

Stili di vita e responsabilità personale per la salute: gli argomenti politici

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Personal Responsibility for Health and Lifestyle Diseases: a Philosophical Analysis

Abstract: Appeals to personal responsibility for health take three forms: economic, communitarian and distributive. It is unlikely that the first version, which stems from concerns about sustainability of public health systems due to morally hazardous behaviors, applies to the case of lifestyle diseases. The second version, which is based on duties generated by participation to common institutions that provide services to everybody, is ultimately identical to the others. The third version, which relies upon responsibility-sensitive distributive theories, entails social consequences that are both unavoidable within those theories and undesirable. I conclude that appeals to personal responsibility for health cannot justify responsibility-oriented reforms in health systems.

Keywords: Luck egalitarianism, Health, Responsibility, Lifestyle disease.