

INTRODUCTION TO DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

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OUTLINE

If vice and corruption prevail, liberty cannot
subsist; but if virtue have the advantage,
arbitrary power cannot be established.

Algernon Sidney

Outline

Definition of dental public health

Relevance of public health to clinical practice

What is a public health problem?

Alma Ata Declaration - 1978

Core themes of dental public health practice

DEFINITION OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Definition Of Dental Public Health

The science and practice of preventing oral diseases, promoting oral health, and improving quality of life through the organized efforts of society.

Diagnosis of a population's oral health problems

Action focused at a community level

... Stages Of Clinical & Public Health Practice

Clinical practice	Public health practice
Individual clinical practice	Public health practice
Examination	Assessment of need
Diagnosis	Analysis of data
Treatment planning	Program planning
Informed consent for treatment	Ethics & planning approval
Appropriate mix of care, cure & prevention	Program implementation
Payment for services	Types of finance
Evaluation	Appraisal & review

... Sciences & Disciplines Involved In Dental Public Health

Epidemiology	Health economics
Health promotion	Health services management & planning
Medical statistics	Evidence-based practice
Sociology & psychology	Demography

RELEVANCE OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO CLINICAL PRACTICE

Relevance Of Public Health To Clinical Practice

Changes affecting the practice of dentistry

Epidemiological changes (*Changing pattern of disease*)
 Demographic shifts (*Ageing population*)
 Organizational changes (*Evidence-based dentistry, ...*)
 Professional development (*Team work, continuous education*)
 Social change (*Increasing demands, inequalities*)
 Political pressures (*Cost containment on public spending*)
 Technological change (*informatics, pharmaceutical development, new materials*)

Relevance Of Public Health To Clinical Practice

Key areas in the practice of clinical dentistry

Epidemiology of oral diseases
 Prevention & oral health promotion
 Planning & management of health services

WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

What Is A Public Health Problem ?

Demands on health care systems will always be greater than the resources available to meet these needs.

Direct resources to particular problem areas. But, what would be considered an important problem?

What Is A Public Health Problem ?... Criteria For A Public Health Problem

Prevalence of the condition

Impact of the condition on an individual level

Impact on wider society

Condition is preventable & effective treatments are available

ALMA ATA DECLARATION - 1978

Alma Ata Declaration - 1978

Focus on prevention (*shift from treatment to prevention*)

Multi-sectoral approach (*action in different sectors*)

Appropriate technology (*appropriate technology for health problems*)

Equitable distribution (*fairly distribute factors influencing health*)

Community participation (*individuals & communities participation in all decisions*)

CORE THEMES OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice

Concepts of health	Preventive approach
Determinants of health	Quality of dental care
Concepts of need	Evidence-based practice
Inequalities in oral health	

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Concepts of Health

Health is the extent to which an individual or group is able, on the one hand to realize aspirations & satisfy needs; & on the other hand, to change or cope with the environment. Health is, therefore, seen as a resource for everyday life, not an object of living; it is a positive concept emphasizing social & personal resources, as well as physical capacities.

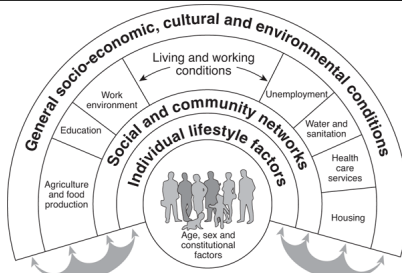
WHO, 1984

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Concepts of Health

Dimensions of health

- Physical health (*Functions of the body*)
- Mental health (*Ability to think clearly & coherently*)
- Emotional health (*Recognize & express emotions*)
- Social health (*Form & maintain relationships*)
- Spiritual health (*Principles of behavior or religious beliefs*)
- Societal health (*Personal health is linked to the environment*)

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health



Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health

Income and social class

Living conditions, safe housing & food

Increased stress - disease through hormonal & immune disturbances

Social support networks

Support from family friends & community - improved health

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health

Education and literacy

Equipping people with knowledge & skills for problem solving, and helps provide a sense of control & mastery over life circumstances

Increases opportunities for job & income security, and job satisfaction

It improves people's ability to access & understand information to help keep them healthy

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health

Employment and working conditions

Unemployment, underemployment, stressful or unsafe work are associated with poorer health

People who have more control over their work circumstances & fewer stress related demands of the job are healthier & often live longer than those in more stressful or riskier work & activities

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health

Social environment

Values & norms of a society influence in varying ways the health & well being of individuals & populations

Social stability, recognition of diversity, safety, good working relationships, & cohesive communities provide a supportive society that reduces or avoids many potential risks to good health

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health

Physical environment

Factors in our natural environment (e.g. air, water quality) & human-built environment (e.g. housing, workplace safety & road design) play a role in individual & public health

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health

Personal health practices and coping skills

Learning how & what individuals can do to prevent diseases & promote self-care, cope with challenges, develop self-reliance, & solve problems will help people make choices that enhance health

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health

Healthy child development

Prenatal & early childhood experiences have a positive impact on brain development, school readiness & health in later life

Biology & genetic endowment

In some circumstances inherited predispositions appears to predispose certain individuals to particular diseases or health problems

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Determinants of Health

Health services

High quality, accessible health services & health promotion contribute to public health

Gender

Boys & girls, men & women get different kinds of disease & conditions at different ages

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Concepts of Need

Two aspects

Need for health care
Need for health

Cooper's taxonomy of need (1975)

Wants: A person's own estimation of want for health
Demand: The wants an individual demands a professional to meet
Need: A state judged as in need by a health professional

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Concepts of Need

Bradshaw's taxonomy of need (1972)

Nominative needs (expressed by professionals)

Felt needs (people perceive as being important, subjective feelings)

Expressed needs (arise from felt needs & expressed in words or action)

Comparative needs (individuals or groups compared to similar & considered lacking)

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Inequalities in Oral Health

Health disparities are acceptable when considered consequences of age or gender differences

Health disparities are unacceptable when caused by social, economic, & political factors

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Preventive Approach

Public health seeks to develop effective preventive measures at both individual & population levels

Requires an understanding of the key influences on health & identifying opportunities for appropriate intervention

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Quality of Dental Care

High-quality dental services need to be developed to best meet the needs of their local populations.

High-quality dental care includes

- Clinical concerns
- Access to care
- Responsiveness to individuals' concerns
- Cost effectiveness
- Evidence-based practice

Core Themes of Dental Public Health Practice... Evidence-Based Practice

Evidence-based practice is central to clinical practice, & all clinical decisions should be based upon a critical appraisal of the available scientific evidence.

Power does not corrupt men.

FOOLS, however, if they get into a position of power, corrupt power.

George Bernard Shaw