



The Leader in Social Issues Coverage for Over 35 Years

SIRS Issues Researcher delivers the pros and cons on today's complex social issues with relevant, credible information that tells the whole story on the major questions of the day.

Go in depth into hundreds of critical current issues, and explore thousands of topics on enduring social issues. Analysis and opinions—hand selected from thousands of national and international sources—cover the pros, cons, and everything in between, on every issue.

Get right to the heart of an issue with special Leading Issues coverage. It provides not only the background necessary to understanding an issue's origins and key points of contention, but also the current analysis that investigates how the issue affects politics, personal beliefs, current events, and more. Inside each Leading Issue you'll find:

- A concise introductory overview, timeline, and reference materials for context
- Essential Questions that introduce the issue's pros and cons and highlight key points under debate
- Relevant documents, statistics, and multimedia present global perspectives from all sides to help young researchers go from the "whats" of the issue to the "whys"
- Social bookmarking, note organizers, and a citation generator help with the research process

When you bring it all together, SIRS Issues Researcher is everything you need to tackle the toughest issues—and to begin asking the questions that lead to critical thinking about complex social issues.





ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
(St. Louis, MO)
Dec. 10, 2006, pp. A1*

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Feeding Africa: A St. Louis Team Fights a Crop Killer

By Eric Hand
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

*A virus is wiping out much of Africa's most important food
*Can scientists overcome the obstacles to a biotech cure?

NAKITOMA, UGANDA—The sleepy main street of Nakitoma, with its pancake seller and bicycle repairman, is little different from that of other provincial towns—just a flash of weathered, empty storefronts on the pocked road.

Barefoot children chase cars, calling out, "Bye-bye, Museveni!" For if someone is driving a car around here, he must be someone important, such as Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

It is a forgettable place, except for one thing: It is the epicenter of a pandemic whose shock waves still are ravaging Africa.

Not AIDS. Not malaria. Not tuberculosis. But something just as destructive.

**Food Staple i
Cassava**

A woman peels i
cassava from wh
of Nigeria's stapl
produced. (GREG
PHOTOPIUS UT)

Read aloud, translation and MP3 downloads support diverse users

YOUR 'TOP 10' PRO vs. CON LEADING ISSUES

- Abortion
- Abstinence
- Abstinence and AIDS Prevention
- Abstinence Education
- Access to Contraception
- Acculturation and Assimilation
- Adoption
- Advertising
- Advertising and Children
- Advertising in Schools
- Affirmative Action
- AIDS
- AIDS in Africa
- Alcohol Use
- Alcoholism
- Alternative Education
- Alternative Energy Sources
- Alternative Medicine
- Animal Cloning
- Animal Cruelty
- Animal Experimentation
- Animal Rights

Other issues shown: Cyberbullying, Online social networks, Genetically modified foods, Bullying in schools, School shootings, Firearms, Safety measures, Holocaust denial, Single-sex classes (Education), Iraq War (2003-)

Leading Issues covers over 300 of the most-studied issues in a pro/con format

Salt, sodium basics

A new report says Americans consume way too much sodium and new standards are needed to reduce salt in processed and prepared food.

What is table salt?
A compound of sodium and chloride; about 40 percent is sodium

Why limit salt?
To cut the risk of high blood pressure (hypertension), heart attack, stroke

How much is ok per day?

Sodium	Salt equivalent
Recommended adequate intake: 1,500 mg	Little more than half a teaspoon
Recommended maximum intake: 2,300 mg	About a teaspoon
Average American intake: More than 3,400 mg	About 1.5 teaspoons

About 88% of Americans age 2 years and older consume more than 2,300 mg of sodium per day

Where salt comes from

Main sources of sodium in average U.S. diet:

- Processed, prepared food: 77%
- Added white cooking: 5%
- Added white eating: 12%
- Natural sources: 6%

Fewer read the label

Percent who say they read salt/sodium labels on packaging:

- '95-'96: 36%
- '05-'06: 34%
- Always, often: 36%
- Sometimes: 29%
- Rarely: 19%
- Never: 12%

A growing concern

The prevalence rate of obesity among America's youth has nearly tripled in some age groups since the 1970s, according to a survey.

Prevalence of obesity

- Ages 2 to 5 years
- 6 to 11
- 12 to 19

Year	1971-74	1976-80	1988-94	2003-06
12 to 19	~5%	~5%	~10%	17.6%
6 to 11	~5%	~5%	~10%	12.4%
Ages 2 to 5 years	~5%	~5%	~10%	17.0%

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention AP

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Points of View from Every Angle



Multiple search methods like visual browse, keyword, and subject search make it easy to find relevant information. Top 10 issues, monthly polls, today's news, and special focus coverage instantly connect users to current events. Users can sort their results by relevance or date; and view, print, save, or email documents in one step. Additional tools such as text-to-speech, MP3 downloads, and article translations make content accessible for everyone. The Reference Toolbox and iThink™ Skills Tutor develop information literacy skills and provide homework help for new researchers.

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