



# **The History of Public and Community Health and Nursing**

**Presented by-  
Prof. Dr. Ashia Qureshi  
Dean SON  
Galgotias University**

## Introduction

- One of the best ways to make plans for today and tomorrow is to look at the past. What worked? What did not work?
- What past lessons about health care, nursing, and communities can be used to plan for the future?
- How have nurses developed into the professionals they are today, and what have been their supports and obstacles?

## Introduction (cont' d)

- A historical approach can be used to increase understanding of public and community health nursing in the past, as well as its contemporary dilemmas and future challenges
- Public and community health nursing are products of various social, economic, and political forces and incorporate public health science, nursing science, and practice

## Early Traces of Public Health

- All people and all cultures have been concerned with the events surrounding birth, death, and illness
- Ability to preserve health and treat illness has depended on each civilization's knowledge of science, use and availability of technologies, and degree of social organization
  - Examples: Ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, Ancient Greeks, Classic Romans, Christianity, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Industrial Revolution

## Public Health in America's Colonial Period and the New Republic

- At first, public health was a family/friend system of care, but this system became insufficient in early 1800s
- Established systems of care for the sick, poor, aged, mentally ill, and dependent were based on the Elizabethan Poor Law
- 1751: First hospital founded in America, the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia
- 1850: Shattuck Report – first effort to describe a modern approach to public health



## Public Health in America's Colonial Period and the New Republic (cont' d)

- Florence Nightingale (1894-1946): Organized hospital nursing practice and nursing education in hospitals to replace lay nurses with trained nurses
- William Rathbone: Founded first district nursing association in Liverpool, England
- 1870: First nursing schools based on the Nightingale model opened in the U.S.
- 1885: First visiting nurse associations established in U.S.

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY

## Public Health in America's Colonial Period and the New Republic (cont' d)

- Settlement houses and neighborhood centers
  - Lillian Wald and Mary Brewster established Henry Street Settlement in 1893
- American Red Cross and its Rural Nursing Service initiated home nursing care in areas outside larger cities

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY

# School of nursing

Course Code : BSCN 4002

Course Name : COMMUNIT HEALTH NURSING

- 1909: *Visiting Nurse Quarterly* published Further Developments of Public Health Nursing
- publication established by the Cleveland Visiting Nurse Association
- 1911: Establishment of official health units
- 1914: Mary Adelaide Nutting established first postgraduate nursing course in public health nursing
- 1922: National Organization for Public Health Nursing (NOPHN) established, with Lillian Wald as its first president

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY



## Public Health Nursing (cont' d)

- 1872: American Public Health Association (APHA) established to facilitate interdisciplinary efforts and promote the “practical application of public hygiene”
- 1923: The Public Health Nursing Section was formed within APHA

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY

## Public Health Nursing During the Early Twentieth Century

- 1918: Vassar Camp School for Nurses
  - Shortened nursing education from 3 years to 2 years in order to meet urgent wartime needs
  - Program ended when peace was declared
- 1909: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
  - Created a program using visiting nurses to provided care for sick policy holders
- 1921: Maternity and Infancy Act
  - Also called the Sheppard-Towner Act

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY

## Public Health Nursing During the Early Twentieth Century (cont' d)

- 1925: Frontier Nursing Services (FNS) founded by Mary Breckinridge
- 1900: Jessie Sleet (Scales) became the first African-American public health nurse

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY

## Economic Depression and the Effect on Public Health

- 1930s – Depression Era
  - Agencies/communities unable to meet the huge needs and numbers of the poor
  - Decreased funding for nursing services reduced the numbers of nurses in the hospitals and communities
  - Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)
  - Civil Works Administration (CWA)
  - Social Security Act of 1935
  - Bolton Act of 1943 established the Cadet Nurse Corps
    - Supported increased undergraduate and graduate enrollment in schools of nursing

## Nursing in the 1950s

- 1950: Americans living longer; leading cause of death changes from infectious diseases heart disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease
- New nursing organizations
  - National League for Nursing (NLN)
  - American Nurses Association (ANA)
- Public health nursing becomes required part of most baccalaureate nursing programs
- 1952: Nursing education programs began in junior and community colleges with the intent to prepare nurses more quickly to ease the nursing shortage
  - Currently, the largest number of nurses are prepared at the associate degree nursing (ADN) level

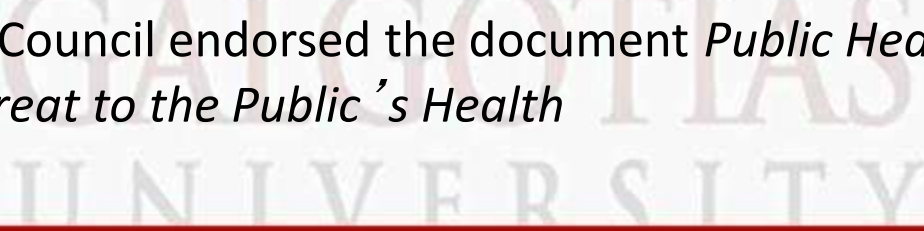


## Nursing: 1970s and 1980s

- 1969: American Association of Colleges of Nursing established
- 1970s: Hospice movement, development of birthing centers, day care for elderly and disabled persons, drug-abuse treatment programs, and rehabilitation services in long-term care
- 1980s: Rising health care costs
  - Health promotion and disease prevention programs not as well supported; funding shifts to acute hospital care, medical procedures, and institutional long-term care
- 1985: National Center for Nursing Research (NCNR); by 1993, NCNR has institute (rather than center) status, becoming NINR
- 1988: Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Public Health*
  - Documented the reduced political support, financing, and impact that increasingly limited public health services

## Nursing: 1990s to the Present

- *Healthy People* initiatives (HP 2000 and HP 2010)
  - Renewed emphasis on prevention, public health, nursing in the community
- 1990s: focus on cost, quality, and access to services
  - Health care reform debate
- 2001: September 11 terrorist attack and anthrax threat
- 2002: Department of Homeland Security established
- 2003: HIPAA passed; Quad Council established; prescription drug benefits portion of Medicare passed
- 2007: ACHNE published Graduate Education for Advanced Public Health Nursing; Quad Council endorsed the document *Public Health Nursing Shortage: A Threat to the Public's Health*



## Looking Toward the Future

- Nurses seek to learn from the past and to avoid known pitfalls, even as they seek successful strategies to meet the complex needs of today's vulnerable populations
- As plans for the future are made and as unmet public health challenges are acknowledged, the vision of what nurses in community health can accomplish serves as a sustaining force

## • Reference

1. **Park, K. (2015). *Park's textbook of preventive and social medicine* (23rd Ed.).  
Jabalpur: M/S Banarsidas Bhanot.**
2. **Kumari, N. (2011). *A Text Book of community health nursing*. Jalandhar: S.vikas  
and company (medical ) India**
3. **Gulani,k.K2009).Community health nursing principles and practice(2nd ed.).New  
Delhi:Kumar publishing house.**
4. **Kamalam,K.(2012).essentials in community health nursing practice(1st ed.). New  
Delhi: Jaypee Brothers Medi**



**THANK YOU**

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY