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Social Policy and Population Section

Asia-Pacific Population Journal

Article A Review of Health and Nutrition Issues in the Pacific

Author Abby L. Bloom

Abstract

The economic development of the South Pacific is being hampered by poor health which is reflected in the relatively high mortality rates and short life expectancy found in the subregion. The article reviews the situation in five countries scattered across a gradient characterised by a transition from largely traditional and rural agricultural societies and rampant infectious diseases to more urban, cash-based, "modern" economies where chronic, degenerative diseases predominate. The review recommends greater emphasis on preventive health measures to lower mortality attributable to communicable and chronic diseases and suggests improvements in health planning, management and evaluation as well as a number of interventions beyond the health sector.

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