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Technical Books Section

THE ITEM

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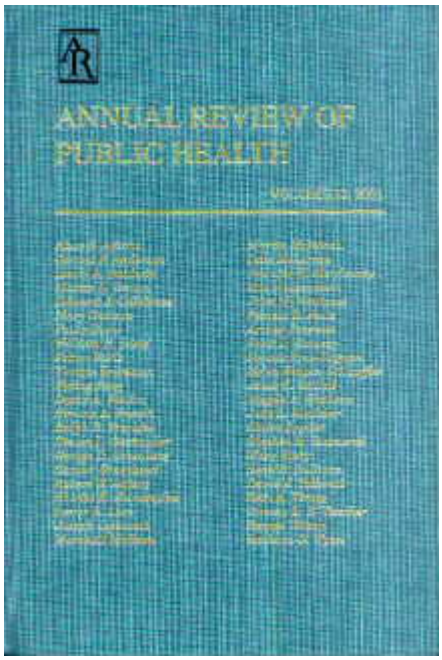
LUCID, INFORMATIVE, INTERESTING, AND EASY TO COMPREHEND

Annual Review Of Public Health, VOLUME 20, 1999 *by* Jonathan E. Fielding, University of California at Los Angeles (Editor), Lester B. Lave, Carnegie Mellon University (Associate Editor), Barbara Starfield, Johns Hopkins University (Associate Editor), hard cover, 6"x9"
Annual Reviews, 4139 El Camino Way, P.O. BOX 10139, Palo Alto, California, USA : xxx+466 Pages: Publication Date: 1999: ISSN 0163-7525: ISBN 0-8243-2720-9: Price $67.00 (individuals), $155.00 (Institutions)



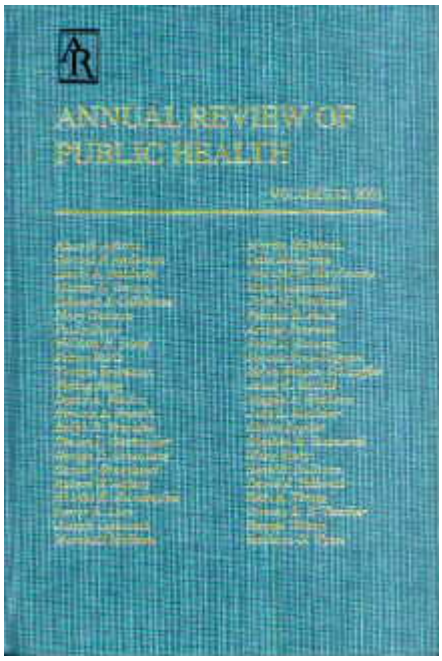
A major part of ARPH Volume 20, 1999 is aptly devoted to assess the progress of public health in different disciplines during the 20th century and the challenges for the 21st century.

There are 19 sub topics under six major headings, which are Epidemiology and biostatistics, Environmental and occupational health, Public health practice, Social environment and behavior, Health services and Symposium: Public Health in Twentieth Century.

The prefatory and introductory article ***Public Health in the Twentieth Century***: *Advances and Challenges* is by the Editor ARPH, Jonathan E. Fielding who looks back at the progress made in twentieth century and ahead for challenges to public health in twenty-first century. There have been important contributions from public health like vaccine development & their widespread use, smallpox eradication, reduction in communicable, and severe chronic diseases and development of occupational health and environmental health as a separate discipline during the twentieth century these are highlighted. Now, the problems associated with the global population growth, increasing age because of longevity will pose a challenge for the next century. The article touches on computers and information system, human genome, human cloning, interaction of environmental & genetic factors, and environment destruction and terrorism also.

A brief history of occupational health in the twentieth century, lessons learnt, and stock taking for better control in the next century are the highlighted in *Personal Reflections on Occupational health in the Twentieth Century*. A historical overview of the state of epidemiology and the premises and constraints of the present risk factor paradigm for chronic diseases are discussed in *A Future of Epidemiology?* . The article proposes elements of causal paradigm for emerging era.

Environmental health is a global issue, it needs interdisciplinary approach and the role of environmental health scientists in formulation of policy for public health in 21st century is emphasized in *Lessons in Environmental Health in the Twentieth Century*. The historical changes in environmental health and lessons learnt from disaster like Minamata, Bhopal,, Chernobyl etc. also reviewed.



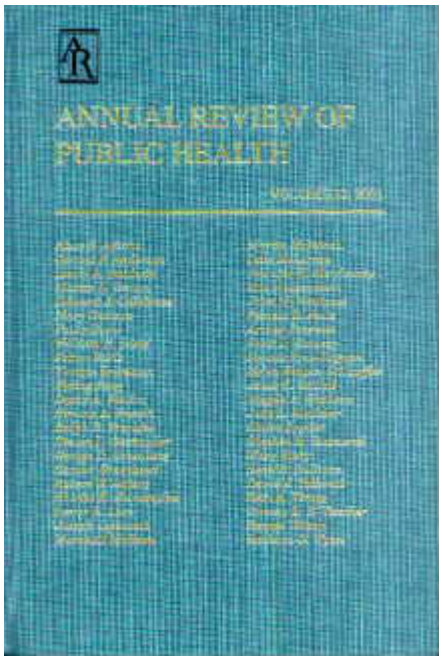
" .. Though it is very difficult to predict the future of health, Eli Ginzberg in the article "US Health Care: A Look Ahead to 2025" predicts universal health care insurance coverage and restructuring of acute care hospitals and potential gains in health status. "Health Education's Contribution to Public health in the Twentieth Century a glimpse through health promotion's rear view mirror" by L W Green beautifully describes the growth and technological development that brought new health problems and challenges. ... "

The *Advances in Clinical Trials in the Twentieth Century* describes the development of biostatistics and its collaboration in medical research in general and randomized clinical trial (RCT) in particular during the 20th century. The issues relating to old age population in the diagnosis and detection of outcomes, determination of risk factors, and exposure measurement as well as other methodological issues are discussed in *Understanding changing risk factor associations with increasing age in adults*.

