

Constructing a New Public Health Consensus: Challenge and Opportunity

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Presentation
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Introduction

Public health services exist to prevent disease, to promote health, and to measure and evaluate the health status of populations.

These are science based, data-driven interventions that limit individual health problems or identifies them for appropriate treatment.

Introduction

To deliver these services requires a public consensus that they are worth the investment and the acknowledgement that individual health status is significantly influenced by these interventions.

Failing Consensus?

The Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine Controversy
The HPV Controversy

Failing Consensus?

The US commitment to public health in the late 19th and most of the 20th centuries were science based, data driven policies on which a public and policy consensus was built.

Have we lost the public consensus on the value of public health?

Is it possible to build a renewed consensus in the reconstruction of the health care system that is being driven under the general label of "Heath Care Reform?"

Challenge

Growing public distrust of government, science and the health care system.

Science can't compete with certainty in the short run and all politics is "in the short run"

Building a New Public Health Consensus

Public health's successes have helped in the aging of the nation's population.

The future of US health care is to find humane ways to control, limit or prevent the chronic diseases that are endemic in senior populations.

Public health and personal health care providers, including most physicians and nurses in the nation are challenged to complement the needs of each and to encourage the strengths of each!

"Many health problems have been solved in theory, and this knowledge awaits application in practice. This is true of much preventable ill health in all countries ..."

-George Rosen *A History of Public Health*

Organize, develop coalitions,
demonstrate past successes
and explain future
opportunities. Get involved
or Give Up!