

MEMORANDUM

TO: TOM FREEDMAN, MARY L. SMITH
FROM: DREW HANSEN
RE: PRIORITY DISEASES
DATE: JULY 24, 1997

SUMMARY

The following is a suggested list of ten diseases that merit federal attention. These diseases were selected according to several criteria, including their contribution to mortality, the frequency with which they are contracted, the expense in treating them, and the research funding that they receive. Some of the sources used in compiling the list are recorded below.

THE TOP TEN DISEASES

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancers
 *especially lung, colon/rectum, breast, and prostate
3. AIDS
4. Depression
5. Stroke
6. Hypertension
7. Alzheimer's
8. Diabetes
9. Influenza
10. Common Cold

SOURCES

NIH Research Grants (Top Five)

<i>NIH Institute</i>	<i>Total Grants</i>
National Cancer Institute	\$1,367,637,291
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	\$1,022,295,284
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	\$795,017,509

National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	\$614,173,301
National Institute of Mental Health	\$485,146,425

Source: Summary of FY 1996 Awards by Administering Component, NIH, 1996.

Causes of Death (Top Five)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Percent of Total Deaths</i>
Diseases of heart	31.9%
Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues (cancer)	23.3%
Cerebrovascular diseases	6.8%
Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and allied conditions	4.5%
Pneumonia and influenza	3.6%

Source: CDC, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 45 No. 11(S)2, June 12, 1997. *Note: "Accidents" are actually the fifth leading cause of death (4.0%).

Acute Conditions (Top Five)

<i>Type of Acute Condition</i>	<i>Occurrences per 100 persons per year</i>
Influenza	52.1
Common Cold	28.6
Infective and parasitic diseases	18.5
Acute upper respiratory infections (not common cold)	11.7
Acute ear infections	10.3

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.

Chronic Conditions (Top Five)

<i>Type of Chronic Condition</i>	<i>Occurrences per 1,000 persons: 1991</i>
Arthritis	125.2

High blood pressure (hypertension)	111.8
Hearing impairment	91.2
Heart disease	82.6
Back impairment	71.2

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.

Costs of Diseases (Top Three)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Annual Cost</i>
Heart disease	\$117 billion
Cancer	\$104 billion
Alzheimer's	\$100 billion (est.)

"Costs" include the direct medical costs of treatment and costs of morbidity and mortality. They do not include the costs of lost productivity.

Sources: West Virginia University, "Statistics of Heart Disease, 1997;" National Cancer Institute, quoted in American Cancer Society, "Cancer Facts and Figures -- 1997;" Alzheimer's Association, "Alzheimer's Disease Statistics Fact Sheet."

Diseases by Age Group

- The three most common causes of death for children (ages 1-14) in 1990 were accidents (6,216), malignant neoplasms (cancers) (1,607), and congenital anomalies (1,364).
- The four most common causes of death for teenagers (15-24) in 1990 were accidents (16,241), homicide (7,354), suicide (4,859), and cancer (1,819).
- The two most frequent diagnoses of the elderly by office-based physicians are essential hypertension and diabetes mellitus, with cataracts and chronic ischemic heart disease especially important for the elderly over 80 years of age.

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.

Diseases Showing Increased Mortality

- The age-adjusted death rate for Alzheimer's disease increased by 8% from 1994 to 1995 (probably because of improvements in reporting and diagnosis rather than prevalence).

- The age-adjusted rate for HIV infection has increased constantly since 1987.
- Diabetes mortality has been increasing consistently since 1986, and the age-adjusted death rate has increased at an apparently accelerating rate since 1990.

Source: CDC, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 45 No. 11(S)2, June 12, 1997.

Cancer

- The cancers that caused the most deaths in 1994 were lung (153,000), colon/rectum (56,000), breast (46,000), and prostate (38,000).
- The cancers with the lowest 5-year survival rate in 1994 were pancreas (3%), lung (13%), leukemia (38%), and ovary (39%).
- The cancers with the most new cases in 1994 were prostate (200,000), breast (182,000), lung (172,000), and colon/rectum (149,000).

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.

Depression

- “Approximately 11 million Americans suffered from depression and other affective disorders in 1990. More than \$12 billion was spent on their treatment, including inpatient care and drugs. In total, depression costs close to \$44 billion annually when lost work time and lost productivity are included in the calculations.”

