

ORGANIZATION OF THE U.S. HEALTH SERVICES SYSTEM- Chapter



Dr. Bernice R. Kennedy



Objectives

- Discuss the public sector of the United States health care system
- Discuss the public health roles and functions
- Discuss voluntary agencies and enterprises



Introduction

- The central component of the Roemer model of a health services system is the organization of the system.
- Unlike the centralized health services systems in many other *industrialized countries, the U.S. system is decentralized.*
- The *Ministry of Health* counterpart in the U.S. system, the *Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*, *regulates* and *finances many health services*, but the *delivery of services* occurs *primarily in the private sector.*



Public Health Roles and Functions

- In contrast to the private health services delivery system, which provides care at the individual level, ***public health focuses on the health of populations.***
- Public health, therefore, emphasizes the ***prevention of disease, the promotion of health, the reporting and control of communicable diseases, the responsibility for environmental factors such as air and water quality that affect the public's health, and the collection and analysis of vital event data to provide*** indicators of the public's health.



Cont:

- The functions initially performed by public health agencies included ***quarantines against known contagious diseases and***, as germ theory became better understood, the introduction and enforcement of sanitation principles.



American Public Health Association/Emerson Report

- In 1945, a committee sponsored by the *American Public Health Association (APHA)* issued the *Emerson* report, outlining *six public health functions* that both *state and local health departments* were expected to perform:
 - vital statistics
 - public health education
 - environmental sanitation
 - laboratory services
 - prevention and control of communicable diseases
 - maternal and child health services



Institute of Medicine

- An *Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the Future of Public Health* concluded in 1988 that “This nation has lost sight of its public health goals and has allowed the system of public health activities to fall into disarray” (IOM 1988).



The Public Health Service

- The Public Health Service (PHS) has defined, among other functions, essential public health services to include:
 - monitoring health status
 - identifying and solving community health problems
 - diagnosing and investigating health problems and health hazards in the community
 - enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety



Ministry of Health

- In the Roemer model the *Ministry of Health* is the major governmental or public agency responsible for a *country's health services system*; in the United States the HHS is the *equivalent* of the *Ministry of Health* and has cabinet status in the *executive branch of government*.



Public Health at the National Level

- **The Public Health Service (PHS)** at the national level had its origins in the Marine Hospital Service (MHS), which was established in 1798 to provide *medical care* to *merchant seamen*.
- In 1902, the MHS changed its name to the U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service to reflect its expanded mission to provide medical care for specified additional people and to continue to quarantine as a protection against diseases introduced via the seaports.
 - The agency's name was shortened to the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) in 1913, and the PHS was housed in the Treasury Department.



Cont:

- Congress began to funnel funds through the PHS to local agencies for field investigations and research into such public health problems as typhoid fever and rural sanitation.
- ***The Public Health Service Act*** was established in 1944 to consolidate all public health service authorities into a single statute and to continue the programs of assistance to state and local health departments, some of which were established by the 1935 Social Security Act (Shonick 1995).



Cont:

The PHS today encompasses the

- CDC
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-mission

- The mission of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) located in Atlanta, Georgia.
- **Purpose:**
 - is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.



Cont:

- In addition to national programs in immunization, global health, public health practice, and women's health, the CDC has the following centers that work with state and local health departments, academic centers and programs, and others to fulfill its mission.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Functions

- Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
- Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- Environmental Health
- Health Statistics
- HIV, STD, and TB Prevention
- Infectious Diseases
- Injury Prevention and Control



Cont:

- The CDC also has a national Immunization Program, a ***National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)***, and several other special offices.



Food and Drug Administration

- ***The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)***, created in 1906 by the Food and Drug Act, was originally housed in the Department of Agriculture but was transferred to the Federal Security Agency, the predecessor of the U.S. DHEW, in 1940.
 - FDA responsibilities include the safety of food (i.e., meat, butter, canned food, and seafood regulation); the safety of cosmetic products; the safety and efficacy of drugs, both prescription and over-the-counter; and the safety and efficacy of medical devices such as pacemakers.



Health Resources and Services Administration

- The *Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)* is responsible for supporting the development of a strong health services workforce.



Cont:

- The HRSA administers training grants for a range of health professions including medicine, nursing, and public health and provides funding for some physician residency programs, such as those in preventive medicine.



National Institutes of Health

- *The National Institutes of Health (NIH)*, created in 1930, is the major arm of federally supported biomedical research and is made up of **19 research institutes**, the *National Library of Medicine*, and **seven specialty centers**.



Cont:

- The institutes are organized according to *specific diseases* such as *cancer*, or specific organ systems such as *heart, lung, and blood*.



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

- ***The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)*** provides leadership in policy, services, and knowledge transfer for mental illness and substance abuse treatment and prevention.
- ***The SAMHSA*** also supports health services delivery programs that assist homeless people.



Indian Health Service

- *The Indian Health Service (HIS)* has been a part of the PHS since 1955, but has a much longer history.
- As early as 1806, the *War Department* was assigned responsibility for the limited health services provided to indigenous populations.



