The Social Epidemiological Dimensions of Ebola

Paper Outline

Introduction

- First I will provide a brief history of what is known about the disease:
  - First struck humans living in northern Zaire (Congo Republic)
  - 88% of people infected died in 1976
  - Second epidemic

- Then I will go into the morphology of the disease. Describe the symptoms (fever, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal (stomach) pain, and unexplained hemorrhage) of the disease. I will also talk about the span of the disease (2-21 days after infection) and the life expectancy of the people who are infected.

- Lastly, I will talk about the latest outbreak. Will mention what is known about the origin of this US scarce. This will then introduce the social aspects of the disease

Sources for this section:

Part 1: Social Epidemiological profile of those who mostly suffer from Ebola

- Social class
  I will define social classes and how they affect people’s living conditions. Present some statistics as support. I will also discuss how member of some social classes are most susceptible to diseases.

- Description of the regions where Ebola is most prevalent
  Focus on social conditions
I will also provide the median income of the people that live in countries where Ebola is prominent. Poor countries in Africa where the conditions of living are very deprived.

- Importance of sanitation
  I will describe the causes of poor sanitation, due to lack of education, access to service, improper burial, and housing conditions being very poor.

Sources used for this section:

Part 2: Impact of the recent epidemic in the US

- Recent outbreak scare in the US and how we responded to it
- How we were able to cure the two Americans infected by the disease, but not people in Africa
- Talk about how good hospital care (not available in poor countries in West Africa) might have played an important role in their recovery

Sources used for this section:

Conclusion

- Summary of the most important points from the paper
- Discuss policy implications: what measures are needed to make sure another epidemic doesn’t happen