

Global Health

ABSTRACT

Public health has always been global, with epidemics and pandemics transmitted via trade, military, and other international movement, such as with the Black Death in the fourteenth century, cholera in the nineteenth century, swine flu of 1917, and more recently HIV/AIDS. Global cooperation led to public health's greatest achievements in the eradication of smallpox and near-eradication of poliomyelitis. International efforts by many organizations and donors have contributed to major progress in reducing child and maternal mortality. Control of non-communicable disease is also rewarding, as cardiovascular diseases and cancers are responding well to health promotion and preventive measures. Global solidarity in the Millennium Development Goals accepted by United Nations member countries has promoted political support in the 2001–2015 time-frame. Follow-up Global Health Goals will continue and extend these targets to the non-communicable disease, injuries, mental health, and other aspects of population health.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Student Competencies: Transferable Knowledge and Skills

The following are points of emphasis highlighting key principles that public health graduates are expected to understand and apply into practice. The key points arise from this chapter and other studies in specialized courses, seminars, readings during public health education, and continuing education. The selected skills and knowledge are divided into two parts. The first consists of core questions pertaining to immediate student requirements, while the second refers to competencies essential for successful public health practitioners. These include competencies recommended by the American Public Health Association in 2007, as well as those of the European Association of Schools of Public Health and the Public Health Agency of Canada's 2008 Report on Core Competencies. For more detailed competencies please consult the Association of Schools of Public Health website at: <http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=851>

Part I: Core Questions

1. How are countries classified in terms of levels of development?
2. What are the major causes of morbidity and mortality in developing countries?
3. What are the major causes of morbidity and mortality in developed countries?

4. What role do demographic trends play in both developing and developed countries?
5. How have international health organizations evolved since 1850?
6. What is the major role of the World Health Organization?
7. Which nutrition issues are most common in developing and developed countries?
8. Which emerging infectious diseases threaten international health? What international efforts are required to contain such diseases?
9. How is the experience of the eradication of smallpox and near-eradication of poliomyelitis relevant to global health in the year 2015?

Part II: Knowledge and Skills

1. Identify of the current priorities in global health.
2. Understand the functions of and interactions between major public health institutions: World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), international donors, and private-public partnerships.
3. Understand Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their sub-targets, how they were developed, and current global progress towards achieving these goals.
4. Understand the follow-up to the MDGs after 2015 with the inclusion of non-communicable diseases and health systems development to global health priorities.
5. Understand international and national inequities in health and efforts needed to reduce them.
6. Understand health risks that are associated with disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) and how they affect health policy.
7. Understand national and community-level efforts to achieve national health targets.

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