

# Chronic Illness As A Cross Cultural Experience

## CROSS-CULTURAL HEALTH CARE IN PRACTICE

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A hand in a blue suit sleeve points towards a screen. A dark blue curved bar is at the top left of the page.

# Declaration

I have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

**Nations of the Great Lakes Region  
(EARLY 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)**



We are on unceded  
Algonquin territory





# Objectives

- ▶ Explore what is a chronic illness
- ▶ Discuss how culture or ethnicity (who we are) can influence chronic illness
- ▶ Discuss how assumptions influence our thoughts on chronic illness

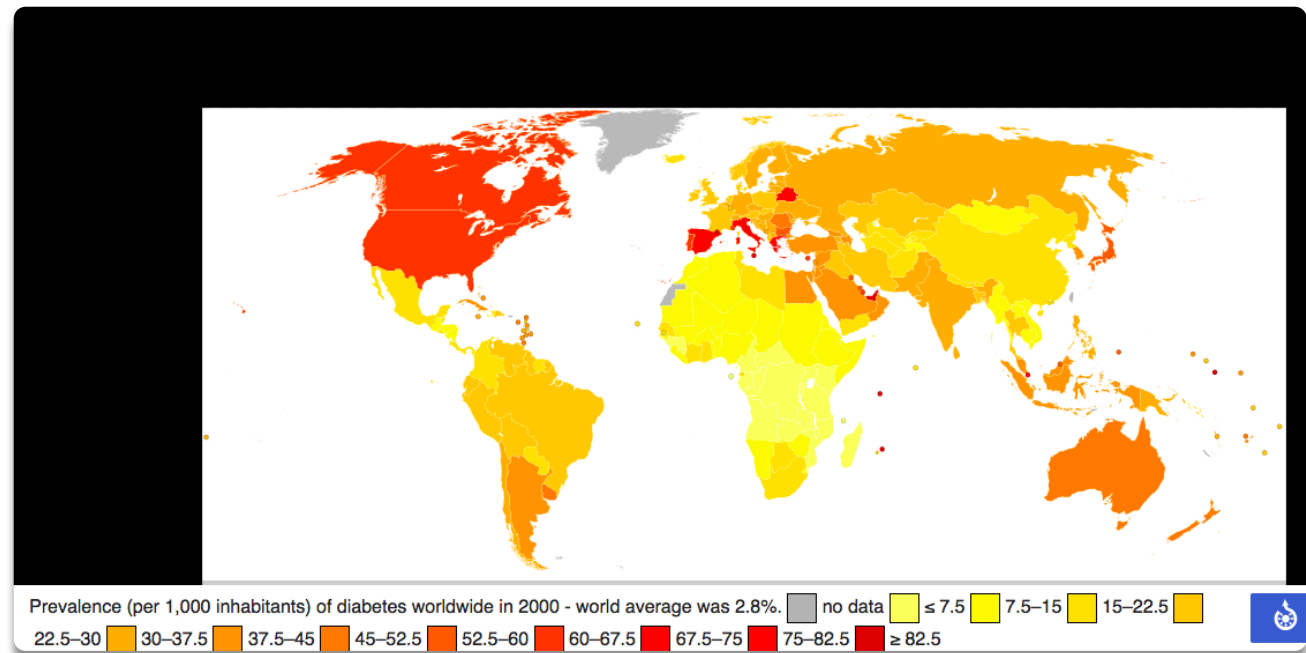
# Chronic Illness

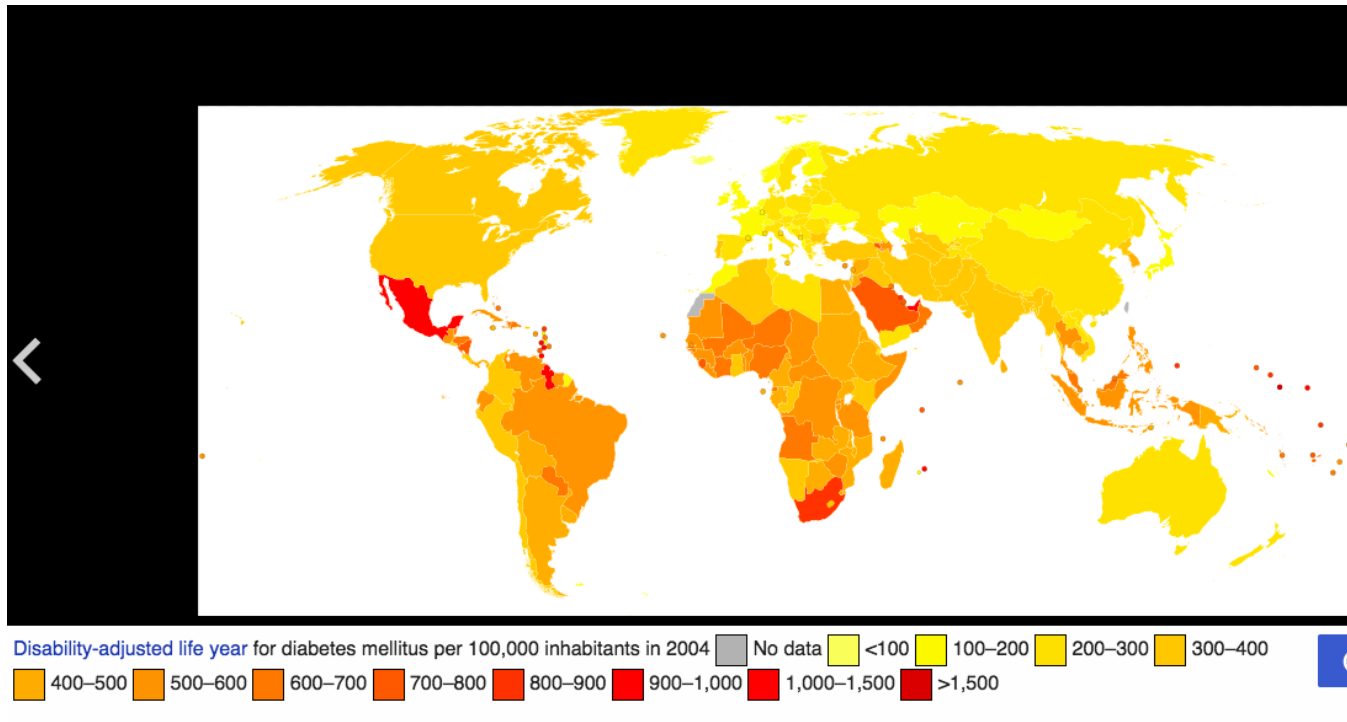
## Chronic illness

- ▶ any disorder that persists over a long period and affects physical, emotional, intellectual, vocational, social, or spiritual functioning.

Mosby's Medical Dictionary, 9th edition. © 2009, Elsevier

# Diabetes: Prevalence





Diabetes  
Disability: Daily  
Adjusted Life  
Years:  
years lived with  
disability and  
years lost

