

Teaching about Alcohol from a Public Health Approach

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Are You Asking?

- WHY are we talking about Public Health?
- What does it have to do with alcohol?
- What ARE they teaching at these universities?

What is Public Health?

“What we, as a society, do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.”

INST. OF MEDICINE, THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1 (National Academies Press 1988).



Authority for Public Health

- Public health is generally the province of the *states*, not the federal government.
 - Thus, each state is responsible for enacting and enforcing public health laws within its boundaries.
 - Consequently, public health laws vary from state to state.
- The state's public health authority derives from its police power.
 - “Police power” = the power of a state to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare
 - “Police power” ≠ all activities undertaken by law enforcement

Looking at Underage Alcohol

- We have asked the justice system to deal with the public health failures to deliver essential services.
- What do I mean by that?
- Look at the two systems – that is what I ask my class to do.

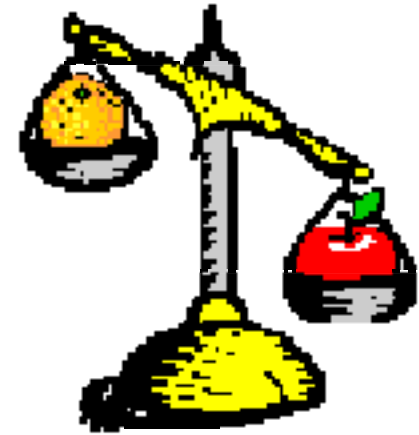
Justice System



- All Courts deal with the impact of underage drinking.
- More than 20,000 Courts in US have jurisdiction over alcohol related cases.

JUSTICE and HEALTH: Common Goal is Public Good

- **THE Justice Mission:
Preserve Rule of Law**



- **THE Public Health Mission:
Use the Law to Protect Health**

3 Public Health Core Functions

- **Assessment**
 - Surveillance (how many alcohol related cases in the courts?)
 - Detection of alcohol use in underage or other at risk population
- **Policy Development**
 - Inform, educate, and empower people about alcohol in the justice system and the health issues
 - Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems (*e.g., convening and facilitating community groups to promote health about alcohol*).

Assurance (about alcohol and health)

- Enforce alcohol laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services (*e.g., continuous evaluation of public alcohol health programs*).
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to alcohol problems (*e.g., links with academic institutions and capacity for epidemiologic and economic analyses*).
- Evaluate impact of alcohol response in the justice system

A new course titled: Public Health Law and Policy (HSCI/HKS 590b) was first offered in the Fall of 2007 in the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences and in the Department of Health and Kinesiology. This course explores the various ways laws and policies impact public health at the local, state, national, and international level. Since the initial offering this course has grown and is now offered at 3 different universities in Indiana: Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, Indiana University/Purdue University (IUPUI) in Indianapolis, and Indiana University Law School in Bloomington, IN.

What makes this course unique is that it uses high speed video and audio communications to teach in real-time students at 3 different campuses and it is taught by 3 faculty: Judge (ret) Linda Chezem (Professor in Purdue's College of Agriculture), Dr. Jim McGlothlin, Purdue's School of Health Sciences, and Professor Kathy Weaver, IUPUI faculty, and chief counsel to the Indiana State Health Department. The students at the different campuses offer their unique perspectives ranging from the Pharmacy students at Purdue to the Public Health students at IUPUI to the law student at IU School of Law. In addition the 3 faculty who teach this course offer a unique blend of expertise in law and Public Health.



Judge (ret) Linda Chezem



Dr. James McGlothlin



Professor Kathy Weaver

The objectives of this course are to:

- Describe the relationship between the justice and public health systems and how the two systems must work together to protect the health of the public.
- Describe practical and effective approaches to the public health threats in their community.
- Recognize and take into account the differences in public health dynamics in rural, not urban, and urban communities.
- Articulate policies, laws, and ethical issues confronting public health agencies.
- Apply court decisions to guide agency and individual actions, using the ten essential public health services and core functions of public health as an analytical frame work.

