

South America's Health Landscape: Climate Change, Infectious Diseases, and

Public Health · Answer Key · 16 Questions

1. Which infectious disease is noted as being endemic in South America and experiencing expanded range due to global warming, with frequent epidemic cycles?

- A) Malaria
- B) Dengue**
- C) Yellow Fever
- D) Chikungunya

2. According to recent analyses, what has been a primary contributor to drug use disorders in South America over the past decade, contrasting with North America's opioid crisis?

- A) Opioid and amphetamine use
- B) Cannabis and cocaine use**
- C) Hallucinogen and ketamine use
- D) Prescription benzodiazepine abuse

3. Which of the following is a significant health disparity faced by Indigenous populations in Latin America, as highlighted in recent scoping reviews?

- A) Lower prevalence of chronic kidney disease
- B) Higher prevalence of infectious diseases and malnutrition**
- C) Lower rates of anemia
- D) Greater access to specialized healthcare services

4. Climate change is intensifying health risks in South America. Which of the following is a direct consequence of increased temperatures and altered weather patterns on human health in the region?

- A) Decreased incidence of heat-related illnesses
- B) Reduced prevalence of infectious diseases
- C) Increased risk of death from heatwaves and expansion of infectious diseases**
- D) Improved food production and nutritional content

5. What is a major challenge for tuberculosis control in parts of South America, contributing to overall poor cure rates despite advances in treatment?

- A) Universal access to the latest TB medications
- B) High rates of treatment dropout**
- C) Sufficient funding for preventative programs
- D) Lack of diagnostic capacity

6. Studies on multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in Latin America and the Caribbean indicate a high case-fatality rate. Which of the following is a frequently studied MDRO associated with significant lethality?

A) Methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA)

B) Vancomycin-sensitive Enterococcus (VSE)

C) Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

D) Escherichia coli (non-resistant strains)

7. Despite efforts to address health disparities, Indigenous populations in Latin America continue to face significant challenges. Which of the following is a major contributing factor mentioned in reviews?

A) Over-investment in culturally tailored interventions

B) Abundant access to specialized medical facilities

C) Systemic barriers such as poverty, geographic isolation, and discrimination

D) Low prevalence of chronic diseases

8. The migration of health professionals is a growing concern in the Americas. What is the projected shortage of health professionals in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030?

A) Between 100,000 and 300,000

B) Between 600,000 and 2 million

C) Approximately 50,000

D) Between 3 and 5 million

9. What is a key public health concern related to drug use disorders in the Americas, according to a recent PAHO study?

A) Drug use is not among the top 10 risk factors for mortality and disability.

B) Drug use disorders are primarily underpinned by cannabis use in all sub-regions.

C) Drug use is among the top 10 risk factors contributing to mortality and disability.

D) The mortality rate from drug use disorders in the Americas is lower than the global average.

10. The impact of climate change on food production in South America is a growing concern. How does climate change affect crops?

A) It improves the nutritional content of staple crops.

B) It reduces droughts and extreme weather events.

C) It interferes with crop growth, yield, and nutritional content.

D) It has no significant impact on agriculture.

11. What is a significant factor contributing to the persistence of TB and HIV epidemics in South America, hindering epidemic control?

- A) Over-reliance on short-term funding cycles
- B) Complete eradication of social barriers
- C) Fragmented health systems and volatile funding**
- D) Low incidence of co-infection with HIV

12. Which arboviral disease has seen a significant increase in Latin America, with Brazil reporting the most cases among dengue, Zika, and chikungunya?

- A) West Nile Virus
- B) Oropouche Fever
- C) Dengue**
- D) Mayaro Virus

13. Recent reports indicate a concerning downward trend in immunization coverage in Latin America and the Caribbean over the last decade. What is a contributing factor to this decline?

- A) Increased public trust in vaccine efficacy
- B) Strengthening of health systems
- C) Political and economic instability, and increased vaccine hesitancy**
- D) Greater availability of healthcare professionals

14. In terms of childhood obesity, which South American country has the highest prevalence of overweight and obesity in the region, according to recent data?

- A) Argentina
- B) Brazil
- C) Chile**
- D) Colombia

15. What is a major cause of the critical gaps and inequalities in the availability and distribution of health personnel in South America?

- A) Even distribution of professionals across urban and rural areas
- B) Excess of health professionals in remote regions
- C) Concentration in capitals and large cities, with shortages in rural and underserved areas**
- D) Adequate supply of specialists in all regions

16. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global health crisis. In the Americas, how many deaths were linked to bacterial AMR in 2019, according to the GRAM Project?

- A) Approximately 100,000
- B) At least 569,000**
- C) Around 1.2 million
- D) Over 2 million