

Education for Health

An Educational Underpinning for Healthy People 2020

The Healthy People Curriculum Task Force* (HPCTF) has proposed the Education for Health framework as an educational underpinning for Healthy People 2020. The Education for Health framework highlights the need for vertical integration of education from K through 20 as well as the horizontal integration by clinicians, public health professionals, and educators. The framework brings together three focus areas that have gained prominence in the first decade of the 21st century: health literacy, undergraduate public health, and evidence based practice.

Education for Health incorporates the Clinical Prevention and Population Health Curriculum Framework that was developed by the HPCTF to fulfill the Healthy People 2010 objective which is to increase the teaching of prevention in health professions education programs. It has been widely disseminated to health professions educators and has been increasingly incorporated into the accreditation standards of such professions as nursing and pharmacy.

The development of a new initiative called the Educated Citizen and Public Health movement grew out of the Consensus Conference on Undergraduate Public Health convened by the HPCTF. This movement is making excellent progress addressing the Institute of Medicine recommendation that "...all undergraduates should have access to education in public health". The continuing growth of undergraduate public health and the connection of undergraduate public health education with K-12 education are key to the successful implementation of the Education for Health framework as part of Healthy People 2020.

Objectives for prevention and population health and undergraduate public health education will be submitted for consideration utilizing baseline data from 2008. Additional developmental objectives for interprofessional and K-12 education will also be considered by the HPCTF for submission as part of the Healthy People 2020 process.

Based upon the acceptance of the Education for Health framework and the associated objectives as part of Healthy People 2020, the Healthy People Curriculum Task Force will continue to work toward accomplishing its goals of developing an integrated approach to education for health that incorporates an emphasis on prevention throughout the educational continuum.

*The HPCTF is comprised of representatives from eight health professions educational associations including allopathic and osteopathic medicine, nursing and nurse practitioners, pharmacy, dentistry, physician assistants and allied health professions. The Task Force was convened and is administered by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) and utilizes resource groups including the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), and Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH).

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