

# INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH PROMOTION

# **ANASTASIA SNELLING**







### INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH PROMOTION

# INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH PROMOTION

Edited by

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Second Edition



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#### FOREWORD

A decade ago, Dr. Snelling brought the foundational text, *Introduction to Health Promotion*, to our community. A lot can change in 10 years. While the prevalence of smoking has reached a 50-year low, we sit more than move and "socialize" through computer and phone screens more than in person. We now face a loneliness and isolation epidemic, as memorialized by Dr. Vivek Murthy's (the surgeon general) advisory committee report.

The additional published research and societal changes (including those brought by the COVID-19 pandemic) warranted a second edition of Dr. Snelling's text. Furthermore, as our health care system continues down an unsustainable path and professionals across the spectrum are showing a greater interest in harnessing behavior change science, the field of health promotion continues to grow in importance.

While this text is fundamental for students in the field of health promotion, it is also an important resource for the plethora of professionals who've come to recognize over the course of their career that health promotion is a fundamental and essential part of their own work as well as the sustainability of our health care delivery system. Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, health coaches—health professionals across the spectrum are appreciating that their formal education painted a limited view of the possibilities individuals face that impact their health and well-being.

The boundary between our ability to make healthy choices and experience positive emotions and the influence of our family members, neighbors, coworkers, and communities is murky. Though there is a connection—a strong one. We are all influenced by the cultures within which we live, work, and play. Cultures are the shared behaviors, beliefs, and attitudes of a given group of people. A strong understanding of the content in this text will assuredly help the reader navigate supporting individuals as well as cultures.

> Richard Safeer, M.D. Chief Medical Director, Employee Health and Well-Being, Johns Hopkins Medicine Assistant Professor of General Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Assistant Professor of Health, Behavior and Society, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Author of *A Cure for the Common Company, A Well-Being Prescription for a Happier, Healthier and More Resilient Workforce*

#### PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

The health promotion field emerged during the second half of the twentieth century as f L medicine and science became successful in treating infectious diseases with antibiotics, advancing maternal and child health, and improving sanitation practices. These gains significantly improved the quality and quantity of life for all. Yet, now we face the next medical crisis: chronic disease. Medicine and science research have continued to manage disease conditions through a number of procedures, surgeries, and pharmaceuticals. All of these approaches come with a very high cost to the individual through reduced quality of life and economic cost to organizations and the federal government responsible for providing health insurance. At this time, health care costs account for 18.3% of the gross domestic product. This means that the United States spends almost eighteen cents of every dollar on providing health care to Americans. Controlling these health care costs is a continuing priority for the nation. Consider that over 70% of all health care costs are related to chronic disease and that many risk factors for chronic disease are considered modifiable, such as tobacco use, physical inactivity, food choices, and managing stress. These modifiable risk factors are the core behaviors that the field of health promotion focuses on to improve the quality of people's lives and manage rising health care costs.

Changing individual and societal health behavior is a very complex process. Since the 1980s, more research has shown that for individuals to successfully adopt healthy behaviors, social, behavioral, and environmental factors also must be part of the process of change. The healthy choice must be the easy choice in our homes, schools, worksites, and communities. The vision is to live in a country where a culture of health is seen, practiced, and supported throughout the life span.

The unique contribution of this book is to introduce students to the individual and societal forces that have transformed the factors that influence one's health, including social and physical environments, medical advances, personal lifestyle choices, and legislation. The book identifies and discusses the innovative health campaigns, strategies, and policies that are being implemented and enacted to improve health behaviors and practices that ultimately improve the quality of life.

It is my desire that the writings in this book inspire you to either embark on a career in health promotion or, at the very least, provide you with an understanding of the ways in which many disciplines intersect with health promotion, so that whatever discipline you study, you will better understand how your work interacts with the promotion of health. Almost every discipline intersects with the field of health promotion. Further, health promotion professionals do not work in isolation. The nature of health promotion is to work across multiple disciplines to design and develop strategies that use the best knowledge we know and apply it to health behaviors. Table P.1 lists diverse areas of study and identifies the

Discipline	Contribution	Example
Communication and marketing	Social marketing campaigns	Campaigns to reduce smoking or promote physical activity
Public policy	Local, state, and national policy promoting health	Affordable Care Act
Human resources	Health benefits offered through employers	Worksite health
Biology	Understanding the changes in the body from food and exercise	Healthy behavior identification
Psychology	Understanding why people make the choices they do and how to facilitate behavior change	Health promotion models
Sociology	Understanding how human society functions and influences behavior	Health promotion models
Medicine and allied health	Monitoring health, identifying risk factors, and restoring health	Annual physicals; clinical preventive services
Economics	Behavioral economics	Encouraging healthy food choices

 Table P.1
 Disciplines and the Relationship with Health Fields

related work of health promotion, whether you study exercise or nutrition science to understand how to advise consumers on health behaviors to improve their health status or if you study communication or marketing to design health campaigns that inform the general public about health risks associated with smoking or drinking and driving or public policy to understand or evaluate how public health policy decreases health disparities by providing consumers with healthful foods or access to affordable health care.

This introductory textbook for health promotion students is designed and written to be distinctly different from other textbooks. It provides readers with an in-depth examination of the forces that have changed our lifestyles and environments over the past century, which in turn have resulted in changes in individual health behaviors that affect the onset of chronic conditions. During this same time frame, there were also considerable medical advances, improving early detection of disease and developing progressive treatments for chronic conditions. These changes are ones that health promoters must understand and address. Ultimately, the framework for the development of social and physical environments that support healthy lifestyle choices will guide the transformation of communities where people are empowered to make healthy choices, so they can live longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, and premature death.