Though it is very difficult to predict the future of health, Eli Ginzberg in the article *US Health Care: A Look Ahead to 2025* predicts universal health care insurance coverage and restructuring of acute care hospitals and potential gains in health status. *Health Education's Contribution to Public health in the Twentieth Century a glimpse through health promotion's rear view mirror* by L W Green beautifully describes the growth and technological development that brought new health problems and challenges. As massive expansions of resources resulted in escalation of costs, it also describes cost containment, which was the theme of new policies during 1970s.The lessons for public health in the next century are also considered.

Findings of analysis of cancer data is presented in *Unexplained increases in cancer incidence in the United States from 1975 to 1994 possible sentinel health indicators* it gives cohort analysis and the incidence of cancer by age, race, sex, year, and age of diagnosis. *Time-Dependent Covariates in the Cox Proportional-Hazards Regression Model* discusses the use of time development covariates with appropriately selected good examples. *Methods for Analyzing Health Care Utilization and Cost* deals with statistical analysis and newly available statistical methods for health care utilization. The comparative risk projects carried out over the past 12 years and the lessons learned from these projects is highlighted in *Lessons from 12 Years Of Comparative Risk Projects* reviews this helps in

evaluating their efficacy. The evolution of methods for adult health status assessment in past 30 years is reviewed in *Health status assessment methods for adults: past accomplishment and future challenges*, it also discusses the application of these tools in research, health policy, and clinical practice.



" .. The book is lucid, informative, interesting, and easy to comprehend as it is written in simple format. It has many tables and diagrams. ARPH Vol 20,1999 is a collector's issue, very useful reference book for public health professionals, policy/decision makers, and for those pursuing higher studies in Community Medicine and Public Health. ... "

After successful de-addiction or intervention, when people go back to their social environment some of them return back to earlier practices this has been highlighted in *The social environmental and health: a discussion of the epidemiology literature*, which summarizes the sociological literature and discusses the relevance of social environment to epidemiological research. The role of social environment has a bearing on stress, smoking, alcohol consumption, diet, and weight loss. Immunization registries are new tools in health care for timely and accurate child specific immunization information and help health care officials track and improve delivery for a broad range of important child health services. These and its implications in public health are discussed in *Immunization registries in the United States: implications for the practice of public health in a changing health care system*.

The methodological and substantive findings of Patient Outcomes Research Teams (PORTs) are described in *Patient Outcomes Research Teams: contribution to outcomes and effectiveness Research*. Role of Pharmacy Benefit Management companies in health care system and improving public's health is described in *Pharmacy Benefit Management companies: dimensions of performance the key to the door*. It also gives impact of PBMs and the glossary of pharmacy benefit management terms. *The key to the door: Medicaid's role in improving health care for Women and Children* reviews medicad's impact on the low income population covered by this programme.

The problem of teen pregnancy in US, and the new developments to address this problem and their implications are discussed in *Teen pregnancy prevention: do any programs work*. It also describes in

details various prevention programmes for primary pregnancy, secondary pregnancy, and STI/HIV/AIDS along with lessons learned form these. After Smallpox eradication, efforts are on eradicating poliomyelitis. Future candidate diseases for eradication are nicely discussed in *Eradication Of Vaccine Preventable Diseases*, which also reviews technical feasibilities of other vaccine preventable diseases.

A handy cross references have been provided to past ARPH from volume 11 to 20 is given in the form of two indexes at the end of the book, by cumulative index of contributing authors and by cumulative index of chapter titles is a great help to the readers.

The book is lucid, informative, interesting, and easy to comprehend as it is written in simple format. It has many tables and diagrams. ARPH Vol 20,1999 is a collector's issue, very useful reference book for public health professionals, policy/decision makers, and for those pursuing higher studies in Community Medicine and Public Health.

-G.S.Meena



Dr Gajendra Singh Meena was born on 25th December 1955 at pink city Jaipur in Rajasthan, India. He did his first twelve years of studies at Jaipur and medical graduation as well as post-graduation both from the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMSONIAN, 1974 Batch).

He has worked at AIIMS in ICMR Project, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi Dr. S.N. Medical College, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. He has more than seventeen years of UGs & PGs teaching experience as a faculty member in Community Medicine (Preventive and Social Medicine).

Presently he is working as Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India. He has published ten papers, attended a dozen conferences, and presented papers there. His fields of research interests are prevention and control of communicable diseases and Epidemiology of non-communicable diseases.

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-Editor-in-Chief

of Vol. 3, No. 1 (January - June 2004)