

# Public health



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Public health Public health is thought to have emerged in 1800s as a result of the outbreak of infectious disease in cities such as cholera, small pox, and yellow fever. Before the evolution and use of public health in health care industry, in-house confinement and quarantine were the only means use to curb spread of pandemic such as cholera. Because of the spread of killer diseases like cholera, most businesses and industries in United States were severely affected. This prompted wealthy businessmen in United States to hire graduate nurses called community health nurses to provide healthcare to sick people in parts of Washington DC, Boston and Cincinnati. The initiative was to provide good sanitation and reduces cases of mortality and morbidity causes by infectious diseases in major cities and areas inhabited by population with lower living standards. The term was also used in 19th century when epidemiologist John Snow realised that the outbreak of infectious diseases such as cholera was a result of environment. He pointed out that the water pump in London town contributed to cholera outbreak and closing it will be solution (Turnock, 2008).

### Public Health

Based on the definition of public health, it requires different aspects to be achieved so as to accomplish its meaning. Some of the aspects underlined in the definition of public health are prevention of diseases, prolonging life and promotion of health and efficiency. This is done through education, control of infectious diseases, providing information to the population on maintenance of personal hygiene and management and development of health facilities to assist in provision of healthcare (Turnock 2008).

### Importance

Studying public health is significant to the country and population in general.

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Studying provides a clear path in tackling complex issues relating to healthcare such as provision of accessible services, control of infectious diseases, and reduction of environmental hazards, curb issues of drug and substance abuse and violence. Studying of the subjects provide an opportunity to specialize in different fields. Additionally, it integrates different professionals such as journalists, teachers, environmentalist, scientist and attorneys working together to provide a safe environment and improve health. Study provides an opportunity to serve local, national and international population (Turnock 2008).

#### U. S. public health

United States more of their budget on health issues than any other country in the world. Based on 2004 studies, U. S. per-capita spending was \$ 6096. This is double that of Canada which was at \$3038. U. S. is working together with other nations to curb emerging pandemic diseases and conduct research of the health related issues. They also provide funds, technical support and human resources to the international organization such as United Nation, World Health Organization and other programs aimed to eliminate tropical diseases such as malaria. Public health in United States is currently concerns with non-communicable diseases such as cancer, obesity, heart attack, stroke and injuries. This is quite different from developing countries which are still dealing with communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. However, like other developed countries U. S. is encouraging public to administer preventive measures to curb non-contagious diseases like diabetes, cancers and obesity (Creighton University, 2013).

#### References

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Turnock, B., J. (2008), Essentials of Public Health. Ontario, Canada: Jones & Bartlett Publishers.