Abstract

Health Policy Direction to Prepare for Future Social Environment Changes

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In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) proposed a prioritization of tasks for the next 10 years in the field of public health. The WHO recommended that health problems caused by climate change should be solved first. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States and the Public Health Agency (PHA) in the United Kingdom also announced their respective future strategies. Although it is important to keep up with the latest international trends, the public health challenges proposed by the WHO are addressed from a global perspective, and priorities may vary depending on each country's circumstances and capabilities. Therefore, to prepare accordingly, each country needs to analyze future trends from their own perspective. This article examined diseases and health problems that are expected to occur or rapidly increase in the future according to changes in the social environment in South Korea. Furthermore, this article proposed policy directions to preemptively respond to future public health problems.

Among future social trends, climate crisis was selected as a trend that has a large impact on future human health and disease. Aging and inequality were mentioned as trends in which health policies were relatively unprepared for despite the high predictability of the effects on future human health and disease. In the future, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) needs to expand tasks in the field of noncommunicable diseases, operate monitoring for new vulnerable groups, and establish policy goals to play a pivotal role in health information big data.
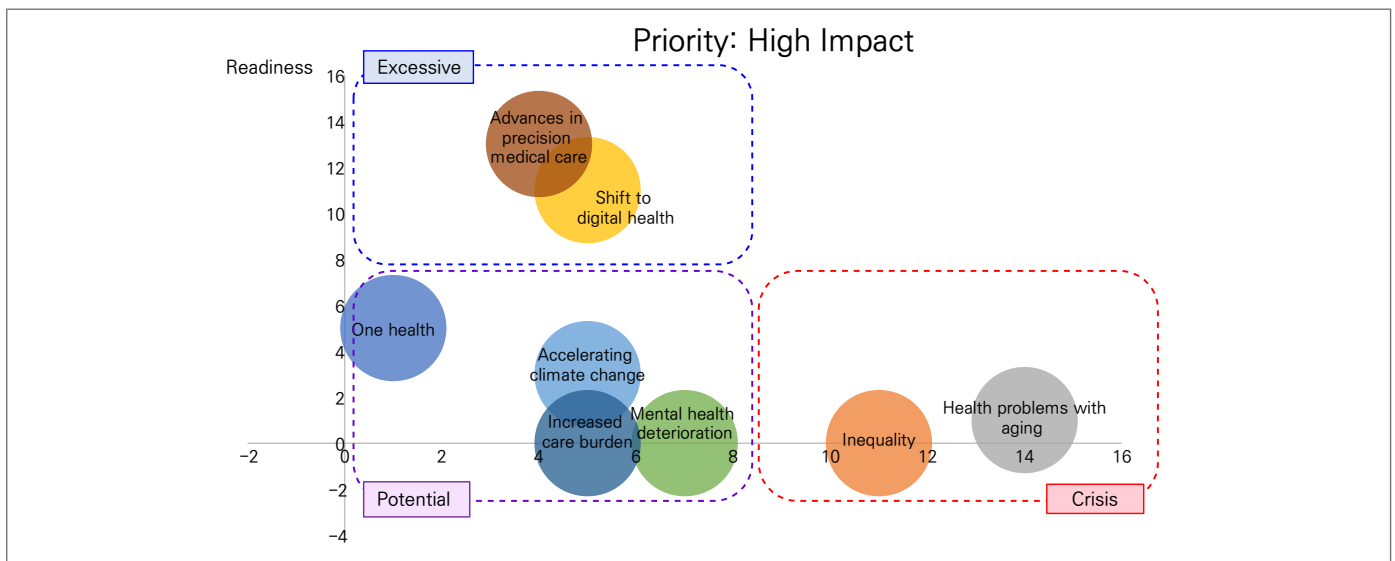
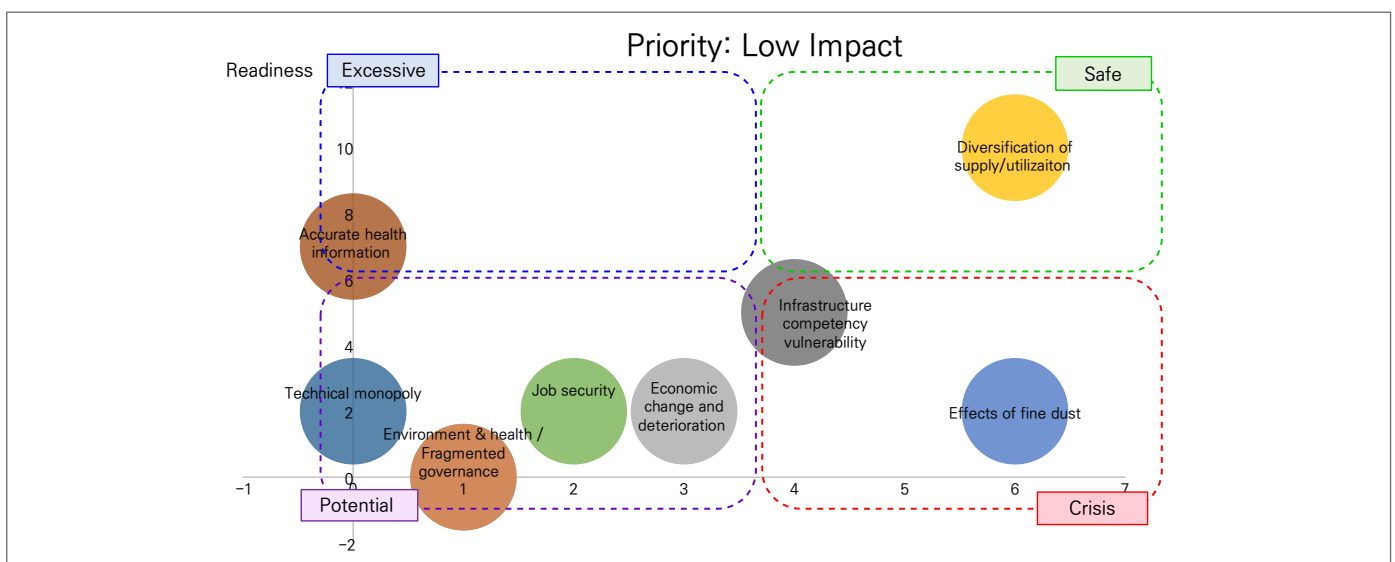**Keywords:** Future, Trend, Climate change

