OVERVIEW

• Public Health Definition and Key Terms
• Public Health Core Functions and Essential Services
• Roles and Responsibilities of a Public Health System
• U.S. Public Health Authorities
• Tribal Public Health
• Public Health Stakeholders
• Public Health Benefits
• A Public Health Approach
• A Tribal Public Health Approach
WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?
PUBLIC HEALTH DEFINITION

• Public health is defined as the ART and SCIENCE of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society (Acheson, WHO)

• Generally, the mission of public health is to provide the maximum health benefit for the largest number of people as well as to fulfill the society’s interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy. (WHO, IOM)
PUBLIC HEALTH KEY TERMS

• Health: state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity

• Health Care: prevention, treatment, and management of illness and the preservation of mental and physical well-being through the services offered by medical and allied health professions

• Health Outcome: result of a medical condition that directly affects the length and quality of a person’s life

• Epidemiology: the study of the spread or pattern of sickness in a group of people
PUBLIC HEALTH KEY TERMS

- **Epidemic**: occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness, specific health-related behavior, or other health-related event clearly in excess of normal expectancy.

- **Pandemic**: denoting a disease affecting or attacking the population of an extensive region, country, and continent.

- **Population Health**: approach to health that aims to improve the health of an entire population.
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (IPs)

• Universal Definition
• IPs are the original inhabitants of an area, the descendants of the original inhabitants who are colonized, and those who live in an Indigenous way and are accepted by the Indigenous community.

(UN Secretariat for Indigenous Peoples, 2004)
WHAT DETERMINES THE HEALTH OF A POPULATION?

- Genes and Biology
- Health Behaviors
- Medical Care
- Society/Societal Characteristics; Total Ecology
WHAT DOES PUBLIC HEALTH DO?
THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

• Disease Prevention
• Protection Against Environmental Hazards
• Injury Prevention
• Health Promotion
• Disaster Response and Community Recovery
• Access to Quality Health Care
## THREE CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>POLICY DEVELOPMENT</th>
<th>ASSURANCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systematically collect, analyze, and make available information on healthy communities</td>
<td>Promote the use of a scientific knowledge base in policy and decision making</td>
<td>Ensure provision of services to those in need</td>
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IOM, 1988
TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1. Monitor Health*
2. Diagnose and Investigate
3. Inform, Educate, Empower
4. Mobilize Community Partnership
5. Develop Policies
6. Enforce Laws
7. Link to/Provide Care*
8. Assure a Competent Workforce
9. Evaluate
10. Research
INTEGRATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH CORE FUNCTIONS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Evaluate
Assure
Competent
Workforce

Link to/
Provide Care

Enforce
Laws

Develop
Policies

Monitor
Health

Diagnose and
Investigate

Inform
Educate
Empower

Mobilize
Community
Partnership

Research

IOM, 1988
WHO ARE THE LEADING PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES?
U.S. PRIMARY PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- American Public Health Association
TRIBAL HEALTH: IHS

• Bureau of Indian Affairs (1824)
• Indian Health Service (1954), DHHS
TRIBAL HEALTH: IHS

- Tribal Public Health Department
- Tribal Health Organizations
WHO ARE PUBLIC HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS?
PARTNERS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Ensuring the Conditions for Population Health

Clinical Care Delivery System

Community

Government Public Health Infrastructures

Academia

Employers and Businesses

The Media

IOM, 2002
## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION TYPE</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional membership organizations</td>
<td>American Public Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations related to a specific health concern</td>
<td>American Cancer Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizations of citizens focused on health concerns</td>
<td>National Indian Health Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations that support health projects and influence public policy development</td>
<td>Gates Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IOM, 2003
MORE PARTNERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Media
- Vehicle for public discourse
- Health education and promotion
- Health communication
- Social Media as catalyst

Employers and Businesses
- Employer-sponsored health insurance programs
- Wellness initiatives and benefits
- Healthy workplaces and communities

