



Introduction to Global Health

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Intro to global health

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**Introduction to Global Health:
Origin, Definitions, Variations
and Governance**

Reference: Global Health: Diseases, Program, Systems, and Policies. Michael H. Merson, Robert E. Black, Anne J. Mills. Fourth Edition (2020). .

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GloCal Health (Global to Local)

- All of health is both local and global, therefore all health professionals must know about both local and global health.



Intro to global health

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What is Global Health?

- In 1997, the US Institute Of Medicine (IOM) released a report that broadly defined Global Health as “Health problems, issues, and concerns that transcend national boundaries, which may be influenced by circumstances or experiences in other countries, and which are best addressed by cooperative actions and solutions.”
- In 2009, IOM amended its definition, describing global health “not just as a state, but also as the goal of improving health for all people by reducing avoidable disease, disabilities, and death.”

Intro to global health

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What is Global Health?

- An area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond health sciences and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care (Koplan et al., 2009).

Global Health Issues

- Refers to any health issue that concerns many countries or is affected by transnational determinants such as:
 - Climate change
 - Urbanisation
 - Malnutrition – under or over nutrition
- Or solutions such as:
 - Polio eradication
 - Containment of avian influenza
 - Approaches to tobacco control

The Emergence of “Global Health”

- As a notion
 - The state of global health
- As an objective
 - Aiming for a condition of global health
 - A world of healthy people
- As a mix of scholarship, research, and practice
 - Multidisciplinary issues
 - Hypotheses/questions
 - Participants

Koplan et al, Lancet 2009, p. 1993

Exhibit I-2 The History of Global Health: A Summary

400 BC: Hippocrates presents the causal relationship between environment and disease.

First century AD: Romans introduce public sanitation and organize a water supply system.

Fourteenth century: The “Black Death” (bubonic plague) leads to quarantine and *cordon sanitaire*.

Middle Ages: Colonial expansion spreads infectious diseases around the world.

1750–1850: The Industrial Revolution results in extensive health and social improvements in cities in Europe and the United States.

1850–1910: Knowledge about the causes and transmission of communicable diseases is greatly expanded.

1910–1945: Reductions in child mortality occur. Schools of public health and international foundations and intergovernmental agencies interested in public health are established.

1945–1990: The World Bank and other UN agencies are created. WHO eradicates smallpox. The HIV/AIDS pandemic begins. The Alma Ata Conference gives emphasis to primary health care. UNICEF leads efforts to ensure universal childhood immunization. Greater attention is given to chronic diseases.

1990–2000: Priority is given to health-sector reform, the impact of and responses to globalization, cost-effectiveness, and public-private partnerships in health.

2000–2010: Priority is given to equity, social determinants of health, health and development, use of innovative information and communications technologies, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and response to influenza.

Merson et al. (2012)

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Historical Development of Term

- **Public Health:** Developed as a discipline in the mid 19th century in UK, Europe and US. Concerned more with national issues.
 - Data and evidence to support action, focus on populations, social justice and equity, emphasis on preventions vs cure.
- **International Health:** Developed during past decades, came to be more concerned with
 - the diseases (e.g. tropical diseases) and
 - conditions (war, natural disasters) of middle and low income countries.
 - Tended to denote a one way flow of 'good ideas'.
- **Global Health:** More recent in its origin and emphasises a greater scope of health problems and solutions
 - that transcend national boundaries
 - requiring greater inter-disciplinary approach

The contrast and similarities among the "global health," "international health," and "public health" domains

	Global Health	International Health	Public Health
Geographical reach	Focuses on issues that directly or indirectly affect health but that can transcend national boundaries	Focuses on health issues of countries other than one's own, especially those of low income and middle income	Focuses on issues that affect the health of the population of a particular community or country
Level of cooperation	Development and implementation of solutions often require global cooperation	Development and implementation of solutions usually require binational cooperation	Development and implementation of solutions do not usually require global cooperation
Individuals or populations	Embraces both prevention in populations and clinical care of individuals	Embraces both prevention in populations and clinical care of individuals	Mainly focuses on prevention programs for populations
Access to health	Health equity among nations and for all people is a major objective	Seeks to help people of other nations	Health equity within a nation or community is a major objective
Range of disciplines	Highly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary within and beyond health sciences	Embraces a few disciplines but has not emphasized multidisciplinary	Encourages multidisciplinary approaches, particularly within health sciences and with social sciences

Global Health...

- Is the goal of improving health for all people in all nations by promoting wellness and eliminating avoidable disease, disabilities, and deaths.
- It can be attained by combining population-based health promotion and disease prevention measures with individual-level clinical care.

Global Health...

- Progress in global health and development has challenged the traditional thinking in foreign assistance. In the last century, and even today, it has been quite common to divide the world into “North” and “South” when referring to “developed” and “developing” countries. This nomenclature ignores major economic, demographic, and social changes of the last decades. In the past, there were two clear categories of rich and poor; today, some poor countries (mostly in Africa) have become poorer, while the majority of rich countries have become richer. However, several countries have since sharply improved their economic situation and acquired the label of “emerging economies,” rendering the earlier terms less relevant.

Why Global Health?

- National borders do not stop the spread of disease. As such, addressing global health issues and working to prevent outbreaks directly impacts the health and well-being of everyone.
- Investing in the health care needs of individuals reduces the cost of future pandemics, long-term disability and premature death, and improves the ability of individuals in developing countries to contribute to their own economies.
- A healthy community leads to a healthy workforce that misses fewer days of work and can continually provide for their families.
- Investing in global health allows developing nations to move toward aid independence and increase their participation in the global economy.

Key Concepts in Relation to Global Health

- The determinants of health
- The measurement of health status
- The importance of culture to health
- The global burden of disease
- The key risk factors for various health problems
- The organisation and function of health systems

Will be detailed in the coming lectures...

Key Concepts in Relation to Global Health

The idea that
some lives
matter less is
the root of all
that is wrong
with the world

Dr. Paul Farmer

Inequalities vs. Inequities

Health Inequalities – “the uneven distribution of health in or between populations.” This can include differences like older adults tend to require more medications than younger adults, or the health needs of women are different than men, due to pregnancy.

Health Inequities – “the presence of systematic disparities in health between more and less advantaged social groups.” For example, populations in poor countries tend to have higher rates of childhood mortality than populations in wealthy countries.

Global Health Coverage

- Social sciences
- Behavioural sciences
- Law
- Economics
- History
- Engineering
- Biomedical sciences
- Environmental sciences

Disciplines Involved in Global Health

- Human nutrition
- Infectious diseases
- Parasitic diseases
- Toxicology and poisoning
- Non-communicable diseases
- Sociology and economics
- Community and public health issues
- Medicinal and poisonous plants

Summary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRyj6htVvUI>