

Public Health

Health service is divided into Curative & Preventive services. Over the years more care was given to Curative Services and there was almost a total neglect for the Preventive Medicine or Public health in general.

What is Public Health

WHO definition of health

"Health comprises complete physical mental and social well being and is not merely the absence of disease."

Winslow's definition of Public Health

"The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting physical health and efficiency through organized community effort."

Therefore there has to be an interest in Society to have an optimal living condition, so that people can be healthy. The Institute of Medicine described the functions of Public Health agencies as:

- **Assessment**
- **Policy development**
- **Assurance**

Public Health Problems

It should meet the following criteria:

- A condition or situation that is a wide spread actual or potential cause of morbidity or mortality.
- An existing perception that the condition is a public health problem on the part of the public, government, or public health authorities. Once identified action is taken when resources are allocated for this problem.

Dental Public Health

Dental Public Health is the Science and Art of:

- Preventive dental disease
 - Controlling dental disease efforts
 - Promoting dental health
- } through organized community

Role of Dental Practitioners in Public Health

- 1- They should have broad knowledge and skills in Public health:
 - a) Administration
 - b) Research methods
 - c) Prevention & Control of oral disease
 - d) Study & development of resources
 - e) Provision & financing of oral health care
- 2- The public health administration should have the ability to stimulate broad discussion of community health problems with:
 - Local civic leaders
 - Social & professional group
- 3- They should encourage a wide community participation.

Personal and community Health Care

The Similarities

Patient

1. Examination
2. Diagnosis
3. Treatment planning
4. Treatment
5. Payment
6. Evaluation

Community

Survey
Analysis
Program Planning
Program operation
Program Funding
Program Appraisal

Personal & community health Care:

The Differences

Clinical or private practitioners work alone. Their decisions are determined in the context of their training, legal practice and the dentist patient relationship. In contrast public health professionals are salaried employee accountable to their Supervisors and the government.