Both the public health system and the justice system are explored as service delivery mechanisms. Questions explored in this course include:

- What authority do the state and local governments have to legislate in the interest of public health?
- How are individual rights balanced against government authority?
- What are the promises and pitfalls of using laws and litigation to achieve public health goals?

As threats to the public's health escalate on all fronts, from contaminated food supply to bioterrorism to natural epidemics of infectious diseases, an educated workforce is essential. A workforce that understands public health law is our best hope to employ law and policy to safeguard the public's health. At both the national and state levels, our students' engagement activities make important contributions to public health law and policy. Students develop semester reports on public health law and policy issues.

Engagement Activity

The students undertake activities that engage community and state officials in considering the many ways in which law and policy shape and inform public health.

Scholarship Required - Understanding how law and public health interact to develop policy; the use of science to inform law and policy.

1. Underage Drinking

The students are assisting in the Indiana assessment of the enforcement of underage drinking laws both by research and by strategic thinking. A student's analysis of the recent US Supreme court case has resulted in invitations to present at a state public health conference and the National Leadership Conference on Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, USDJ.

2. Infectious Disease in Jails

MRSA at Lake County, Indiana Jail. State issue - Norwalk virus at Richmond, VA Jail for a national perspective. Our students have participated in the preparation of two case studies that address public health emergencies encountered by justice agencies in cooperation with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)'s National Training and Technical Assistance Project at American University. This work was a component of BJA's justice system pandemic preparedness planning activities. The studies looked at infectious outbreaks in the jail in Lake County, Indiana and Richmond, Virginia and our students made site visits and wrote reports. The Richmond City Jail, Richmond, Virginia case study provides a synopsis of the background and impact on jail operations of an outbreak of the Norovirus at the jail during the period February 27 - March 8, 2007, the responses of jail officials to the outbreak, and the various management, operational, and other issues which the outbreak presented.

The Lake County, IN, jail case study provides a synopsis of the background relating to the outbreak of infectious Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) at the Lake County, Indiana jail during August 2006, the impact of the outbreak on jail operations, responses of jail officials to the outbreak, and the various management, operational, and other issues which the outbreak presented. The Lake County Sheriff's staff then visited the class with Dr. Hugh Potter from CDC to provide the students with feedback and an excellent opportunity to see from local to national.

From Local to Global Student Engagement in Public Health Law & Policy

Linda Chezem, JD, Judge (ret.) James McGlothlin, MPH, PhD, CPE Kathy Weaver, RN, MPA, JD Mark Sharp
Students: Stephanie Linsenmeyer, Christina Jackson



Technology:

This course is offered simultaneously in West Lafayette, Indianapolis, and Bloomington through the use of videoconferencing. Videoconferencing enables real-time two-way video interaction between instructors and students.

The video conferencing units in each classroom connect via the internet to Indiana University's multipoint control unit (MCU). The MCU handles combining the audio and video signals from each classroom and automatically routes video of whoever is speaking to the receiving sites.

In addition to videoconferencing, course content is recorded and placed online as streaming video. Students can then access the streaming video for reviewing at their leisure.



Typical Videoconferencing unit

Individual Outcomes:

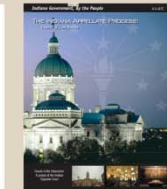
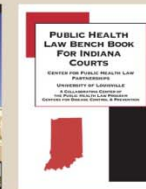
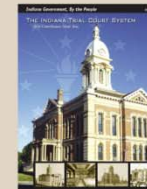
- At the conclusion of the course, each student needs to demonstrate competency (skill) by:
1. Describing the public health system in relation to ethical, social, cultural, political, economic, historical, and legal systems.
 2. Distinguishing among and characterizing inputs, throughputs, and outputs of the public health system.
 3. Analyzing public health problems using legal, ethical, cultural, and historical frameworks and strategic thinking, evaluating their implications for public health practice.
 4. Critiquing ethical social, cultural, political, economic, historical and legal dimensions of policies and laws, which affect the health care system and diverse populations.
 5. Serving as a member of culturally and professionally diverse teams working on local, regional, and national public health issues.
- These objectives support the MPH Program Competencies

Class Outcomes:

- Our students partner with federal, state, and community leaders to improve the health of the public through law and policy that is informed by science.
- The agencies relish the engagement opportunities with our students and seek projects on which the students can work with them.