Figure 1. High impact trends

Figure 2. Low impact trends

[1] Expanding task in the field of noncommunicable diseases

- Health adaptation for climate change
- Healthy lifestyle practice (drinking, diethabit, and physical activity)
- Mental health promotion (suicide, addiction, etc.)

[2] Health monitoring for new vulnerable groups

- Healthcare for the super-aged with aging
- Examine health problems of new social groups from the labor market changes
  (platform workers, the young generation, etc.)

[3] Performing pivotal role for health information big data

- Expansion of KCDA's advanced surveillance capabilities
- Systematic management and utilization of survey, surveillance, and research information
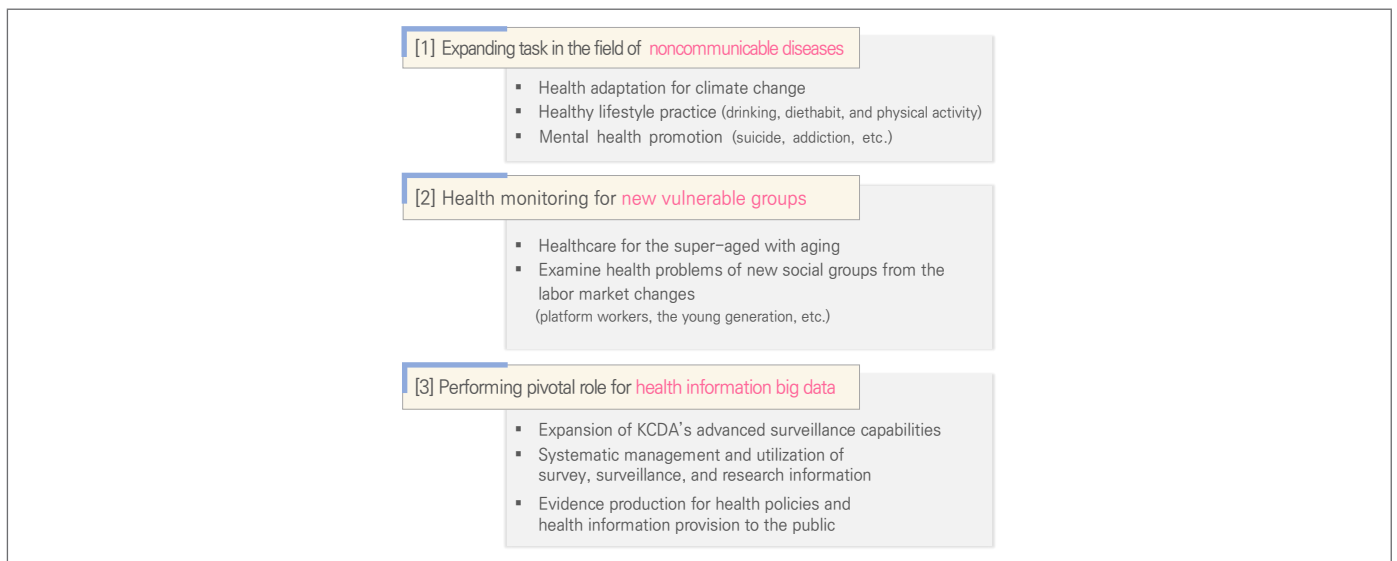- Evidence production for health policies and health information provision to the public

Figure 3. Policy objectives to prepare for future social change