





WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

Dr. Jaime Llabias-Wolf,
York University
Canada



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Definitions of Public Health

The approach to medicine that is concerned with the health of the community as a whole. Public health is community health. It has been said that: "Health care is vital to all of us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time."


Discusses and acts on issues that affect the general health of a community. Often involves issues such as water safety, sanitation, immunizations, housing, infectious diseases and illness prevention.



Definitions of Public Health

Actions to promote and restore the people's health. It is the combination of sciences, skills, and beliefs that are directed to the maintenance and improvement of the health of all the people through collective or social actions. .

Physicians in this branch of medicine help guide a community, agency, health organization, medical office, or program to reach their group or community health goals.




Definitions of Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH IS YOUR HEALTH

In public health, the goal is to prevent disease or injury in a whole population—a city, state or country, for example.

That's different from the goal of health care, which is to care for individuals.




HEALTH ACTIONS AND POLICIES FOR THE WHOLE POPULATION

SCIENTIFIC BASE = EPIDEMIOLOGY

PHILOSOPHY BASE = SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

SCHOOLS PUBLIC HEALTH :

Munich	(Germany)	1881
Harvard	(USA)	1913
John Hopkins	(USA)	1916
Sao Paulo	(Brazil)	1919
Mexico	(Mexico)	1922
Santiago	(Chile)	1943



CONCEPTUAL MODELS

Determinants:

Epidemiological Services	: Causes of diseases
Organization	: Health Care and prevention
Socio-Cultural	: Management
	: Values and behavior

Public Responses:

- ✓ State (Health care and Prevention)
- ✓ Community (Health care and Promotion)
- ✓ Directed to protect the Environment
- ✓ Directed to target groups (ex. Youth, elderly, women, etc)




THE CONTEXT

CHALLENGES:

- Globalization (economic, political, cultural, scientific, technological)
- Epidemiological and demographic transitions
- Reforms to Health Care Systems
- NGO actions (Profit and non/profit)
- Paradigm changes

APPROACHES

- Prevention
- Role of the Community



EXAMPLES of Public Health Issues

- Chronic Diseases Concern
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Health Disparities
- Health Aging
- Obesity
- Infectious Diseases
- Immunizations
- Nutrition
- Smoking
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Wellness and prevention
- Accidents prevention

•ETC.




BASIC FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- PREVENTION OF EPIDEMIES
- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- PREVENTION OF TRAUMAS AND RISKS
- PROMOTION OH HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
- ACCESS AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE
- RESPONSES TO DISASTERS



BASIC SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- ✓ HEALTH EVALUATION
- ✓ HEALTH RESEARCH ON DETERMINANTS AND RISKS
- ✓ HEALTH INFORMATION AND FOLLOW UP
- ✓ HEALTH EDUCATION
- ✓ HEALTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES
- ✓ EQUAL ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- ✓ QUALITY OF SERVICES



PRIORITY ACTIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

- ❖ INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION (STATISTICS DATA, ETC.)
- ❖ HUMAN RESOURCES (TRAINING)
- ❖ COMMUNITY NETWORKS
- ❖ RISKS RESEARCH
- ❖ PLANNING
- ❖ EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT




Prevention

Health Protection:

- ✓ Healthy Environment
- ✓ Preventative actions (ex. Primary Health care, PHC)
- ✓ National, regional and local programs


Health Promotion

- ✓ Healthy Behavior (Lifestyle)
- ✓ Leadership (Collaboration, networking, planning)




Role of the Community

- ✓ Role of NGO' s (Actions, Values, Consensus)
- ✓ Partnerships (Private and public)
- ✓ Health Education
- ✓ Health Rights (Equity)
- ✓ Networking (Data status)
- ✓ Social participation
- ✓ Environmental risks
- ✓ Training community leaders



CHALLENGES REGARDING KNOWLEDGE

ONE DISCIPLINE DISCIPLINARY)	(MONO)
VARIOUS DISCIPLINES (A + B + C)	(MULTIDISCIPLINARY (AGGREGATED)
VARIOUS DISCIPLINES (A + B) + C	(INTERDISCIPLINARY (INTEGRATED)
VARIOUS DISCIPLINES (A + B + C)	(TRANSDISCIPLINARY (HOLOGRAPHIC)



Where do public health professionals work?

Public and private sectors.

Health departments range from (Food Safety Inspectors to Health Educators; from Policy Analysts to Epidemiologists.) University systems as researchers.

Non-profit organization can find jobs in health advocacy, policy, or research for organizations.

Private sector - working in randomized control trials for pharmaceutical companies or for health insurance companies.



What kind of job title can I expect after graduating with a degree in public health?

Public Health Management Analyst


Director of Programs and Services

Health Communications Specialist

Research Scientist

Environmental Health Intelligence Analyst

Manager, Breastfeeding Initiatives



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