Images of Public Health

- The System and Social Enterprise
- The Profession
- The Methods
- Government Services
- The Health of the Public

Turnock, 2001

Public Health Systems

“human, informational, financial, and organizational resources, including public, private and individuals, that contribute to the public’s health.” NACCHO

Public Health History

- Sanitation & Housing
- Communicable Disease
- Industrialization, Labor Laws
- Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Vital Statistics, Epidemiology
- Medical Care, Sickness Insurance
- Health Promotion, Clinical Prevention
- Injury & Violence Prevention
Determinants of Health

Approach and Rationale
A guide to thinking about the determinants of population health

Public Health Components
- Legal – Laws, Administrative Law
- Practice – Protocols, Standards
- Funding – Taxes, Fees, Contributions, Grants
- Personnel – Education, Training, Experience
- Public – Advocates, Partners, Advisers

NOTES: Adapted from Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991. The dotted lines denote interaction effects between and among the various levels of health determinants (Worthman, 1999).
Role of Government

- Legislature
  - laws, funding, oversight, public review
- Executive
  - leadership, delegation of power, appointment of public health officials and advisors, priority setting
- Judiciary
  - enforcement, legislative review

Public Health-NY State and County

- Health
- Mental Health
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Labor-OSHA*
- Environmental Conservation-fish
- Education-professional licensing*
- Ag & Markets-milk, meat, grocery
- Taxation-Alcohol & Tobacco Sales

Typical Local Health Department in NYS

- Administration, Fiscal, Human Resources
- Planning, Info Systems, Data Management
- Personal Health Services
- Communicable Disease Control
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Environmental Health
- Health Information, Education and Promotion
Public Health –

- Core Functions (IOM 1988)
  - Policy Development
  - Assessment
  - Assurance

Vision:
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Mission:
Promote Physical and Mental Health and Prevent Disease, Injury, and Disability

Public Health
- Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protects against environmental hazards
- Prevents injuries
- Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors
- Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery
- Assures the quality and accessibility of health services

Essential Services

- Assessment
  - Monitor health status to identify community health problems
  - Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community (including laboratory capacity)
  - Inform, educate and empower people about health issues
Essential Services

• Policy Development
  – Mobilize community partnerships (with other public and health agencies, elected officials, and funding agencies) to identify and solve health problems
  – Develop (laws,) policies, and plans that support individual and community health efforts (improvement)
  – Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

• Assurance
  – Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of (environmental protection and) personal health services
  –Assure a competent public health and personal health workforce
  – Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population based health services (and the impact of budget changes)
  – Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems
Actual Causes of Death
Estimated Totals 50% of All Deaths, 1990

- Tobacco
- Diet/Activity
- Alcohol
- Microbes
- Toxic Agents
- Firearms
- Sexual Behavior
- Motor Vehicles
- Illicit Drugs

McGinnis Foege
JAMA 1993

Committee on Assuring the Health of the Public in the 21st Century

The Public Health System
Linkages and Overlaps

Public Health Services – WTC Response

• Assessment
  – Monitor
  – Diagnose and Investigate
  – Inform
• Policy
  – Mobilize
  – Develop
  – Enforce
• Assurance
  – Link people to services
  – Assure competent workforce
  – Evaluate
  – Research