

Health Fact Sheet

- 20% of children suffer from some sort of mental disorder or behavioral problem.¹
- Malnutrition causes more than 1/3 of child deaths internationally.²
- Severe mental illness, which affects around 6% of American adults, causes around \$300 billion in related costs each year.³
- “Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, and claims the lives of more than 34 thousand people each year. There are nearly twice as many suicides in the U.S. as there are homicides.”⁴
- In 2010, more than 16% of Americans—almost 50 million people—were uninsured.⁵
- In 2011, the U.S. ranked last among high-income, developed nations in terms of preventable deaths.⁶
- Alcohol abuse “is responsible for 2.3 million years of potential life lost (YPLL) annually, or an average of about 30 years of potential life lost for each death.”⁷

¹ UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children 2011: Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity*. Press Release. <http://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/press.php>.

² WHO/Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group (CHERG) estimates presented in *The Lancet*, June 2010. Childinfo. <http://www.childinfo.org/undernutrition.html>

³ National Institute of Mental Health. 2002. Annual Total Direct and Indirect Costs of Serious Mental Illness. http://www.nimh.nih.gov/statistics/4COST_TOTAN.shtml

⁴ National Institute of Mental Health. 2007. Leading Causes of Death Ages 1-85+ in the U.S. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/statistics/3AGES185.shtml>

⁵ ASPE. Sept. 2011. Overview of the Uninsured in the United States: A Summary of the 2011 Current Population Survey. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2011/CPSHealthIns2011/ib.shtml>

⁶ The Commonwealth Fund. 23 Sept. 2011. New Study: U.S. Ranks Last Among High-Income Nations on Preventable Deaths, Lagging Behind as Others Improve More Rapidly. <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/News/News-Releases/2011/Sep/US-Ranks-Last-on-Preventable-Deaths.aspx>

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 28 Oct. 2011. Alcohol and Public Health—Fact Sheets. <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/alcohol-use.htm>