

# History and Concepts of Community Health Nursing



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## □ **History of Community Health Nursing**

- ◆ Before mid-1800 -Early Home Care with focus in Sick and Poor individual.

Orientation: curative

Agencies: lay & religious orders

- ◆ Mid 1800 to 1900-district nursing with focus in Sick and poor individual

Orientation: curative/less in prevention

Agencies: voluntary & some government

◆ 1900-1970 public health nursing- Public Health Needs, focus in family and orientation in Curative and Prevention

agencies: government & some voluntary

◆ 1970 to present-Community Health Nursing, focus in total community and oriented to population health, services address

health promotion; illness prevention

agencies: many kinds; some independent practice

# Concept of Community

- The word "community" is derived from the old French **comuneté** which is derived from Latin (communis), **things held in common**, a broad term for fellowship or organized society.

- **Community:**

It is defined as a group of people who share common interests, who interact with each other, and who function collectively within a defined social structure to address common concerns.

- **Health**

It is a "State of complete physical, mental, and social well being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

- **Population:** the general public or society or a collection of communities.

- **Population Health:**

It can be defined as the attainment of the greatest possible biologic, psychological, and social well-being of the population as an entity and of its individual members.

- **Society**:-

More than one community that share heterogeneous characteristics and make up the entire / whole nation or country.

- **Aggregates:**

Subpopulation within the larger population who have in personal common characteristics, and the can be defined at many **levels, age, occupation, gender, risk, race.**

Often aggregates related to high risk for specific health problems, such as: school-age children, persons with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, pregnant adolescents and the elderly.

- **Nursing:**

Nursing, as an integral part of the health care system, encompasses the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and care of physically ill, mentally ill, and disabled people of all ages, in all health care and other community settings.

- **Community Health Nursing (CHN):**

It is a branch of nursing science which is concerned with the delivery of comprehensive nursing care to individuals, family, group and community as a whole to meet their needs and solve their problems through the application of nursing process to maintain wellness and prevent illness.

**Or**

- Community health nursing is a synthesis of *nursing* and *public health* practice applied to *promoting* and *preserving* the health of populations.



## Philosophy of CHN:-

- Philosophy: is a statement of beliefs that reflect our value and oriented to life. Philosophy C.H.N. is initial part of framework for C.H.N. practice, which includes **disease prevention**, **health promotion**, and **maintenance** that lead to decrease illness and increase wellness for population (individual, family, community).

**The philosophy C.H.N. it is focus on three major issues includes**

1. Disease prevention.
2. Health maintenance.
3. Health promotion.

- **Public Health Definition**

- ❖ **Public health** -- is the Science and Art of preventing disease, prolonging life, promoting health and efficiency through organized community effort.
- ❖ **Community-based nursing** – Focus is on the individual - Care of the acute or chronically ill person and their family focus is to promote self-care, decision making and autonomy.
- ❖ **Population-based nursing** – Focus is on health of the community – Here professional nursing merges with knowledge of public health sciences.

# Characteristics of CHN:-

1. CHN is concerned with the care of individual, family and community.
2. CHN is concerned with personal and environmental health.
3. CHN focuses on physical, biological, psychological and social aspect of population.

# Characteristics of CHN:-

5. CHN is interested on promoting health –related behaviors such as stop smoking.
6. CHN focuses on understanding the natural history of disease, recognizes potential causative agent “Epidemiologic Model” and intervention as soon as possible.
7. CHN focus on the prevent measure rather than curative measure.

## **Setting for community health nursing practice:-**

1. Homes
2. Ambulatory service settings
3. Schools
4. Primary health care centers
5. Occupational health setting
6. Residential institutions
7. Community at large



*Thank you for listening*