



PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health is the science and the art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting physical health and efficiency through organized community efforts for the sanitation of the environment, the control of community infections, the education of the individual in principles of personal hygiene, the organization of medical and nursing service for the early diagnosis and preventive treatment of disease, and the development of the social machinery which will ensure to every individual in the community a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health.

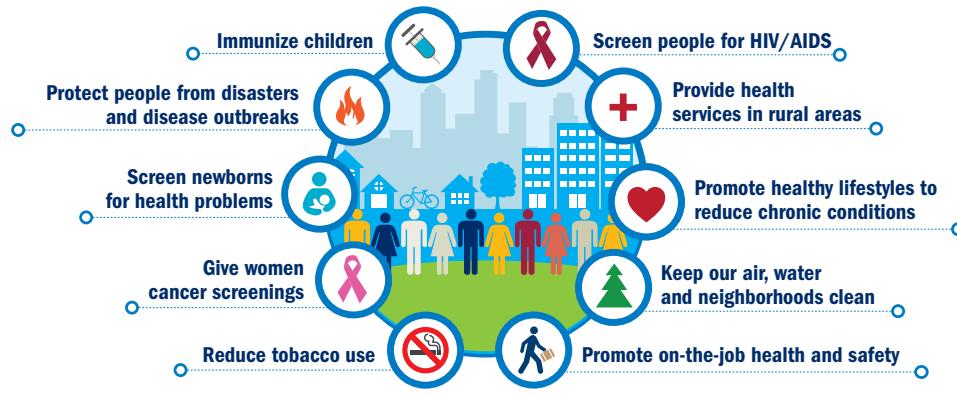
Charles-Edward A. Winslow in *The Untilled Fields of Public Health*,
1920, Science, N. S., Vol. 51, p. 23.

Public health saves lives and saves money.

apha.org

Public health keeps kids healthy and communities strong.

Public health and prevention programs in your community:



American
Public Health
Association

apha.org

Resource: apha.org/advocacy/tips/infographic.htm

**Health means more than just staying alive.
Health means vigor and efficiency and satisfaction in living.**

Winslow, C.-E. A., *The Evolution and Significance of the Modern Public Health Campaign*, 1923, p. 58.

Top careers in public health:

- **Health informatics specialist**
- **Epidemiologist**
- **Research analyst**
- **Healthcare administrator**
- **Health and safety engineer**
- **Environmental health specialist**

Public health as we practice it today began at Yale in 1915 when the university added the “Department of Public Health” to its medical school thanks to an endowment from the family of Anna M.R. Lauder. The endowed professorship was supposed to be an experienced physician, however Yale instead appointed Charles-Edward Amory Winslow, a 38-year old bacteriologist with wide and sweeping interests. Winslow’s worldview had been profoundly influenced during his studies at MIT by William H. Sedgwick, a progressive epidemiologist who collaborated with government organizations to benefit entire populations rather than just individuals. Winslow believed that it would take a truly interdisciplinary approach to effect change, and saw public health equally as a social action. By focusing equally research and implementation, the lab and the community, Winslow worked tirelessly to mainstream public health where it had previously been marginalized by the medical school community. In other words, the treatment of disease is important, but prevention is far preferable in every way: It is less expensive and less painful, lowers suffering, and has longer-lasting benefits.

You and I have determined that men should not sicken and die from polluted water, from malaria-breeding swamps, from epidemics of diphtheria, from tuberculosis. Those battles have been, in large measure, won. We must now determine that men shall not be physically and emotionally crippled by malnutrition, by slum dwellings, by lack of medical care, by social insecurity. If there are better ways than public housing, and sickness insurance, and social security, let us find them. If not, let us move forward.

C.-E. A. Winslow “Poverty and Disease,” *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 38, p. 184.



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