

# UNDERSTANDING BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH PRINCIPLES



# What Is Health?

The most frequently used definition of Health is the one created in 1948 by the World Health Organization (WHO)



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

*WHO, 1948*



# Health

This definition opened the way to conceptualizing health in much broader and holistic terms and highlighted the need for life-span disease and injury prevention as well as early diagnosis and treatment.

This is the heart of public health efforts  
Worldwide and in the U.S..



# Realize

- Entire populations are to be improved when the mission of public health is realized.
- Affect reaches beyond territories, groups and individuals
- Scope encompasses physical, mental, social, economic, and environmental variables in our lives.



# Public Health

- prevents disease, prolongs life, and promotes health
- organized community effort for
  - sanitation of the environment, control of communicable infections, education in personal hygiene, organization of medical and nursing services, development of the social machinery
- ensures everyone a standard of living, adequate for the maintenance of health.



# National Institute of Medicine (IOM)

- In 1988 was charged with studying the Public Health System and making recommendations for its future.



# IOM

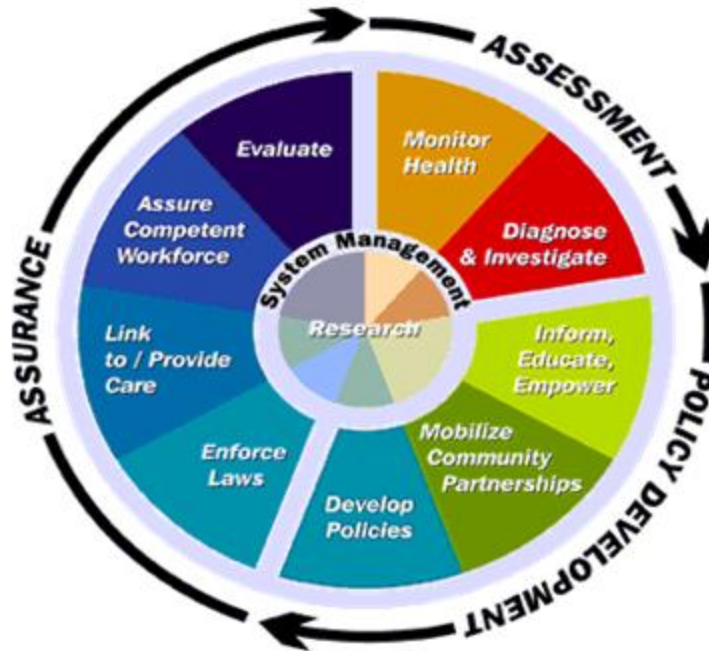
- Provided recommendations which continue to impact today's Public Health System
- Defined **Public Health Mission**
- Identified **3 Core Functions of Public Health**



# Mission & Functions

- Fulfilling society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy.
- Core functions of all levels of Public Health agencies are:
  - Assessment
  - Policy Development
  - Assurance





# ASSESSMENT

Every PH agency regularly and systematically should collect, assemble, analyze, and make available information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, and epidemiologic and other studies of health problems.

*The Future of Public Health, Institute of Medicine 1988*



# POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Every PH agency should exercise its responsibility to serve the public interest in the development of comprehensive public policies by promoting the use of the scientific knowledge base in decision-making about PH and by leading in developing PH policy. Agencies must take a strategic approach, developed on the basis of positive appreciation for the democratic political process.

*The Future of Public Health, Institute of Medicine 1988*



# ASSURANCE

PH agencies must assure their constituents that services necessary to achieve agreed upon goals are provided, either by encouraging other entities (private or public sector) by requiring such action through regulation, or by providing services directly.

*The Future of Public Health, Institute of Medicine 1988*



- Public Health serves communities and the individuals within them by providing an array of essential services.
- Local Health Departments and agencies work with communities to achieve the essential services.



# End of Part 2

## Understanding Basic Public Health Principles



# Part 3

## Healthy People Process