## Country and regional data on diabetes



### WHO South-East Asia Region

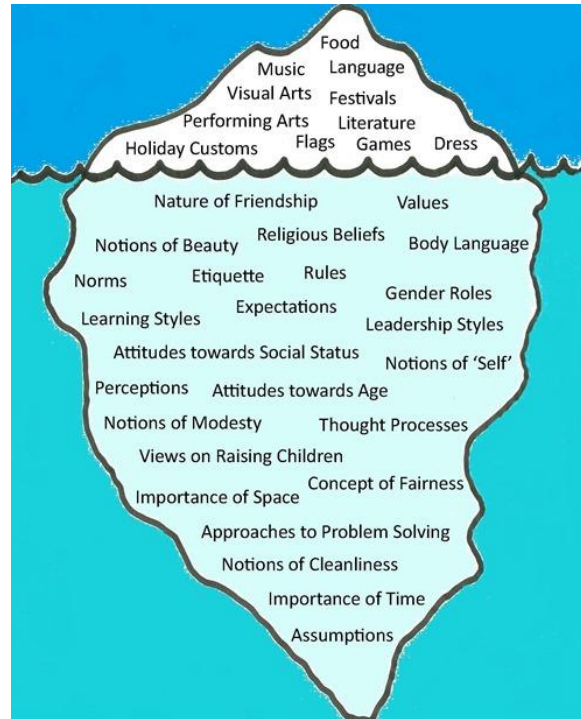


Prevalence of diabetes in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Country	2000	2030
Bangladesh	3,196,000	11,140,000
Bhutan	35,000	109,000
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	367,000	635,000
India	31,705,000	79,441,000
Indonesia	8,426,000	21,257,000
Maldives	6,000	25,000
Myanmar	543,000	1,330,000
Nepal	436,000	1,328,000
Sri Lanka	653,000	1,537,000
Thailand	1,536,000	2,739,000
Total	46,903,000	119,541,000



<http://interculturalism.blogspot.com/2011/03/iceberg-model-of-culture.html>

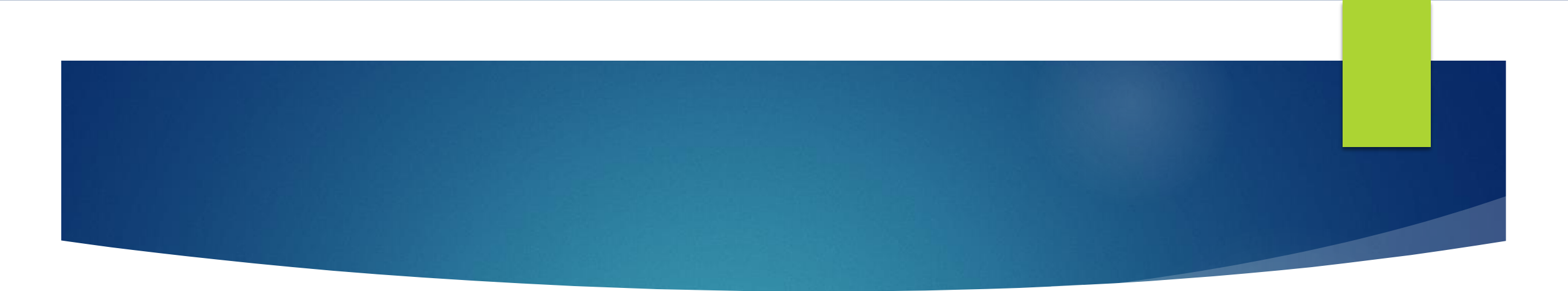


# Assumptions

- ▶ Who owns the health information?
- ▶ Paradigms of care
  - ▶ Chronic illness
  - ▶ Episodic illness
  - ▶ Acute illness
- ▶ Meaning of illness: Stigma
- ▶ How is health paid for?
  - ▶ Public system: who pays
  - ▶ Private system: who identifies the care
- ▶ More is better



Thank  
you

- 
- ▶ Cultural
  - ▶ Paternalistic
  - ▶ Acute vs chronic
  - ▶ Stigma
  - ▶ Who pays: systems where taxes pay for systems
  - ▶ More is better....
  - ▶ Conspirousy