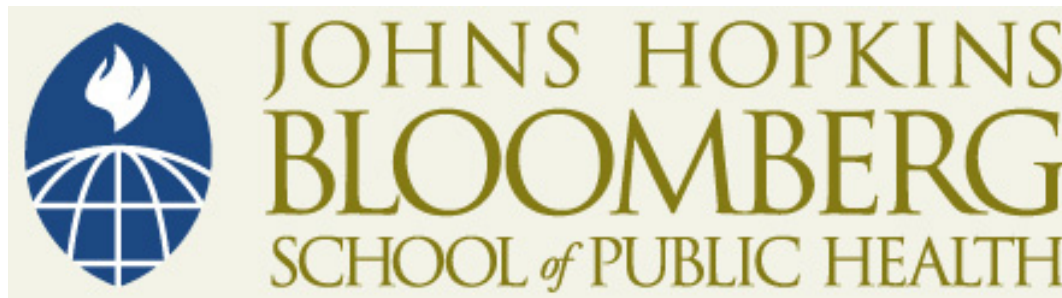


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Core Functions and Essential Services

Public Health in Disarray

- Institute of Medicine. *The Future of Public Health*, 1988:
 - “In recent years there has been a growing sense that public health as a profession, as a governmental activity, and as a commitment of society is neither clearly defined, adequately supported, nor fully understood.”
 - “..current capabilities for effective public health action are inadequate.”
 - “By its very nature, public health requires support by the public, its beneficiaries.”

Institute of Medicine. *The Future of Public Health*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 1988. [Free Executive Summary](#)

Genesis of Essential Public Health Services

- In the beginning was *The Future of Public Health* (IOM, 1988)
- The IOM Report begot the Core Functions
- The Core Functions begot several formulations characterizing Public Health Practice
- The various Public Health Practice formulations and new “core functions” for health reform begot confusion
- The Confusion begot the Essential Public Health Services

IOM's *Future of Public Health*

- Governmental Role
 - “The governmental public health agency has a vital function: to see to it that vital elements are in place and the the mission is being adequately addressed.”
- Core Functions of Public Health
 - Assessment
 - Policy Development
 - Assurance

Public Health Core Functions

- Assessment: Surveillance of disease/injury
 - monitoring trends; analyzing causes; and identifying needs
- Policy Development
 - broad community involvement; promote scientific basis of decision-making; strategic approach; development of comprehensive public health policies
- Assurance
 - seeing to the implementation of legislative mandates as well as fulfilling statutory responsibilities
 - encourage, require and provide necessary services
 - guarantee high priority personal and community-wide health services, including subsidization for those unable to afford them

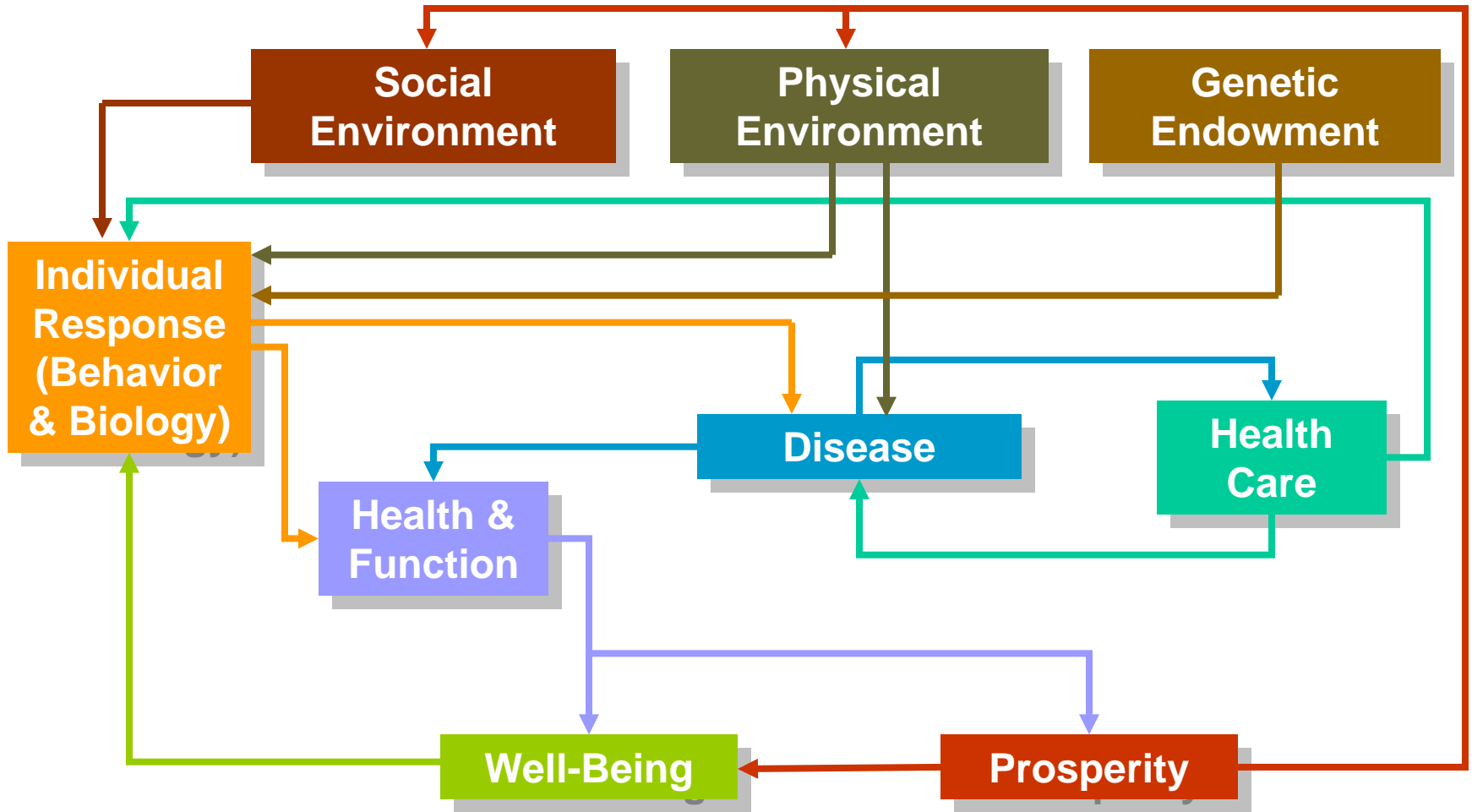
What is Public Health?

