

**anthropogenic:** caused or influenced by humans, often referring to human impacts on the environment or pollution produced by our activities.

**common source epidemic:** an illness in which all affected people acquired the pathogen immediately from the same source, such as Lyme disease.

**contraception:** also called birth control, methods used by sexually active people to prevent pregnancy.

**density dependent:** describes a parameter that varies causally with population density, such as the rate of a disease spreading within a population.

**disease vectors:** organisms or contaminated objects that transmit infectious diseases between humans or from animals to humans.

**ecosystem:** a community of living organisms that interacts with each other and their physical environment.

**environmental justice:** the right of all people and communities to equal treatment and meaningful involvement in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.

**epidemiologist:** a scientist concentrating on the diffusion of illness, including the source, mode of transmission, and methods of control.

**family planning:** the practice of attaining a desired number of children and determining the spacing of pregnancies, achieved by providing access to contraceptives, reproductive health services as well as education.

**gross domestic product (GDP):** an economic indicator which measures the total market value of all goods and services produced by a nation's economy over a given period of time (usually a year).

**indicators:** measurements or values that inform you about the condition or state of a population or country.

**life expectancy:** the average number of years someone is expected to live based on current health trends.

**less developed countries:** nations that generally have a less industrialized, more agricultural economy with lower standards of living relative to more developed countries.

**malnutrition:** the condition that occurs when a person's body does not receive enough nutrients, often caused by an inadequate or unbalanced diet.

**maternal mortality:** the death of a woman from pregnancy-related causes.

**more developed countries:** nations that generally have a more industrialized economy that is strong and diverse, and higher standards of living relative to less developed countries.

**pandemic:** an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area (such as multiple countries or continents) and typically affects a significant proportion of the population.

**particulate matter (PM):** suspended particles of soot, ash, dust, acids, metals, and chemicals. Once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health risks.

**propagated epidemic:** an illness with many points of transmission, such as chicken pox.

**reproductive number ( $R_0$ ):** in epidemiology, the basic reproduction number is the expected number of cases directly generated by one case in a population where all individuals are susceptible to infection.

**risk transition:** the changing pattern of environmental health hazards and associated health risks with time and economic development.

**United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):** eight goals developed by the United Nations in 2000 (and set to be achieved by 2015) which “form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions.” The goals are: 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, 2) achieve universal primary education, 3) promote gender equality and empower women, 4) reduce child mortality, 5) improve maternal health, 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, 7) ensure environmental sustainability, and 8) develop a global partnership for development.

**United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** 17 interconnected goals that provide individualized guidelines and targets to help every nation develop sustainably, protecting the planet and ensuring all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs are meant to build on the Millennium Development Goals (2000 - 2015) and also focus attention on addressing new problems such as climate change, economic inequality, and sustainable consumption among other priorities.

**urbanization:** the process in which an increasing proportion of a population inhabits cities and their suburbs.

**World Health Organization (WHO):** an international organization that collaborates with governments and other partners to "build a better, healthier future for people all over the world." WHO directs and coordinates international health in the United Nations' system.

**zoonosis:** a disease which can be transmitted to humans from animals.

**zoonotic:** pertaining to a disease that has jumped from animals to humans.