Week 2: History and Theories of Public Health

Early Public Health

- During the Roman Empire (800-1200 AD) Christian women “Deaconess” visited homes of the sick and needy, providing bathing for the fevered, dressing wounds, feeding the weak, and providing comfort care.
U.S. History of Public Health Nursing 1800’s


- By 1839 in Philadelphia, the **first formal training program**, “Lying-in-Charity”, was established to teach women how to provide basic nursing care in the home.

Establishment of Public Health Nursing

- In England
  - **District Nursing in England, 1850s**
  - Rathbone worked with Nightingale to educate “health nurses,” 1859
  - **Health Visiting in Manchester, England, 1862**
Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

- Concern for environmental determinants of health
- Emphasis on sanitation, community assessment, and analysis
- Use of graphically depicted statistics & comparable census data
- Political advocate
- Education reform for nurses

Nightingale's Surveillance
In 1872, the first formal School of Nursing was established in Bellevue Hospital, New York.

1893, Lillian Wald founded the Henry Street Settlement in N.Y. As a visiting home nurse, she moved into the neighborhood and provided not only care to the sick, but also social services and instruction in English and music to the immigrants.

1902 – First School Nurse program
1903 – First Tuberculosis Nurse
1906 – First designated Baby Welfare Nurse
1912 - National Organization Public Health Nurses
1917 - U.S. Government PH Services Division
1918 – First Public Health Nurse publication
Frontier Nursing - KY

- 1925, Mary Breckenridge established the Frontier Nursing Service in the Eastern Kentucky Appalachian Mountains (700 sq. miles) and began the first Nurse Mid-Wife program in the U.S.

Modern Public Health Nurse

- Theoretical scope is essential to public/community health nursing
- Many nursing theories are focused on provision of individualized nursing care
- For community health nursing, a theory must be broad enough in scope to address health and the determinants of health from a population perspective
Theoretical Models/Framework

- Goal of nursing theory – improve nursing practice
- Provides a clear organizational framework for collecting and evaluating data
- Guides assessment and planning

Theoretical Approaches

Microscopic

- The individual is the locus of change
  - Orem’s self-care deficit theory of nursing
  - The Health Belief Model (HBM)

Downstream Endeavors: Characterized by short-term, individual-based interventions
Theoretical Approaches

Macroscopic:

- Thinking upstream: society is the locus of change
- Milio’s framework for prevention
- Critical social theory

Thinking Upstream: Examining the Root Causes of Poor Health

Nursing Care Model

ASTDN: Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing, Department of Health and Hospitals, www.louisiana.gov