

2003-05-04

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Repository Citation

Simpson E, Martin ER, Telleen S, Luckmann RS. (2003). Evidence-Based Resources for Public Health Project. Library Publications and Presentations. <https://doi.org/10.13028/yj5x-4e47>. Retrieved from https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_articles/74

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Evidence-Based Resources for Public Health Project

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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

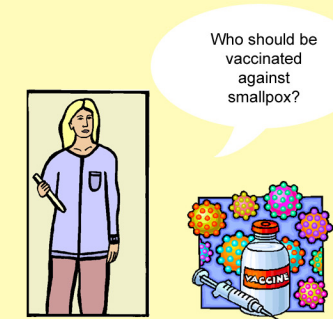
Identified Public Health Knowledge Domains

- 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

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*?



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	PubMed	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010 Information Access Project
2. Summaries, Critiques and Commentaries	ACP JOURNAL CLUB	THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination NHS Economic Evaluation Database
3. Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis, and Evidence-Based Guidelines	Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	GUIDE TO COMMUNITY Preventive Services
4. Comprehensive Knowledge Base	TRIP Database	Health Development Agency Evidence Base

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.



This project is supported by an award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine

