



# *Effects of Overpopulation: Healthcare & Infectious Diseases*

---

"Americans should be told that diseases long eradicated in this country – tuberculosis, leprosy, polio, for example – and other extremely contagious diseases have been linked directly to illegals,"  
Rep. J.D. Hayworth, R-Ariz

## **Infectious Diseases**

The report *Illegal Aliens and American Medicine* by Madeleine Pelner Cosman, Phd., Esq. for the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, finds:

- By default, we grant health passes to illegal aliens. Yet many illegal aliens harbor fatal diseases that American medicine fought and vanquished long ago, such as drug-resistant tuberculosis, malaria, leprosy, plague, polio, dengue, and Chagas disease.
- Many illegals who cross our borders have tuberculosis. That disease had largely disappeared from America, thanks to excellent hygiene and powerful modern drugs such as isoniazid and rifampin. TB's swift, deadly return now is lethal for about 60 percent of those infected because of new Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB). Until recently MDR-TB was endemic to Mexico. This *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is resistant to at least two major antitubercular drugs. Ordinary TB usually is cured in six months with four drugs that cost about \$2,000. MDR-TB takes 24 months with many expensive drugs that cost around \$250,000, with toxic side effects. Each illegal with MDR-TB coughs and infects 10 to 30 people, who will not show symptoms immediately. Latent disease explodes later.

The *New York Times* article *Leprosy, a Synonym for a Stigma, Returns*, by Sharon Lerner states:

- While there were some 900 recorded cases in the United States 40 years ago, today more than 7,000 people have leprosy, or Hansen's disease, as it is now called. "And those are the ones we know about," said Dr. William Levis, attending physician at Bellevue Hospital's Hansen's Disease Clinic. "There are probably many, many more.

The Social Contract Press article *Immigration and Public Health*, by Wayne Lutton, reported:

- A turning point in the U.S. government's policy toward the entry of persons infected with contagious diseases came on March 15, 1980, when the Attorney General, acting on a request from the State Department to expedite the processing of Indochinese refugees, decided to lower the health qualifications for admitting designated refugees to our country. From this point on, refugees have been permitted to enter and settle in the United States who earlier would have been excluded, including people afflicted with active tuberculosis, mental retardation, and infectious leprosy.
- Many immigrants do not know they are infected when they enter the U.S. Others come here for the purpose of obtaining treatment at American taxpayers expense.

## Healthcare Services & Costs

From the report *Illegal Aliens and American Medicine* by Madeleine Pelner Cosman, Ph.D., Esq. for the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*:

- What is unseen is their free medical care that has degraded and closed some of America's finest emergency medical facilities, and caused hospital bankruptcies: 84 California hospitals are closing their doors.
- Anchor babies are citizens, and instantly qualify for public welfare aid. Between 300,000 and 350,000 anchor babies annually become citizens because of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside."

The book *Hospital-Based Emergency Care: At the Breaking Point*, by the Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies reports:

- Demand for emergency care has been growing fast -- emergency department (ED) visits grew by 26 percent between 1993 and 2003. But over the same period, the number of ED's declined by 425, and the number of hospital beds declined by 198,000. ED crowding is a hospital-wide problem -- patients back up in the ED because they can not get admitted to inpatient beds. As a result, patients are often "boarded" -- held in the ED until an inpatient bed becomes available -- for 48 hours or more.
- Ambulances are frequently diverted from overcrowded ED's to other hospitals that may be farther away and may not have the optimal services. In 2003, ambulances were diverted 501,000 times -- an average of once every minute.

As reported in the article *Illegals Threaten Closure of Emergency Rooms* on WorldNetDaily.com:

- Hospital emergency rooms in Florida may soon be closing their doors as a result of increased demands by uninsured and under-insured patients -- many of them illegal aliens.
- According to a new study by University of South Florida researchers, much of the demand on hospitals comes from new residents of the state. More than half of all emergency room patients in some Florida hospitals do not have insurance.

In the article *Illegal Aliens Threaten U.S. Medical System* from WorldNetDaily.com it reported that:

- The increasing number of illegal aliens coming into the United States is forcing the closure of hospitals, spreading previously vanquished diseases and threatening to destroy America's prized health-care system, says a report in the spring issue of the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*.

The Social Contract Press article *Immigration and Public Health*, by Wayne Lutton, reported:

- Rice University economist, Professor Donald Huddle, calculated the 1996 cost of Medicaid for legal and illegal immigrants to be a net \$14.5 billion. Legal immigrants are estimated to account for more than 80 percent of the net cost of Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which pays for disability and medical conditions not covered by Medicaid.

- By March 2003, Los Angeles County's public health care system was teetering on the edge of collapse and local officials said there is little they can do without a massive injection of federal funds. The \$3 billion department was forced to slash services to residents, including the shutting down of public health clinics and a nationally respected rehabilitation hospital.
- States across the country report that their Medicaid/Medicare support systems have reached the disaster level, with massive budget shortfalls projected for years to come. The budget crises come not only from the cost of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on patients who are foreign nationals. The system is rife with fraud perpetrated by foreigners operating in the United States.
- In 1989, the New York City budget for TB was \$2 million. By 1999, with the immigrant-driven resurgence of TB rates, the budget rose to \$50 million. During 1997, NYC hospitals provided \$1.2 billion in health care to immigrants who could not pay.
- In Florida just one illegal alien involved in a car accident incurred \$2 million in bills at Martin Memorial Medical Center over the past 2½ years. Neither Jimenez, his American employers, or the government of Guatemala has reimbursed the medical facility. The Florida Hospital Association reported that a major problem facing hospitals is lack of cooperation from foreign governments for the care of their citizens at U.S. medical facilities.
- The Federal Health Association report stated, 'Noncitizens or their children with severe diseases obtain tourist visas, either legally or illegally, and take taxis directly from airports to hospital emergency rooms.'
- Half the patients obtaining services at Arizona hospital emergency rooms are not paying for their care, forcing hospitals to slash services. A majority of the nonpaying patients are illegal aliens, Sen. John Kyl said in January 2002. The American Hospital Association estimated that in 2000, the 24 southernmost counties accrued \$832 million in unpaid medical care, a quarter directly attributable to illegal immigrants.

Negative Population Growth – NPG – is a national membership organization founded in 1972 to educate the American public and political leaders about the detrimental effects of overpopulation on our environment, resources and quality of life. NPG advocates a smaller and truly sustainable United States population accomplished through voluntary incentives for smaller families and reduced immigration levels.

We are pleased to provide to you this fact sheet as part of our *Effects of Overpopulation* educational series. We sincerely hope you will use this information in your classroom in order to educate your students regarding the detrimental effects of an overpopulated nation. We also welcome your feedback on how to make this series more effective in reaching today's youth.