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.

Alzheimer's

- *Advances in Alzheimer's Research* reported in the spring of 1997 on three promising research approaches developed in 1996: the detection of a gene that would help identify Alzheimer's patients earlier, the use of estrogen to protect nerve cells from Alzheimer's, and the discovery of new drug treatment therapies.

Source: *Advances in Alzheimer's Research*. Spring, 1997.

MEMORANDUM

TO: TOM FREEDMAN, MARY L. SMITH

FROM: DREW HANSEN

RE: PRIORITY DISEASES

DATE: JULY 22, 1997

SUMMARY

The following is a suggested list of ten diseases that merit federal attention. These diseases were selected according to several criteria, including their contribution to mortality, the frequency with which they are contracted, the expense in treating them, and the research funding that they receive. Some of the sources used in compiling the list are recorded below.

THE TOP TEN DISEASES

1. Heart disease
2. Cancers
 *especially lung, colon/rectum, breast, and prostate.
3. AIDS
4. Depression
5. Stroke
6. Hypertension
7. Alzheimer's
8. Diabetes
9. Influenza
10. Common Cold

SOURCES

NIH Research Grants (Top Five)

<i>NIH Institute</i>	<i>Total Grants</i>
National Cancer Institute	\$1,367,637,291
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	\$1,022,295,284
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	\$795,017,509

National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	\$614,173,301
National Institute of Mental Health	\$485,146,425

Source: Summary of FY 1996 Awards by Administering Component, NIH, 1996.

Causes of Death (Top Five)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Percent of Total Deaths</i>
Diseases of heart	31.9%
Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues (cancer)	23.3%
Cerebrovascular diseases	6.8%
Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and allied conditions	4.5%
Pneumonia and influenza	3.6%

Source: CDC, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 45 No. 11(S)2, June 12, 1997. *Note: "Accidents" are actually the fifth leading cause of death (4.0%)

Acute Conditions (Top Five)

<i>Type of Acute Condition</i>	<i>Occurrences per 100 persons per year</i>
Influenza	52.1
Common cold	28.6
Infective and parasitic diseases	18.5
Acute upper respiratory infections (not common cold)	11.7
Acute ear infections	10.3

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.

Chronic Conditions (Top Five)

<i>Type of Chronic Condition</i>	<i>Occurrences per 1,000 persons: 1991</i>
Arthritis	125.2

High blood pressure (hypertension)	111.8
Hearing impairment	91.2
Heart Disease	82.6
Back impairment	71.2

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.

Diseases by Age Group

- The three most common causes of death for children (ages 1-14) in 1990 were accidents (6,216), malignant neoplasms (cancers) (1,607), and congenital anomalies (1,364).
- The four most common causes of death for teenagers (15-24) in 1990 were accidents (16,241), homicide (7,354), suicide (4,859), and cancer (1,819).
- The two most frequent diagnoses of the elderly by office-based physicians are essential hypertension and diabetes mellitus, with cataracts and chronic ischemic heart disease especially important for the elderly over 80 years of age.

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995

Diseases Showing Increased Mortality

- The age-adjusted death rate for Alzheimer's disease increased by 8% from 1994 to 1995 (probably because of improvements in reporting and diagnosis rather than prevalence).
- The age-adjusted rate for HIV infection has increased consistently since 1987.
- Diabetes mortality has been increasing consistently since 1986, and the age-adjusted death rate has increased at an apparently accelerating rate since 1990.

Source: CDC, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 45 No. 11(S)2, June 12, 1997.

Cancer

- The cancers that caused the most deaths in 1994 were lung (153,000), colon/rectum (56,000), breast (46,000), and prostate (38,000).
- The cancers with the lowest 5-year survival rate in 1994 were pancreas (3%), lung (13%), leukemia (38%) and ovary (39%).

- The cancers with the most new cases in 1994 were prostate (200,000), breast (182,000), lung (172,000), and colon/rectum (149,000).

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.

Depression

- “Approximately 11 million Americans suffered from depression and other affective disorders in 1990. More than \$12 billion was spent on their treatment, including inpatient care and drugs. In total, depression costs close to \$44 billion dollars annually when lost work time and lost productivity are included in the calculations.”

Source: Statistical Record of Health and Medicine, 1995.