



Evidence-Based Resources for Public Health Project

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<http://library.umassmed.edu/ebpph>

INTRODUCTION

- Public health practitioners need high quality evidence-based information to make informed decisions
- Many resources are available to practice evidence-based medicine (EBM)
- Fewer resources are available to practice evidence-based public health (EBPH)

METHODS

- Examined public health sources to identify the knowledge domains and subdomains of public health.
- Compiled a list of public health journals.
- Matched public health journals to identified public health knowledge domains and subdomains.
- Systematically identified existing public health and clinical medical models for summarizing, synthesizing, and disseminating evidence-based knowledge in the public health and medical fields.

What is Public Health?






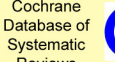




To define public health, we examined:

- Public health accreditation criteria
- Public health associations
- Government health agencies
- National health objectives
- Public health literature
- Public health subject headings from the National Library of Medicine

Identified Public Health Knowledge Domains

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Vital Statistics & Surveillance
- Environmental Health
- Occupational Health
- Health Services Administration
- Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Health Promotion & Education
- Community Health (includes Maternal & Child Health)
- Public Health Nursing
- Disaster Control & Emergency Services
- Communicable Diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- Chronic & Noncommunicable Diseases & Conditions
- Public Health Laboratory Sciences
- Public Health Informatics
- Global, International Health

Models of Information Summary, Synthesis & Dissemination: Sources and Organization of Evidence-Based Knowledge

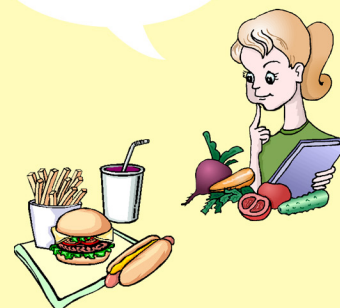
Model Type	Clinical Example	Public Health Example
1. Reports of Original Research	 	 Information Access Project
2. Summaries, Critiques and Commentaries		 NHS Economic Evaluation Database
3. Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis, and Evidence-Based Guidelines	 	
4. Comprehensive Knowledge Base		

Public Health Journals



- Journals associated with public health knowledge domain?
- Journals available online?
- Journal access free or require subscription?
- Journals included in the *Core Public Health Journals Project* list?
- Journals listed in *Index Medicus*?

What can be done to reduce childhood obesity?



Who should be vaccinated against smallpox?



DISCUSSION

- Our methodology for identifying specific knowledge domains and related information sources can be used for collection development purposes.
- In the next year of the project we will be exploring through focus groups with public health practitioners the feasibility, usability and acceptability of several models for providing evidence-based information.



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