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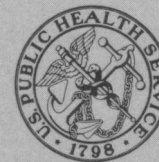
COVER 3

Health, United States, 1988: overview of national health trends

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Health, United States, 1988: Overview of National Health Trends

Trends in the nation's health statistics are profiled in the newly available edition of "Health, United States."

The annual report describes major subject areas of health status and their determinants, the use and supply of health care resources, and expenditures for health care.

State rankings by mortality for several leading causes of death are provided, as well as by selected occupationally related causes of death, and selected risk factors.

For example, in the period 1979-85, age-adjusted death rates for bladder cancer among men were elevated in the heavily industrialized parts of the United States. The geographic distribution of male employment in three industries that use aromatic amine chemicals shows a pattern similar to that of bladder cancer mortality.

Suicide rates for men 15-24 years of age vary substantially among the States. In the period 1979-85, the highest suicide rates for young men occurred primarily in the West. The lowest suicide rates occurred in the South and Northeast. Highlights of the report are:

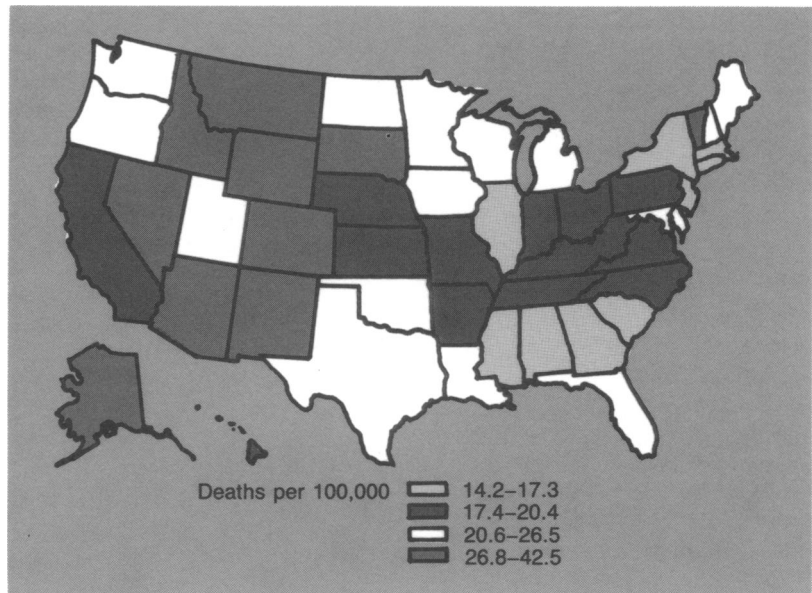
Health Status and Determinants

- The proportion of live births to unmarried mothers more than doubled between 1970 and 1986, from 11 to 23 percent.
- In 1986, the leading causes of premature mortality were accidents among men and cancer among women.
- Almost half of the AIDS cases reported in the United States as of November 30, 1988, occurred among residents of New York (25 percent) or California (21 percent).

Health Care Resources

- Between 1983 and 1987, the average number of ambulatory care physician visits increased by 17 percent, from 7.6 to 8.9 visits per person per year for those 65 years of age and older. The number increased 10 percent among those 45-64 years, and remained fairly stable for younger persons.
- Physician supply continues to vary widely. In 1986, the number of active non-

Suicide rates among men aged 15-24, 1979-85



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics

Federal physicians per 10,000 population was highest in the New England and Middle Atlantic divisions (27 per 10,000), and lowest in the East South Central and West South Central divisions (15 and 17 per 10,000).

Health Care Expenditures

- In 1986, the United States spent 11 percent of its gross domestic product on health, compared with 9 percent by Sweden, 8.5 percent by Canada and France, 8 percent by Germany, 7 percent by Japan, and 6 percent by the United Kingdom.
- In 1987, the rate of increase of the medical care component of the Consumer Price Index was 6.6 percent, which was higher than the overall inflation rate of 3.7 percent.
- Expenditures for HIV-related activities by the Public Health Service rose from \$5.6 million in 1982 to \$502.4 million in 1987.

"Health, United States" is a report of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the President and Congress. The

1988 report contains a chartbook of 29 maps of the United States and background on States and clusters of States that rank at the top or bottom for significant statistics. A section of 125 detailed statistical tables is organized around major subject areas. The tables outline continuing health statistical trends.

Eight tables of statistics on AIDS are provided. New tables in the 1988 report show the use of short-stay hospitals for patients discharged with a diagnosis of AIDS, and funding for HIV-related research by Public Health Service agencies.

"Health, United States, 1988" was prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics, a part of the Centers for Disease Control.

Copies of "Health, United States, 1988" may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (tel.: 202/783-3238). The stock number is 017-022-01066-6. Call for price and availability information.

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