

PRIORITIZED PROBLEMS

The Council discussed an increasing range of pressing health problems that the community must address with limited resources. To direct those resources well, the Council established priorities from among the problems identified. For this task the Council chose a modification of the method developed by J.J. Hanlon who is a nationally known public health professional. This method sets priorities on the basis of the size and seriousness of the problem in conjunction with knowledge about the effectiveness of potentially available interventions. Each problem being considered was given a numerical score on a scale of 0 to 10 based on the size of the population affected, the seriousness of the problem and the effectiveness of potential interventions. The following formula was used for the calculation of total scores (D) where A = Size; B = Seriousness, and C = Effectiveness of Interventions,

$$D = A + (2B) \times C$$

Once health problems had been rated for size, seriousness and effectiveness of potential interventions, they were judged for the factors of Propriety, Economics, Acceptability, Resources and Legality.