- What is the nature of “the public”?
- What is health?

Collective PH Actions

- Population-based focus of actions
 - Hippocrates
 - Miasma theory of disease
- Involvement of government
 - Medieval councils controlling cities, sewage, food and waste
- Prominence of environmental interventions
 - Incan sewers and baths
- Potential for infringement of individual rights to protect public
 - Isolation of individuals with plague, leprosy, smallpox, etc
 - Quarantine laws in Venice in 1348 with *lazaretto* in 1423
 - US Marine Health Service
- Public Health Preparedness (New dimension)
 - Reaction to terrorist attacks
 - “Psychological Immunization” “Hope dies last”
 - Community Resilience and Empowerment

Broad Understanding of Health



Adapted by CTLT from Evans RG, Stoddard GL. Producing health, consuming health care. *Soc Sci Med* 1990;31:1359

What Is Public Health?

- “To promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.”
CDC Mission Statement
- “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”
WHO Definition of Health
- Public Health’s mission is to create the conditions within which people can be healthy
Paraphrase of IOM report
- Public Health shapes the context within which people and communities can be safe and healthy.
Henry Taylor’s definition

C.E.A. Winslow, 1920

The science and art of:

- preventing disease
- prolonging life, and
- promoting physical and mental health and efficiency
- through organized community efforts

C.E.A. Winslow's Core Functions

- Sanitation of the environment
- Control of community infections
- Education of the individual in principles of personal hygiene
- Organization of medical and nursing service for early diagnosis and preventive treatment of disease
- Development of the social machinery which will ensure to every individual in the community a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health

1987 IOM Report

- Public Health is in disarray
- More linkages between theory and practice, between academia and field work
- Public Health's mission is to create the conditions within which people can be healthy (paraphrase)
- WV BPH "Shape the environments within which people and communities can be safe and healthy"

