

African Region - South Africa, Ghana and Tanzania

When answering these questions, refer to the attached data which have been retrieved from various different WHO websites.

South Africa

1. 42.8% of the 20+ females and 23.2% of males are obese in South Africa. This is very high compared to the other two African countries. What do you think are the main reasons for such high numbers of obese people, both males and females, in SA? What is happening in SA that is not happening in the other two countries?

2. In the Tobacco section you will find the annual government expenditure on tobacco control in US\$. The country has signed the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), and has a high score for enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. However, the number of smokers both females and males aged 15+ is higher than in the other countries. Why do you think that tobacco consumption is still high in spite of reasonable strong anti-tobacco legislation?

Ghana

1. Life expectancy at birth is longer in Ghana than in the other African countries. Why do you think people are expected to live longer in Ghana than their counterparts in South Africa and Tanzania?

Tanzania

1. Age-standardised mortality rate – injuries/100,000 is highest in Tanzania. What factors could this be related to? Discuss broadly in relation to alcohol and drink-driving laws not being in place. Indeed these are not the only reasons, what else can you think of?

2. In the financial expenditure and human resources of health numbers on page 2. The government in T is spending maximum, as % of total expenditure on health but the number of physicians is least as compared to the other two countries. What could be the reasons for such low or basically no real physicians in T? The situation is equally crucial in Ghana. What, in your opinion is the problem for this condition in Tanzania and anything that could be done differently to solve this very important issue of human resource retention?

Asia – Indonesia, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam

Indonesia

Two things are especially striking when considering tobacco use in Indonesia: first, 61% of all males smoke in Indonesia (higher than in any of the INTREC countries), and second, Indonesia has not signed the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) (unlike all the other INTREC countries). In your opinion, would signing the FCTC make any difference to tackle the high rate of tobacco use in Indonesia?

India

The total population of India is more than 1.1 billion. Only 30% of the total population lives in urban areas, and 70% in rural. This suggests that a significant proportion of the population may not have access to essential services. What steps, if any, is the Indian government taking to address this issue?

Vietnam

Life expectancy for Vietnamese babies is several years longer than babies born in any other INTREC country. Why do you think this is?

Bangladesh

Less alcohol is drunk per capita in Bangladesh than in any of the other INTREC countries. Why do you think this is, and what lessons could be exported to other countries from Bangladesh in order to deduce alcohol-related disorders?

Africa and Asia

1. HIV is often considered to be a problem primarily of sub-Saharan Africa. Using the figures for total country population HIV prevalence rates, calculate how many people (approximately) are infected by HIV in each INTREC country, and then rank the countries from those with the most infections to those with the least. What do you learn from this exercise?
2. According to the data presented, mortality rates for both communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases are generally higher in Africa than in Asia. Why do you think this is, and what do you think the African nations can do about it?