Government Agencies
- City Planning
- Education
- Health in all policies

Academia
- Education
- Training
- Research
- Public Service
HOW DOES PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFIT US?
U.S. TOP TEN PUBLIC HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

• Vaccinations/Immunizations
• Safer Workplace
• Safer and Healthier Foods
• Motor Vehicle Safety
• Control of Infectious Disease
• Decline in Death from Heart Disease and Stroke
• Family Planning
• Tobacco as a Health Hazard
• Healthier Mothers and Babies
• Fluoridation of Drinking Water
RECENT EVENTS WITH IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH

• Hurricane Irma (2017)
• Hurricane Harvey (2017)
• Hurricane Matthew (2016)
• Hurricane Sandy (2012)
• Hurricane Katrina (2005)
TOP TEN CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE U.S. (HUS REPORT)

Top 10 leading causes of death, 2015

1. Heart disease - 74.2%
2. Cancer - 23.4%
3. Chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) - 22.0%
4. Unintentional injuries - 7.9%
5. Stroke - 6.8%
6. Alzheimer’s disease - 6.7%
7. Diabetes mellitus - 6.5%
8. Influenza and pneumonia - 5.4%
9. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis - 5.2%
10. Suicide - 2.9%
TOP TEN CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG NATIVE AMERICANS


Data Source: Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Section; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

Note: U.S. Whites data are for 2012-2014.
U.S. AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT SELECTED AGES BY SEX

US NVSS, 2017
AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY AMONG ALASKA NATIVES

Alaska Native Life Expectancy by Gender 1980-2015
Data Source: Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Section; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

- 1980-1989: Alaska Native Male = 61.6, Alaska Native Female = 72.2
- 1990-1999: Alaska Native Male = 65.4, Alaska Native Female = 73.7
- 2000-2009: Alaska Native Male = 68.4, Alaska Native Female = 73.3
- 2010-2015: Alaska Native Male = 70.9, Alaska Native Female = 72.5

ANEC, 2015
HOW DOES PUBLIC HEALTH WORK?
A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

Surveillance

Risk Factor Identification

Intervention Evaluation

Implementation

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

WHAT IS THE CAUSE?

WHAT WORKS?

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Problem

Response
ATSDR EXAMPLE: A TRIBAL APPROACH FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

**ENGAGE**
Engage with the tribes to understand their concerns

**TECHNICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT**
Provide support to help tribes understand if a health impact is associated with their environment

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
Make recommendations to protect the health of the tribe

ATSDR, 2009
YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE
ATSDR EXAMPLE:
A TRIBAL APPROACH FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Opens the door to respecting the ways of others

Acknowledges the concept of time is relative to a tribes’ cultural existence

Builds a foundation of diplomacy between governments and people

Establishes a starting point in working with others to build capacity

Extend Trust
Demonstrate Deference
Offer Patience
Exercise Flexibility

Extend Trust
Demonstrate Deference
Offer Patience
Exercise Flexibility

Opens the door to respecting the ways of others

SARCONE, 2009
ATSDR EXAMPLE:
A TRIBAL APPROACH FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Trusted in the Tribe to know the best place to start in addressing their concerns

Deferred to the Tribe to define their relationship with their environment and where they perceived harm

Placed no end point on our dedication and commitment to serve the Tribe

Respected people’s fears and Nimbly adjusted to address these fears

Extend Trust

Demonstrate Deference

Offer Patience

Exercise Flexibility

SARCONE, 2009
YAKUTAT, AK
DURING THIS COURSE, YOU LEARNED:

• Public Health must be INCLUSIVE.
• Public Health must be ADAPTABLE.
• Public Health must be PROGRESSIVELY SELECTIVE.
COMMENTS & QUESTIONS
REFERENCES

• Institute of Medicine
• World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe
• Martinez-Cobo, UN Secretariat for Indigenous Peoples, 2004
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support
• US Department of Health and Human Services, BIA, HIS
• National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, 2017
• Alaska Native Epidemiology Center, 2017
• Joseph Sarcone, MSPH, USDHHS Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
• National Center for Environmental Information
• American Public Health Association
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