

NEXT EDITION

South African society is currently undergoing a major geographical transformation. Millions of people are moving into a variety of new urban environments, including squatter settlements, backyard shacks, inner city areas and densely populated homeland sprawls. The government is falling well short of providing the basic housing, sanitary, water, and health requirements of the growing urban population. Patterns of disease are changing. The incidence of TB is increasing and outbreaks of typhoid are making the headlines. Ill-health resulting from violence, trauma and substance abuse is more common than before.

- * What health priorities must be met in reconstructing and developing our society?
- * Have any of the political parties developed coherent policies to meet the health needs of our growing urban population?
 - * What are the views of the new squatter communities themselves with regard to their health needs?
 - * To what degree is the state responsible for providing the necessary health services for urban communities?
- * What is the role of local government in health and development and how must we transform inappropriate local structures?
- * Do NGOs have a role to play in large urban environments, or are they more suited to working with smaller, well defined communities?
- * What are the dangers associated with loans for development from the World Bank?
- * What can we learn from other rapidly urbanising societies such as Mexico and Brazil?

In the next edition, we will explore the changing urban reality and the challenges this poses for the health sector.

MEETING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF OUR RAPIDLY URBANISING POPULATION

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Critical Health is an independent quarterly journal dealing with health and politics in South Africa. It has been published for the last 14 years and has been contributing to debates on progressive aspects of health and health care. *Critical Health* reflects the concerns and issues currently facing those seeking alternatives in South Africa.

Critical Health aims to:

- provide ideas for roles that health workers can play in promoting a healthy society;
- show that good health is a basic right;
- provide a forum for debate for the discussion of health related issues;
- provide insight into the political nature of health.

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Critical Health
PO Box 16250
Doornfontein 2028
South Africa

(011) 484 3078
(011) 484 3557 (fax)

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Critical Health aims to reflect the views and debates amongst health and welfare workers and organisations interested in developing an appropriate health and welfare service for South Africa.

We request you, our readers, to send us articles or book reviews on new developments and debates in health and welfare, for inclusion in the journal. We also encourage responses to contributions with which you do not entirely agree. Make Critical Health your journal and take the opportunity to engage in public debate with other health and welfare workers.

Critical Health's readership includes doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, non-professional and voluntary workers. Please ensure that your articles are accessible to as wide a readership as possible. Where the use of certain technical or academic concepts is unavoidable, these should always be clearly explained.

Articles should be concise and should not exceed 2000 words. Responses to articles and book reviews should not be more than 1 200 words. References and bibliographies are not required.

We also welcome any pictures (preferably black and white) and graphics which could be used to illustrate your contribution.

an article, response, or book review