



Lack of income, inadequate health services, and poor infrastructure contribute to poor global health. With more than 100 health-related studies, IPA generates evidence on effective ways to improve access to quality health services and products, and ensure people use them.

In recent years, great progress has been made in global health. Rates of chronic hunger and child mortality are half what they were two decades ago. However, at the same time, progress has been slow in other areas, such as maternal mortality, access to improved sanitation, and the incidence of malaria. To determine how best to address these challenges and many others, IPA partners with health ministries, civil society organizations, and NGOs working in the sector to discover and encourage the use of effective approaches for improving health systems and programs. Among its findings, this research has identified cost-effective methods to reduce the incidence of diarrhea in children under five years of age, examined the role of subsidies in improving access to preventive health, and ways to recruit effective community health workers.

#### Key Health Policy Lessons

1. Reducing and eliminating costs substantially increases access to preventive health products and services.
2. Subsidies and small incentives can increase take-up of health products.

#### Policy Impact: Free Malaria Bednets

In 2007, IPA officers Jessica Cohen and Pasquale Dupuis conducted a study showing that in rural Kenya, charging even small prices to pregnant women for insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs) significantly reduced take-up. In 2008, the British government cited the study in calling for the abolition of user fees for health products and services in poor countries. Other governments and many organizations have also incorporated their policies to charge for health services in recent years, opting instead to distribute ITNs and other health products free of charge. [ipa.org/impact/free-malaria-bednets](http://ipa.org/impact/free-malaria-bednets)



Lack of income, inadequate health services, and poor infrastructure contribute to poor global health. With more than 100 health-related studies, IPA generates evidence on effective ways to improve access to quality health services and products, and ensure people use them.

In recent years, great progress has been made in global health. Rates of chronic hunger and child mortality are half what they were two decades ago. However, at the same time, progress has been slow in other areas, such as maternal mortality, access to improved sanitation, and the incidence of malaria. To determine how best to address these challenges and many others, IPA partners with health ministries, civil society organizations, and NGOs working in the sector to discover and encourage the use of effective approaches for improving health systems and programs. Among its findings, this research has identified cost-effective methods to reduce the incidence of diarrhea in children under five years of age, examined the role of subsidies in improving access to preventive health, and ways to recruit effective community health workers.

**Policy Impact:  
Free Malaria Bednets**

In 2007, the *Billings Gates Foundation* and *Passive Dupes* conducted a study showing that in rural Kenya, charging even small prices to pregnant women for insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs) significantly reduced take-up. In 2009, the British government cited the study in calling for the abolition of user fees for health products and services in poor countries. Other governments and many organizations have since reconsidered their policies to charge for health services. In recent years, testing instead to distribute ITNs and other health products free of charge. *Read more: [www.pooraction.org/impact/free-malaria-bednets](http://www.pooraction.org/impact/free-malaria-bednets)*

**Key Health Policy Lessons**

1. Reducing and eliminating costs substantially increases access to preventive health products and services.
2. Nudges and small incentives can increase take-up of health products.

## Health Program Brief

Lack of income, inadequate health services, and poor infrastructure contribute to poor global health. With more than 100 health-related studies, IPA generates evidence on effective ways to improve access to quality health services and products, and ensure people use them.

In recent years, great progress has been made in global health. Rates of chronic hunger and child mortality are half what they were two decades ago. However, at the same time, progress has been slow in other areas, such as maternal mortality, access to improved sanitation, and the incidence of malaria. To determine how best to address these challenges and many others, IPA partners with health ministries, civil society organizations, and NGOs working in the sector to discover and encourage the use of effective approaches for improving health systems and programs. Among its findings, this research has identified cost-effective methods to reduce the incidence of diarrhea in children under five years of age, examined the role of subsidies in improving access to preventive health, and ways to recruit effective community health workers.

May 27, 2016