IMPACT:

- Jails and justice system agencies will be better to prepared to deal with infectious diseases.
- The health departments of Indiana will have increased opportunities to hire an educated workforce.
- Under age drinking will be decreased by the use of good science and the application of laws in a manner that comports with the US Constitution.



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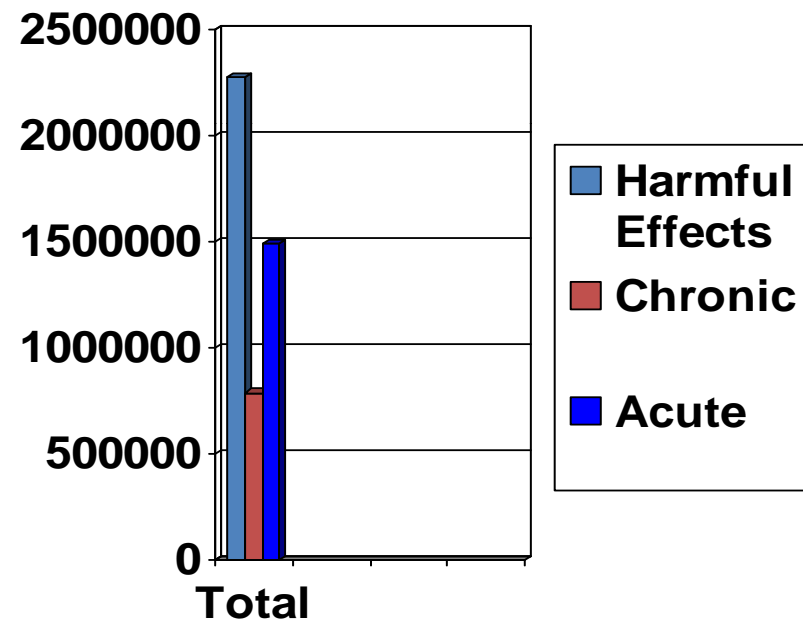
Ten Essential Services of Public Health

- Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

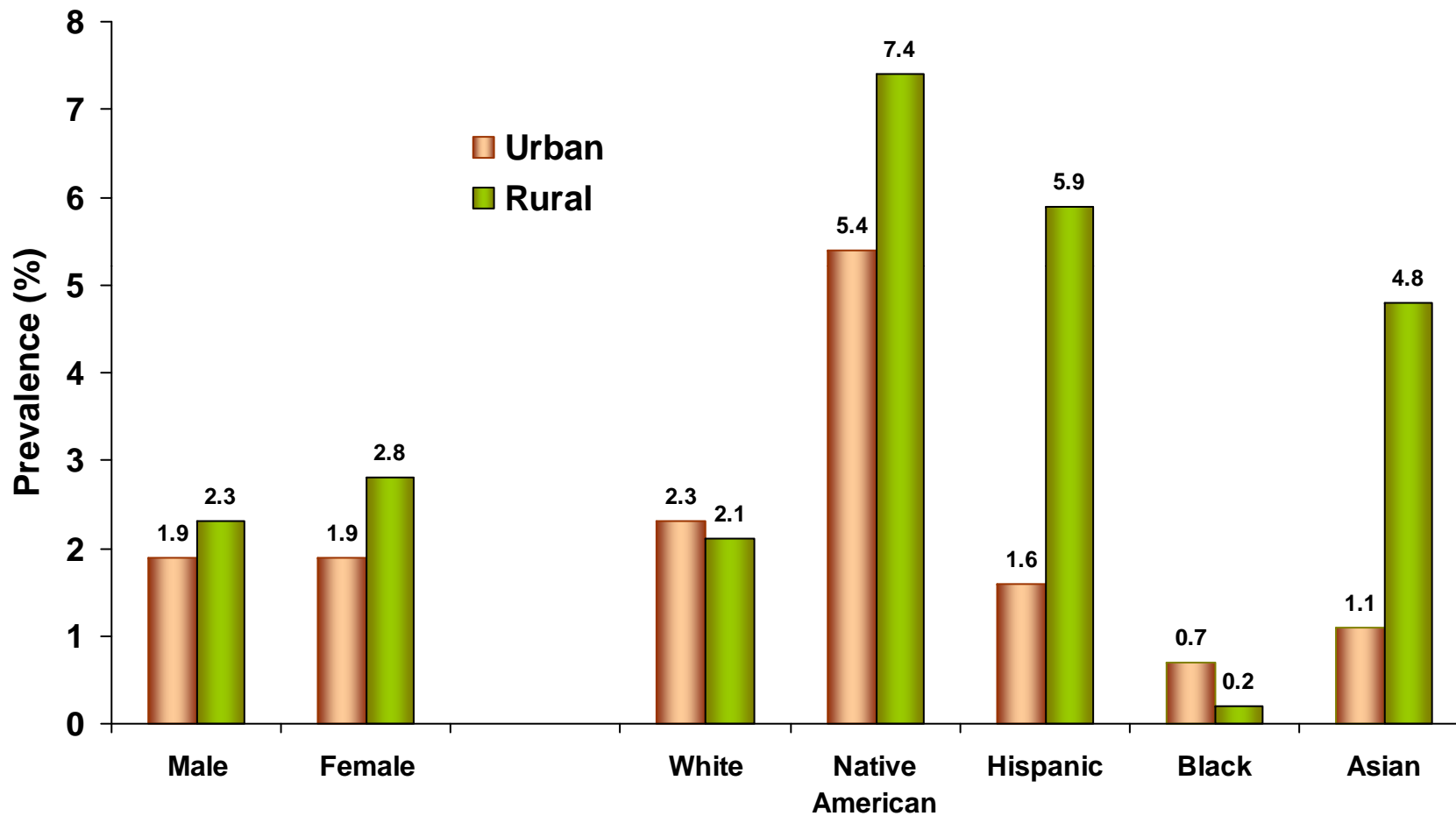
- [Develop policies and plans](#) that support individual and community health efforts.
- [Enforce](#) laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- [Link](#) people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- [Assure](#) competent public and personal health care workforce.
- [Evaluate](#) effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- [Research](#) for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Public Health

- United States 2001
- Alcohol Harmful Effects



Past-Year DSM-IV Alcohol Dependence Among 12-to-17 Year-Olds by Sex, Race-Ethnicity and Urbanicity



NESARC Data.

Teenagers who begin drinking *before age 15* have *four times the risk* of developing alcohol dependence later in life.

Adolescents with histories of extensive alcohol use have noticeable *changes in brain function* that impair learning, memory, and problem solving; smaller hippocampal volume.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- Given the significance of alcohol consumption to health, WHO has prioritized continuous monitoring of alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harm and policy responses in its Member States over the last years.
- Global Information System on Alcohol and Health
- Global Survey on Alcohol and Health
- Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health
- International guide for monitoring alcohol consumption and related harm

Underage Alcohol –Public Health

Public Health

Use the core functions provide essential services.

Write a description of the 10 essential services to apply to underage alcohol

Justice System

- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- Core Functions
 - Assessment
 - Policy Development
 - Assurance

Underage Alcohol Law

- Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Assessment
 - What are relevant statutes?
 - What do the statutes target?
 - How many prosecutions for violations?
 - What happens to the cases of under 21 for possession or consumption of alcohol?
 - Under 18 go to juvenile court.
 - Over 21 go to adult court.



Midterm

- Think of a law or policy you would like to promote in support of the delivery of one of the ten essential services of public health and answer the following questions about your proposal.
- Do you have an appropriate justification for depriving someone of life, liberty, or property to promote the health of the public?
- Which test would you apply to your proposal and why?
- Heightened scrutiny test or Rational basis test
- What is the relevant case law that applies to your analysis?
- Juvenile courts were created around the early 1900's. What are three essential public health services that could improve outcomes for children in juvenile courts?
- Please explain why you picked the three and give examples of the service delivery.

James Shanahan

Looking at a US Supreme Court case
from a public health perspective