Human Rights and Counting Everyone

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Beth E. Rivin, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Global Health and Justice Project, School of Law
Research Associate Professor, Law
Adjunct, Global Health; Bioethics and Humanities
Schools of Medicine and Public Health, UW
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Visiting Professor, Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities
Gadjah Mada University, Jogjakarta, Indonesia
Overview

- Counting is central to achieving SDGs
- Counting is foundational to the human right to health
- Violations of human rights affect counting & not counting impacts human rights
GOAL 3
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.1
By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

3.2
By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3.3
By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3.4
By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

3.5
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3.6
By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

3.7
By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.8
Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.9
By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

3.a
Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

3.b
Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

3.c
Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

3.d
Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks
Counting and SDGs

• Counting is important to attaining all the targets for SDG Goal 3 Targets
• Universal healthcare requires counting and health system strengthening
  – For disease control, ending epidemics
  – For access to prevention and treatment for all
3.8
Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

The correct bibliographic citation for the definition is:


The Definition has not been amended since 1948.
Enabling Environment For Healthy Populations

Health

Enabling Environment (determinants of health)

- Freedom from Violence
- Food & Nutrition
- Potable Water
- Freedom from Discrimination
- Adequate Sanitation
- Cultural Practices
- Rule of Law
- Healthy Occupational & Environment Conditions
- Access to Education
- Adequate Housing
- Political Environment

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Human Rights Support Health

- Access to health services, including prevention, diagnostic disease testing and treatment is fundamental to health and to the right to health.
- Determinants of health
- Legally accountable/enforceable ("has teeth")
Human Rights Overview

- **History:** Modern Movement Post WWII (Nuremberg Trials)
- **Foundational principles:**
  - Individual focused
  - Inherent Dignity
  - Inalienable
Human Rights
Core Principles

• Nondiscrimination
• Participation
Article 1
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”
The Cold War Split

• International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)-U.S. Supports

• International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
The Right to Health

An ESCR

– Progressive Realization
– Contrasts with Civil and Political Rights
The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health
ICESCR Article 12 (1)

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
Comment 14 on the Highest Attainable Standard of Health
ICESCR Article 12(1)
Comment 14
Article 12.1

- 4 elements of the right to health (can be used for measurement):
  - Availability
  - Accessibility
  - Acceptability
  - Quality
Availability

• Functioning public health and health care facilities, goods and services, as well as programs in sufficient quantity.
Accessibility in Human Rights Terms (4 overlapping dimensions)

- Nondiscrimination
- Information Accessibility
- Economic (Affordability)
- Physical Accessibility
Acceptability

• All health facilities, goods and services must be respectful of medical ethics and culturally appropriate as well as sensitive to gender and life-cycle requirements.
Quality

- Health facilities, goods and services must be scientifically and medically appropriate and of good quality.
International Obligations

• According to international human rights, the international community has a responsibility to assist governments in fulfilling their right to health obligations.
Example: HIV

- When people fear that their individual rights will be violated by stigmatization and discrimination if they test positive for a disease, they will often decide against testing, even if treatment is available.

  - voluntary counseling and testing in a black township in Cape Town, South Africa

Example: Leprosy

• **Stigma and fear of discrimination** have interfered with early diagnosis and treatment, resulting in “disease pockets.” 22-24

• In 2012, WHO stated 26 that “the reduction in leprosy burden needs to be accompanied by a reduction, if not elimination of the socioeconomic challenges related to the disease.”

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Conclusion

- Using a human rights framework for health surveillance promotes equity and justice for all.
- Human rights (language and substance) should be integrated into surveillance activities.
- Public health professionals should collaborate with legal and other professionals in civil society to hold governments accountable for their human rights commitments. (Often data does not drive health policy change without legal advocacy.)