The book is divided into three parts. Part 1, "The Foundation of Health Promotion," introduces the framework of health promotion and provides the student with a number of key terms, models, and trends related to the field. Chapter 2 introduces health behavior change theories that offer constructs on how individuals approach personal behavior change, that is, the essence of health promotion—engaging individuals to actively promote their own health through daily actions such as being physically active or selecting healthy foods to eat. Program planning models (chapter 3) are essential tools to successfully reach large groups of people through social marketing campaigns to interventions to enacting policies to create environments in which people can practice healthy behaviors.

Part 2, "Health Behaviors," describes those actions that promote health and prevent disease. These chapters introduce the short history of how tobacco use, eating, physical activity, and emotional health has evolved as a result of the changes in our social and physical environments. These chapters provide a comprehensive discussion of the health behaviors that influence the onset of chronic disease in our country and how and why these behaviors have changed over time. Chapter 8 highlights the important role clinical preventive services also have in promoting health by monitoring chronic disease development and overall health status. Health promotion professionals are promoting healthful living; hence, the inclusion of preventive services (immunizations and age-appropriate screenings) available through the medical community needs to be understood and promoted.

These health behavior chapters examine how changes in our environment and society over the past several decades have affected behaviors and how those changed behaviors affect health and disease. By understanding the historical perspective of each of these behaviors, health promotion professionals will possess a richer context for their work, understanding that multiple forces have shaped, and continue to affect, the health of individuals and our society. Health behavior change is complex; in order to advance innovative solutions, it is critical that health promoters fully understand the history of these behaviors. Within each chapter, examples of policies and programs that exemplify health promotion in action are provided.

Part 3, "Health Promotion in Action," presents how state and federal governments engage in promoting healthful living for their consumers, what associations and certifications support the health promotion profession, where health promotion is taking place and the job opportunities available for this profession, and closing out with future trends in health promotion as we move through the twenty-first century. There are a plethora of national activities that promote health and prevent disease. The federal agencies monitor health status, provide broad guidelines, conduct research, and fund programs to promote health. Collectively, there are thousands of federal employees who work across disciplines to study or implement new approaches to improve the health of our society.

Chapter 10 discusses the setting where health promotion takes place, which further exemplifies that health promotion is beginning to be seen everywhere, such as in day care centers, schools, colleges, worksites, food stores, retirement homes, and communities. Again, thousands of professionals believe in the vision of a country in which people practice healthy behaviors every day because the healthy choice is the easy choice. Staying current within the discipline will be important after you graduate. Chapter 11 discusses associations, journals, and certifications that provide important information for your life beyond the borders of an academic institution. In time, reading a textbook or listening to a professor's lecture will be in the past. But as a professional, you will need to stay current, and this chapter is full of associations and journals that will facilitate your continued professional development. The final chapter is a look into the future, predicting some trends that will help to create a culture of health to ensure that the Healthy People 2030 goals to "attain high-quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, to improve the health of all groups, to create social and physical environments that promote good health for all, and to promote healthy behaviors across all life stages" will be achieved.

At the end of each chapter, the student will find a brief summary and list of key terms of the information presented in the chapter. After the summary and key terms are a list of student questions and activities. Both the questions and activities are written to extend the learning and understanding of the material presented in the chapter. By completing the questions and activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of the breadth and depth of the health promotion field. All references used in each chapter are at the end, and students are encouraged to seek out these articles, book chapters, and books for additional information.

My goal for this textbook is to enhance the academic preparation of students who are pursuing degrees in health promotion, public health, health education, and other degrees that address or affect the health status of individuals, communities, and societies nationally as well as around the world. Although this textbook focuses on behaviors, trends, and resources in the United States to promote health, many of them are applicable to cultures and settings around the world. There is a universal desire to live a healthful life, and this desire can be found in people of every age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

The book provides a foundation of knowledge for the health promotion professional. Many students are excited to learn such a field exists and ask where they can begin. My response is always with themselves! Being a role model and learning to practice what health promotion professionals teach is a great starting point. I do not expect that you will set a perfect example of health every day, but by practicing health-promoting behaviors, you will personally experience the process and the benefits and become healthy as a result.

An instructor's supplement is available at www.josseybass.com/go/snelling. Additional materials such as videos, podcasts, and readings can be found at www.josseybasspublichealth .com. Comments about this book are invited and can be sent to publichealth@wiley.com.

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To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

#### PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

Much has changed since the first edition of this book was published and more than ever, individuals, communities, and society, we need health promotion activities, programs, and policies to improve the quality of health for all. The COVID-19 pandemic, a once-in-a-century event, landed in the United States in 2020 and forced universal lockdown for most Americans. The term lockdown has brought on a whole new meaning to us and one that people do not wish to live through again. There are many key takeaways that will be studied for years to come. One outcome is that over a million people in the US alone died from COVID, and those who had pre-existing conditions suffered the most.

Related to health promotion, it is clear that promoting health holistically is evolving and many of the contributors have updated the chapters to reflect these experiences. The pandemic also shone a light on the health disparities that have been always existed but were only exacerbated as a result of the pandemic. The chapters in the book begin the discussion of issues around health disparities and innovative programs being implemented in communities to provide tailored programming to meet people in their own communities. Community engagement that leads to community-driven programs will be the transformation necessary to successfully address health disparities. Creating a society where health is attainable in every home, school, worksite, and community will take creative policy and program leaders who are ready to make a difference in this changing world.

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