

WEEK 14 – INTRODUCTION

Professors: Bruce Lubotsky Levin, DrPH, MPH & Ardis Hanson, PhD

Welcome to week 14 in MHS 6706, Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Policy. During this week, number 14, we will examine how child and behavioral health policy is viewed from a global perspective.

Children and adolescents constitute almost a third, or 1.2 billion individuals, of the world's population. Nearly 90 percent of children and adolescents live in low-income and middle-income countries designated as LMIC, where they form up to 50 percent of the population. Adolescents alone make up approximately 18 percent of the world's population, and in the least-developed countries they comprise 23 percent of the population.

To place child and adolescent behavioral health in context, it is estimated that the behavioral health problems affect between 10 and 20 percent of children and adolescents worldwide. As mentioned in lecture number 1, behavioral health problems are the leading cause of health-related disability across all age groups. For children and adolescents, behavioral health problems have long-lasting effects throughout life.

With that in mind, consider this sobering statistic.