

Introduction

Open Access

Abstract

Background

Conclusions

Introduction

The world is facing a global health crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic having caused significant mortality and economic damage. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a global health emergency, and the World Bank has estimated that the pandemic will cost the world over \$10 trillion in lost income over the next five years. The impact of the pandemic is particularly severe in low-income and middle-income countries, where health systems are often weak and the population is more vulnerable to infectious diseases.

In this paper, we describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public health in low-income and middle-income countries. We discuss the challenges that these countries face in responding to the pandemic, and we propose strategies to improve public health outcomes. We also discuss the role of the private sector in addressing the pandemic, and we propose ways to strengthen the public health system in these countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for a more resilient and equitable health system. We need to invest in public health, and we need to ensure that everyone has access to the care they need. We need to work together to build a world that is better equipped to handle future health crises.

We acknowledge the students who participated in the GYTS and the survey administrators. The production of this supplement was made possible through a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the Pan American Health Organization.

This article has been published as part of *BMC Public Health* Volume 8 Supplement 1, 2008: The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) - linking data to the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The full contents of the supplement are available online at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/8?issue=S1>.