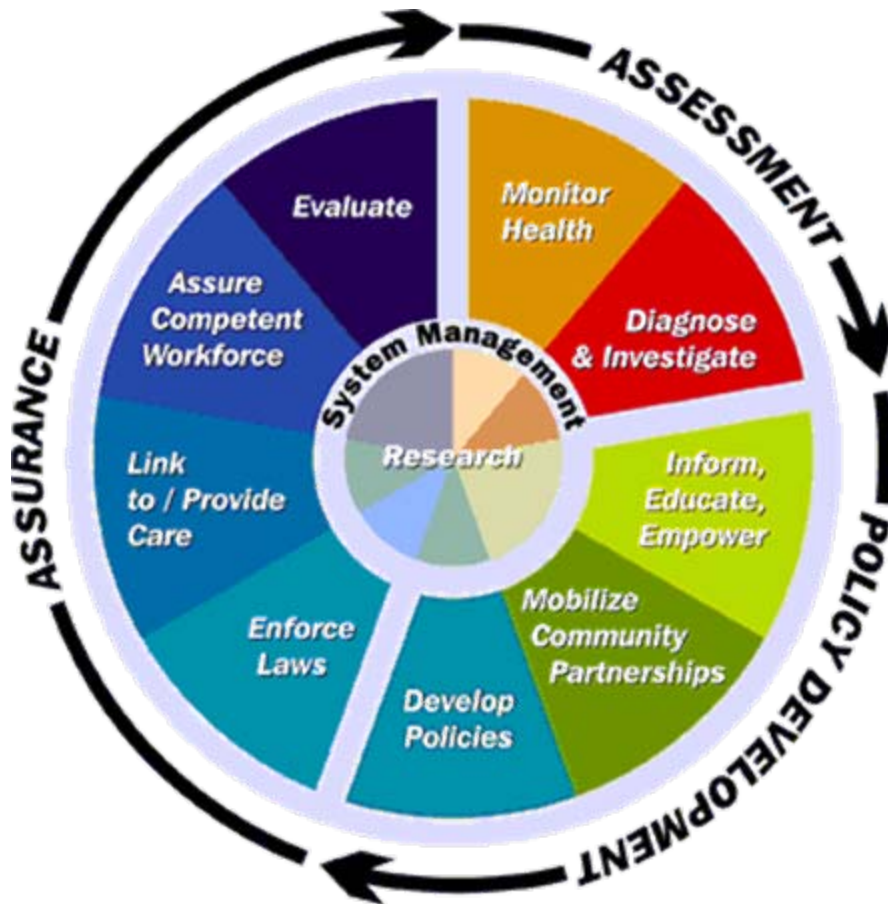
Core Functions of Public Health

- Assessment
- Policy Development
- Assurance
- Safety Net Services (not really a CF)
 - When not otherwise available
 - Those services that are so essential that we provide them regardless of ability to pay

The Ten Essential Services

1. Monitor health status
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems
3. Inform and educate
4. Mobilize communities to address health problems
5. Develop policies and plans
6. Enforce laws and regulations
7. Link people to needed health services
8. Assure a competent health services workforce
9. Evaluate health services
10. Conduct research for new innovations

