Scutchfield and Kecks Principles of Public Health Practice 4th edition Erwin Test Bank

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Chapter 2: History and Development of Public Health

1. Why were early public health efforts focused on ports and large cities?

   ANS:

   Ports were a focus because passengers and crews arriving on ships could bring infectious diseases, such as cholera and yellow fever. Large cities were also the focus of public health measures because of dense living conditions among immigrants and the poor and the presence of businesses such as slaughterhouses, tanneries, skin dressers, glue boilers, and others that used animal parts and produced toxic wastes and noxious fumes.

   PTS: 1

2. How did the Civil War contribute to a greater awareness of the effects of epidemic disease?

   ANS:

   Many Civil War soldiers had infectious diseases and many died from the contraction of an infectious disease, not from war wounds. Appalling sanitary conditions on the battlefield as well as in prisoner-of-war camps resulted in two thirds of the 360,000 Union soldier deaths caused by infectious diseases. This war-related health issue led to increased awareness of infectious diseases within the United States and efforts to improve sanitation.

   PTS: 1

3. What were some of the major influences the Great Depression had in regard to the U.S. public health system?

   ANS:

   A major stimulus to the development of public health practice came with the Social Security Act of 1935 in response to the Great Depression, a time of extreme crisis. During the Depression, vast numbers of people faced poverty, unemployment, sickness, and hunger. The Social Security Act was America's first broad-based social welfare legislation, providing old-age benefits, unemployment insurance, and public health services. Title V of the act established a program of grants to states for maternal and child health services, and Title VI expanded financing of the Public Health Service and allotted grants to states to assist them in developing public health services.

   PTS: 1

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4. After World War II, what factors accounted for the shift in leading causes of death in the United States from infectious diseases to chronic diseases?

   ANS:

   In the post-war years, as a result of improvements in sanitation and the development of antibiotics and vaccines, the major causes of death had changed from infectious to chronic diseases, especially heart disease and cancer. Health departments recognized that they must now deal with the problems and prevalence of chronic diseases.

   PTS: 1

5. What is the importance of the list of 10 essential services developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)?

   ANS:

   The CDC developed the list to represent a consensus on "the essential services of public health." The nationally accepted list established the basis for the core services and responsibilities of state and local health departments.

6. What is the benefit of certification for public health workers?

   ANS:

   Until recently, public health professionals had no uniform means of demonstrating competence in their field. The existence of a national certification program based on passing an exam and on the completion of required education and work experience provides a way for public health workers to demonstrate that they are qualified to practice their discipline in public health settings.

   PTS: 1

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