

FICHE THÉMATIQUE : HEALTH

1. Facts and events

1934 : creation of **Social Security** by President Roosevelt, it's a federal system of insurance which provides pensions for workers, family aid and disability benefits. (US)

1948: the NHS (National Health Service) was founded in the UK. It is mainly funded by taxation.

1965 : creation of **Medicare** and **Medicaid** by President Johnson, health insurances granted to the senior (Medicare) and to the poor (Medicaid) in the US.

2010 : **Obamacare** (ACA ~ Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) by president Obama, this reform ensured the health coverage of 32m American people who couldn't benefit from it before; it's the first reform for which the vote was unanimous. Ever since he was elected, Donald Trump has been trying to repeal it, but hasn't succeeded yet.

Opioid crisis : in the US since the 90s, it echoes the over prescription (by doctors) / over consumption (by patients) of opioids (strong painkillers), which has had several medical, social and economic consequences, including overdose deaths (in 2017: 70k). Patients used to develop an addiction to those painkillers.

Anti-vaxx movement : reluctance or refusal to be vaccinated / to have one's children vaccinated against contagious diseases, because of a hesitancy concerning vaccines safety or efficiency. This hesitancy has been nurtured by publications on social media, or on fake news website for instance. Intensified during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Big Pharma conspiracy theory: claims that pharmaceutical companies, regulators, politicians, and others are secretly working in consort against the public interest, making profit on patients.

Professeur Raoult: treatment with hydro-chloroquine

Coronavirus : also known as **Covid-19**; epicenter in Wuhan, China.

Symptoms and detection: dripping nose, sore throat, cough, fever, breathing issues. Can be detected through PCR, antigen or antibody tests.

Way of transmission: through respiratory droplets (caused by sneeze or cough) → wearing masks is mandatory.

Figures: January 2021: 2.1m deaths, >100m cases all around the world.

Pandemic gestion:

- Lockdowns worldwide, curfews, exceptions for “essential” services
- Upswing of associations to help manage the pandemic (providing help/healthcare)
- Teleworking
- Trials for UBI
- Restrictions on tourism, limitation to local tourism
- Research funding: the EU supported projects to tackle the pandemic
- In the US: Trump suspended funding for the WHO which was said to have “mismanaged” the pandemic (April 2020).

Vaccine: The campaign began in early December 2020 worldwide.

2. Different actors

Organisations :

WHO (created after WW2) : **World Health Organisation**, a specialized institution of the UN, its aim is to ensure the highest level of health for all the states that are UN's members.

Role during the pandemic: Published several guidance documents for the management of the outbreak in order to support countries, hold conferences, launched campaigns.

Trump intended to withdraw from the WHO; Joe Biden declared this project when he got elected.

NHS in the UK (1948): **National Health Service**, gives equitable access to health care, free of charge and to everybody in the country. All services: Primary Care (family practitioner service), Community Services and Hospital Services; are gathered under the name of Area Health authorities (**AHAs**). By 1991, health organisations were transformed into NHS trusts (**PCTs** – Primary Care Trusts) which provide hospital, community and mental disability services. **GP*** took NHS control in 2011.

State and local government: are in charge of traditional public health, including health monitoring, sanitation, and disease control; the financing and delivery of personal health services including Medicaid, mental health, and direct delivery through public hospitals and health departments; and the regulation of the providers of medical care.

Social media and the internet : raises the issue of fake news concerning diseases, because articles' authors often aren't working in the medical field.

3. Exemples de problématique / axes de réflexion

To what extent do people have to trust public/medical services ?

Should medical research be funded by the government or by private companies ?

Should medicines and drugs be legal and freely available ?

Has the pandemic ushered in an era of social advances?

4. Some vocabulary

respirer la santé: look the picture of health

être en bonne santé : to be in good health

la douleur: pain

médicaments : drugs (US), medicine (UK)

une ordonnance: a prescription

état d'urgence sanitaire : national health emergency

anti douleurs : painkillers

maladie : disease, illness

crise sanitaire: healthcare crisis

accès, déclenchement: outbreak

être malade: to be sick, to be ill

se soigner: to treat oneself

les premiers soins: first aid

*médecin généraliste: GP (General Practitioner)

saigner: to bleed

un remède: a cure

guérir : to recover

urgence : emergency

transmettre une maladie: pass on a disease

attraper une maladie: catch a disease

une épidémie : an epidemic