

Public Health and Infectious Diseases: Part 1

Definition of Public Health (Winslow 1877-1957):

- The sciences and art of preventing disease and prolonging life
- and promoting physical health and efficiency through organized community efforts
- the control of community infections
- the education of the individual in principles of personal hygiene
- the organization of medical and nursing services for the early diagnosis and preventative treatment of disease
- and the development of the social machinery which ensures to every individual in the community a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health.

Public Health Disciplines

- epidemiology
- statistics
- biomedical sciences
- environmental health sciences
- social and behavioral sciences
- health policy and management

Core Functions of Public Health

- Assessment, Policy Development and Assurance
- Subtasks: monitor health; diagnosis and investigate; inform, educate and empower; mobilize community partnerships; develop policies; enforce laws; link to and provide care; assure competent workforce; evaluate

*Public health touches many parts of our daily lives

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- US government agency
- Formed in 1946
- Employs 15,000
- Headquarters in Atlanta, GA
- Mission: to prevent disease, injury and disabilities and improve the health of the population
- There are other key US agencies for public health

World Health Organization

- Located in Geneva, Switzerland
- Active in over 150 countries
- Mission: to provide global leadership in public health

Pan American Health Organization

- Mission: to improve the quality of life and living standards of people of the Americas

African Health Organisation

- Mission: to protect and promote the health of all African peoples

Public Health Associations and Foundations

- Examples: American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, etc.