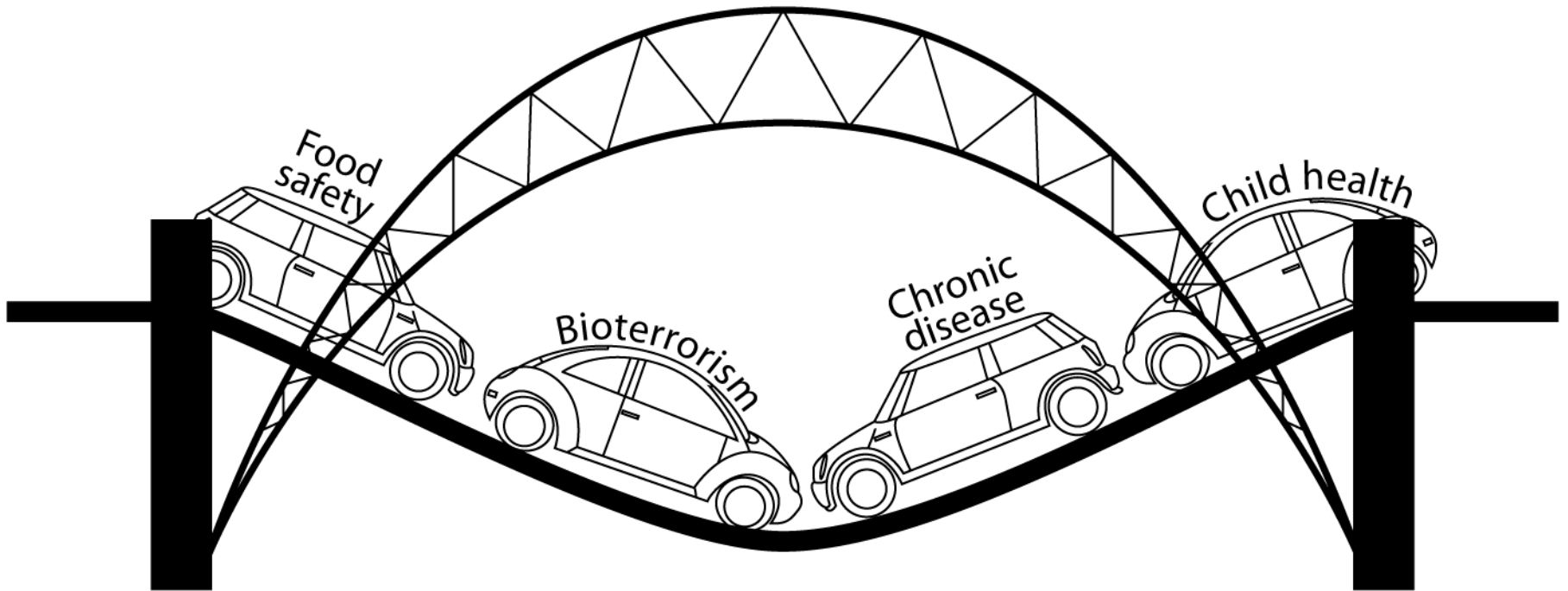
Essential Public Health Services



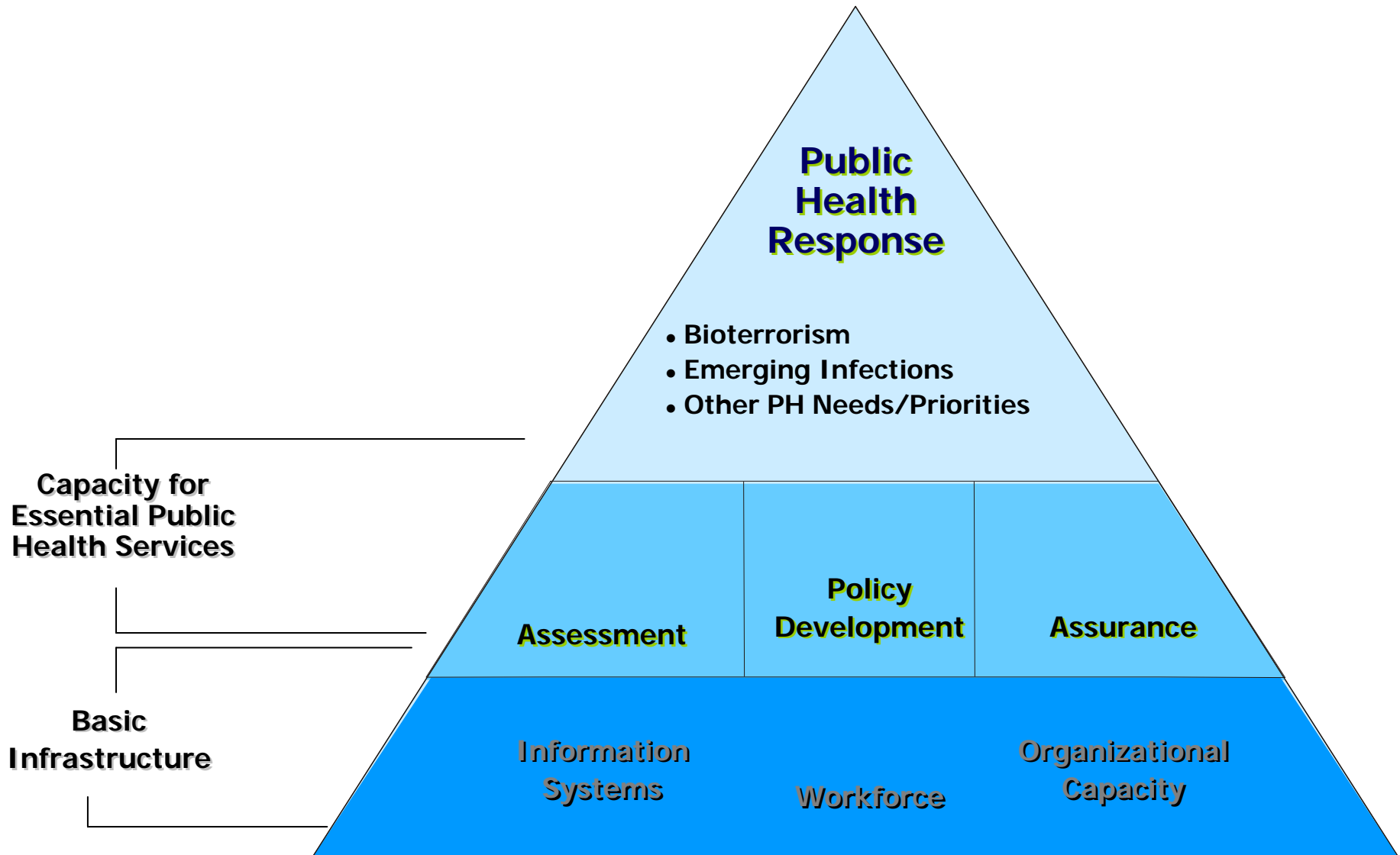
- Linked to the core functions (know them!)
- Organizing framework for individual and collective practice of public health
- Cyclical and continuous processes in a dynamic system
- Enhanced by action research and quality improvement

Source: Department of Health & Human Services. Public Domain.

Crumbling Public Health Infrastructure



Infrastructure & Essential PH Services



What Is Public Health?

- What it takes to get
 - Healthy people
 - In health communities