_\_? (see New York Times, March 26, 2001)
30. At any given time in the USA, there are approximately one million homeless children (under age 16)  
- True X False \_\_\_\_\_? (see NYT Magazine, March 22, 2002)
31. The USA, has the lowest voter turnout for presidential elections (averaged from 1949 to 1999) among all democracies.  
- True X False \_\_\_\_\_? (see Franklin, Voter Turnout Cambridge U Press (2004))
32. The prevalence of individual behaviors such as diet, exercise, tobacco consumption, etc. are the key factors determining the health of a population.  
- True \_\_\_\_\_ False X? (see PHF website <http://depts.washington.edu/eqhlth/>)
33. Educational campaigns to influence adverse individual health behaviors are the most important steps necessary to improve the public's health.  
- True \_\_\_\_\_ False X? (see PHF website <http://depts.washington.edu/eqhlth/>)
34. USA birth rates by county for teens aged age 15-17 are associated with the income gap in those counties.  
- True X False \_\_\_\_\_? (see Gold, Mat Child Hlth Jr, **5**, 161-167, (2001))
35. When humans made the transition to agriculture roughly 15,000 years ago, health of human societies improved.  
- True \_\_\_\_\_ False X? (see Larsen Ann Rev Anthro **24** 185-213, (1995))
36. The US has the highest rate of significant mental illness among all countries studied, using a comparable method.  
- True X False \_\_\_\_\_? (see WHO Survey, JAMA **291**(21): 2581-2590, June 2, 2004)
37. Quality of life (self-rated health, physically & mentally unhealthy days in last month, and poor health keeping you from doing usual activities) in the US has declined (become worse) from 1993 to 2001.  
- True X False \_\_\_\_\_? (see Zack Public Health Reports **119**, 493-505, (2004))