

Chapter One

The Principles and Goals of Public Health



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Why Study Global Health?

- Understand the progress that has already been made
- Understand the challenges that still remain
- Diseases are not limited by national boundaries
- Significant health disparities among groups (164,000 deaths from measles globally; 1.8 million die annually of TB; and 343,000 women die of maternal causes)
- Link between health and development



Health, Public Health, and Global Health

Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”



Health, Public Health, and Global Health

Public Health

“...the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting physical health and mental health and efficiency through organized community efforts toward a sanitary environment; the control of community infections; the education of the individual in principles of personal hygiene; the organization of medical and nursing service for the early diagnosis and treatment of disease; and the development of the social machinery to ensure to every individual in the community a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health.”



Health, Public Health, and Global Health

Global Health

“...an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions, involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences, and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population based prevention with individual-level clinical care.”



Critical Global Health Concepts

- Determinants of health
- Measurement of health status
- Importance of culture to health
- Global burden of disease
- Key risk factors
- Demographic and epidemiologic transitions
- Organization and function of health systems
- Links among health, education, poverty and equity



Key Terms

- Low-income : \$995 or less
- Lower middle-income : \$996 to \$3,945
- Upper middle-income : \$3,946 to \$12,195
- High-income : \$12,196 or above

Based on gross national income per person



Millennium Development Goals

- Countries signed pledged to meet goals by 2015
- Explicit statement of goals for development efforts
- All relate to health, whether directly or indirectly
- Important to understanding global health issues



Table 1.5: Millennium Development Goals and their Related Targets

Goal	Targets
<i>Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty</i>	<p>Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day</p> <p>Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</p>
<i>Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education</i>	<p>Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</p>
<i>Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</i>	<p>Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015</p>
<i>Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality</i>	<p>Target 5. Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate</p>
<i>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</i>	<p>Target 6. Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio</p>
<i>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases</i>	<p>Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</p>

Source: Data from Millennium Project: Goals, Targets, and Indicators. Available at <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm>. Accessed April 9, 2011.



Table 1.5: Millennium Development Goals and their Related Targets (cont.)

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Target 10. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Target 11. Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Target 12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system

Target 13. Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries

Target 14. Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states

Target 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Source: Data from Millennium Project: Goals, Targets, and Indicators. Available at <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm>. Accessed April 9, 2011.



Central Messages

- Strong links among health, human development, labor productivity, and economic development
- Health status is determined by a variety of factors
- Enormous progress in improving health status over last 50 years
- Much of the progress due to improvements in public hygiene, better water and sanitation, and better education
- Progress in health status has been very uneven across countries
- Enormous disparities in health status and access to health services within and across countries



Central Messages

- Countries do not need to be high-income to enjoy good health status
- Burden of disease is evolving in light of economic and social changes, the aging of populations, and scientific and technical progress
- Some issues can only be solved through cooperation
- People and communities have the ability to enhance their own health status
- Each of us should be concerned with the health of others for health, security and humanitarian reasons

