

While many diseases that affect humans have been eradicated due to improvements in vaccinations and the availability of healthcare, there are still areas around the world where certain health issues are more prevalent. Individuals working in the area of the geography of health care provision attempt to assess the levels of healthcare in the area (for instance, it may be very difficult for people to get medical attention because there is a shortage of health care workers). The field of health geography is often overlooked, but it constitutes a huge area that affects our health no matter where in the world we are located, we can better treat disease. Health geographers also study factors that could make certain individuals or a population more likely to be taken ill with a specific health concern or disease, as compared with the population of another area and have an understanding of basic epidemiology as it relates to the spread of diseases. Researchers study the interactions between humans and their environment that could lead to illness (such as asthma in places with high levels of pollution) and work to create a clear way of categorising illnesses, diseases and epidemics into local and global scales. In both developed and developing nations there is often a very large discrepancy between the options available to people in different social classes, income brackets, and levels of education. By understanding why and how we get sick, we can change the way we treat illness and disease specific to certain geographical locations. The geography of disease and ill health analyses the frequency with which certain diseases appear in different parts of the world, and overlays the data with the geography of the region, to see if there could be a correlation between the two. Health geographers can map the spread of illnesses and attempt to identify the reasons behind an increase or decrease in illnesses, as they work to find a way to halt the further spread. The second subcategory of health geography is the geography of healthcare provision.