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

- ***The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) –***
 - formerly known as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) and before that as the National Center for Health Services Research (NCHSR)
 - is an independent agency established under the PHS umbrella by the 1989 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA, PL 101-239).



Other Department of Health and Human Services Responsibilities

- Two additional major programs within the HHS are the ***Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*** and the Centers for ***Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)***, formerly known as the ***Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)***.



Public Health at the State Level

- The establishment of state health authorities, including boards of health and state health departments, was often galvanized by the emergence of a major health program that affected a significant proportion of the state's population.



Six Core Functions of State and Local Public Health

- The *1946 Emerson report* identified six core public health functions that should be performed by both state and local health departments (Shonick 1995):
 1. Vital statistics
 2. Public health education
 3. Environmental sanitation



Cont:

4. Public health laboratories, if private facilities are not available
5. Prevention and control of communicable diseases
6. Hygiene of maternity, infancy, and childhood, if private facilities are unavailable



The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report

Recommends that state health departments are responsible for:

- Assessing health needs in the state based on statewide data collection
- Ensuring an adequate statutory base for health activities in the state
- Establishing statewide health objectives, delegating power to localities as appropriate and holding them accountable
- Ensuring appropriate organized statewide efforts to develop and maintain essential personal, educational, and environmental health services
- Providing access to necessary services
- Solving problems inimical to health



Cont:

- Provides a minimum set of essential health services
- Supporting local service capacity, especially when disparities in local ability to raise revenue or administer programs require subsidies, technical assistance, or direct action by the state to achieve adequate service levels



Public Health at the Local Level

- As a part of the U.S. health services system, public health originated at the local level with the **establishment of city, multi-city, county, or multi-county local health boards** to protect the public's health through quarantine and sanitation.
- Local health departments began to include in their areas of responsibility such services as *immunizations, communicable disease control, laboratory services, and vital event data collection.*



The IOM Report

Recommends that local health departments perform the following functions:

- Assess, monitor, and provide surveillance of local health problems and needs, and of resources for dealing with them
- Develop policy and leadership that foster local health involvement and a sense of ownership, that emphasize local needs, and that advocate equitable distribution of public resources and complementary private activities commensurate with community needs
- Ensure that high-quality services, including personal health services, needed for the protection of public health in the community are available and accessible to all people; that the community receives proper consideration in the allocation of federal and state as well as local resources for public health; the community is informed about how to obtain public health requirements.



Other Ministry-Level Health Functions in the U.S. System

- *The Department of Defense (DOD), for example, administers the health services programs for **active duty military personnel and their dependents, and for military retirees.***



Department of Veterans Affairs

- *The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) oversees the nationwide system of hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes that provide health services to military veterans.*



Department of Justice

- The *Department of Justice (DOJ)* administers the *correctional health services system* in the *nation's prisons*.



Drug Enforce Agency

- ***The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)*** within the DOJ governs the use of ***narcotic prescriptions drugs (i.e., controlled substances)***.



Department of Agriculture

- *The Department of Agriculture (DOA) administers the Women's, Infants' and Children's (WIC) nutritional supplement program, which does not provide direct health services but is closely linked to programs that **provide or pay for health services to low-income recipients.***



Department of Labor

- *The Department of Labor (DOL)* oversees the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which enforces *regulations to ensure healthy and hazard-free workplace.*



Environmental Protection Agency

- *The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has national-level responsibility for the **protection of the environment, including air and water quality, and for cleaning up sites contaminated by toxins and pollutants.***



Quasi-Governmental Organizations

- The term *quasi-governmental* is sometimes used to describe organizations that perform statutorily *mandated services under contract to the government*.
- Such agencies are generally organized as private, not-for-profit corporations, but their sole or primary function is to *carry out a legislatively specified scope of work*.



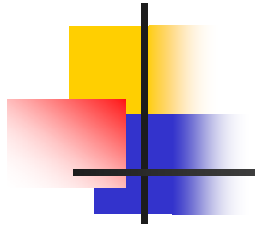
Quality Improvement Organizations

- ***Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs)***, formerly named ***Peer Review Organizations (PROs)***, were established by the 1982 Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) as a successor to the professional standards review organizations (PSROs).

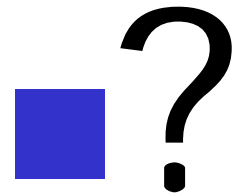


Voluntary Agencies in the U.S. System

- A variety of voluntary agencies meet needs unfilled by the public and private sectors; these generally focus on a specific disease, population, or health issue.
 - Disease-specific voluntary agencies such as the America Cancer Society
 - American Heart Association
 - American Lung Association
 - The Children's Defense Fund
 - AARP
 - Philanthropic Foundations
 - The Red Cross
 - The American Heart Association
 - The American Public Health Association



Questions





Reference

- Barton, P.L. (2007). *Understanding the U. S. Health Service Systems*,
- 3rd edition, Health Administration
- Press.