



Introduction to Community Medicine

Objectives:

- Understand the spectrum of health in relation to health and sickness
- Define; health, disease, illness and wellbeing
- Define and understand the determinants of health; biological, behavioral, socio and cultural, environmental, socioeconomic, health services, aging and gender
- Understand the concepts of “right to health “ and “health for all”

Resources: Doctors’ slides

Important | **Notes** | **Extra**

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What is Community Medicine?

- A branch of medicine that is concerned with the health of the members of a community, municipality, or region.
- The emphasis in community medicine is on the early diagnosis of disease, the recognition of environmental and occupational hazards to good health, and the prevention of disease in the community.
- OR: Specialty which deals with populations and comprises those doctors who try to measure the needs of the population, both sick and well, who plan and administer services to meet those needs, and those who are engaged in research and teaching in the field.

Community Medicine

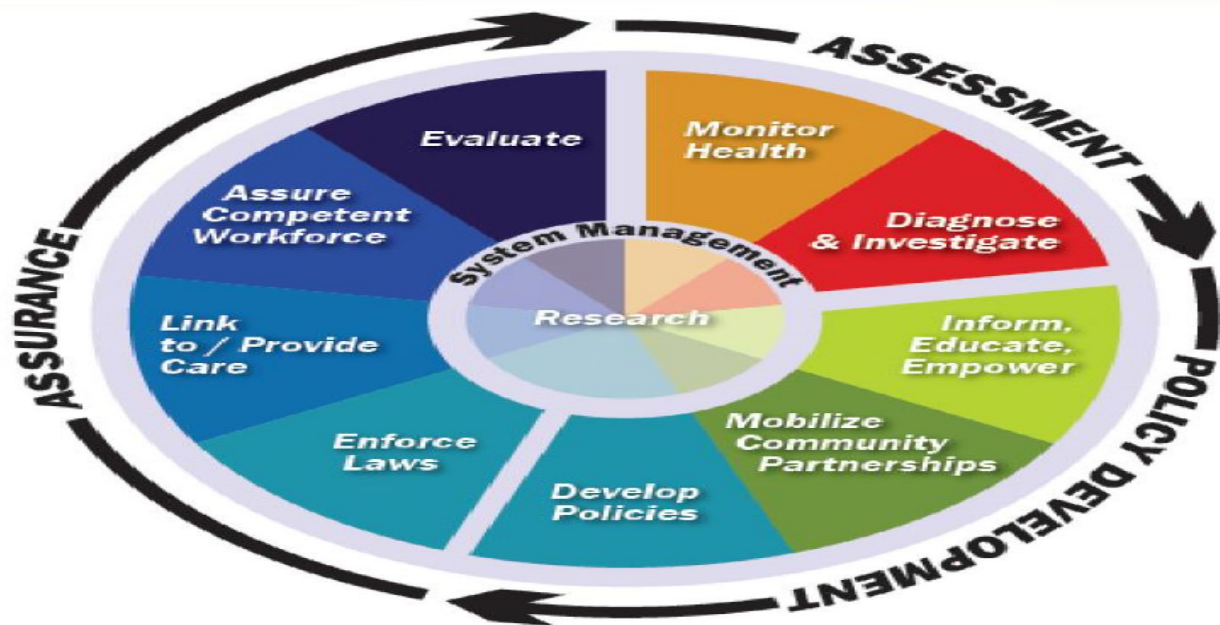
- It is often considered synonymous with preventive and social medicine, public health, and community health. All these share common ground, i.e. prevention of disease and promotion of health.
- Community medicine provides comprehensive health services ranging from preventive, promotive, curative, to rehabilitative services.

Preventive medicine

- Preventive medicine focuses on the health of individuals, communities, and defined populations
- Its goal is to protect, promote, and maintain health and well-being and to prevent disease, disability, and death

Public health

- Public health and general preventive medicine focuses on promoting health, preventing disease, and managing the health of communities and defined populations.
- These practitioners combine population-based public health skills with knowledge of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention-oriented clinical practice in a wide variety of settings.
- Public health is a combination of scientific discipline (e.g., epidemiology, biostatistics, laboratory science, social science, demography) and skills and strategies (e.g., epidemiological investigations, planning and management, intervention, evaluation) that are directed to the maintenance and



The 10 essential public health services:

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative health problems.

Specialties of public health :

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Demography
- Communicable disease epidemiology
- Non communicable disease epidemiology
- Health education and health promotion
- Mental health
- School health
- Community nutrition
- Environmental health
- Occupational health
- Adolescents' health
- Reproductive health
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH)
- Health programs and policies
- Health systems and services
- International health
- Health of people with special needs
- Geriatric Health

Who is responsible for conducting Public Health services?

Ministry of Health
+
Public health institutes/schools/university
Hospitals
+
Other governmental agencies
+
Community participation

Summary

- **Community medicine** : A branch of medicine that is concerned with the health of the members of a community, municipality, or region .
- **Public health** : general preventive medicine focuses on promoting health, preventing disease, and managing the health of communities and defined populations.
- **3 Public Health Functions:**
 - Assessment
 - Policy development
 - Assurance



THE END
