

The Future of Public Health in Israel

Thanks

- The Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians
- Dr. Itamar Grotto

Public Health in Israel - the medical element

Ministry of Health

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graph TD; A[Ministry of Health] --- B[Health Maintenance Organisations (Personal preventive services)]; A --- C[Psychiatric & Geriatric Hospitalisation Facilities]; A --- D[General Hospitals]; A --- E[Public Health Services (Well Mother and child clinics and health in schools)];
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Health Maintenance
Organisations
(Personal preventive
services)

Psychiatric & Geriatric
Hospitalisation
Facilities

General Hospitals

Public Health Services
(Well Mother and child
clinics and health in
schools)

Strengthening The Nation's Public Health Infrastructure: Historic Challenge, Unprecedented Opportunity

It takes a system that is competent to handle routine public health situations to handle the emergencies.

by Edward L. Baker Jr. and Jeffrey P. Koplan

Clearly, local and state public health agencies will continue to play a role in either ensuring or delivering personal health care services to those in need and will remain safety-net providers for those who require health services or access to a more limited set of clinical services. Increasingly, these governmental agencies will form partnerships with organized systems of health care to ensure that personal health care services and population-based prevention are available to those served by both entities. As a result of the changes in the health care system, public health delivery systems will be reshaped and will take on different roles and responsibilities while ceasing to perform others. In some jurisdictions, the privatization of public health services will continue in ways that seek to improve efficiency of service delivery through private providers using

The Case for Action

- New challenges faced by health systems vis-à-vis the 21st century
- Attempts are being made to construct public health on the basis of various models
- Israel has never defined the extent of public health services - what should and what should not be provided by the state, at a legislative level

The Israeli circumstance

- In light of the differences between countries and the specific requirements of Israel there is the need for a definition of the public health system in Israel and its functions.
- Several aspects require attention when approaching the topic:
 - There is only little reference to public health in the national health insurance law passed in 1994
 - The system of updating the basket of services is problematic with the result of hardly any preventive technology being included in the basket from the start or as it is being updated
 - Public health services being provided by the state have suffered from low funding and continuous cuts over the last years

The Unfulfilled Promise Of Public Health Déjà Vu All Over Again

We have not learned the lessons of our public health history.

by Elizabeth Fee and Theodore M. Brown

Why this awful moment and this anxious but long overdue reckoning? Because, most basically, we have not learned the lessons of our public health history. We continue to mobilize episodically in response to particular threats and then let our interest lapse when the immediate crisis seems to be over. When will we learn to build and sustain the adequately supported institutions and personnel we need to protect the public's health in the long term? We should not allow the priorities generated at our worst moments of anxiety to displace those generated for the sustained and systematic addressing of long-standing needs, especially those of the most vulnerable of our populations. Moreover, we should not allow ideological shifts and inevitable economic cycles to deflect us from maintaining appropriate public and governmental responsibility for the health of the community. Too much is at stake, and in public health we are all legitimate "stakeholders."

The views and interpretations reflected in this essay are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the positions of their institutions

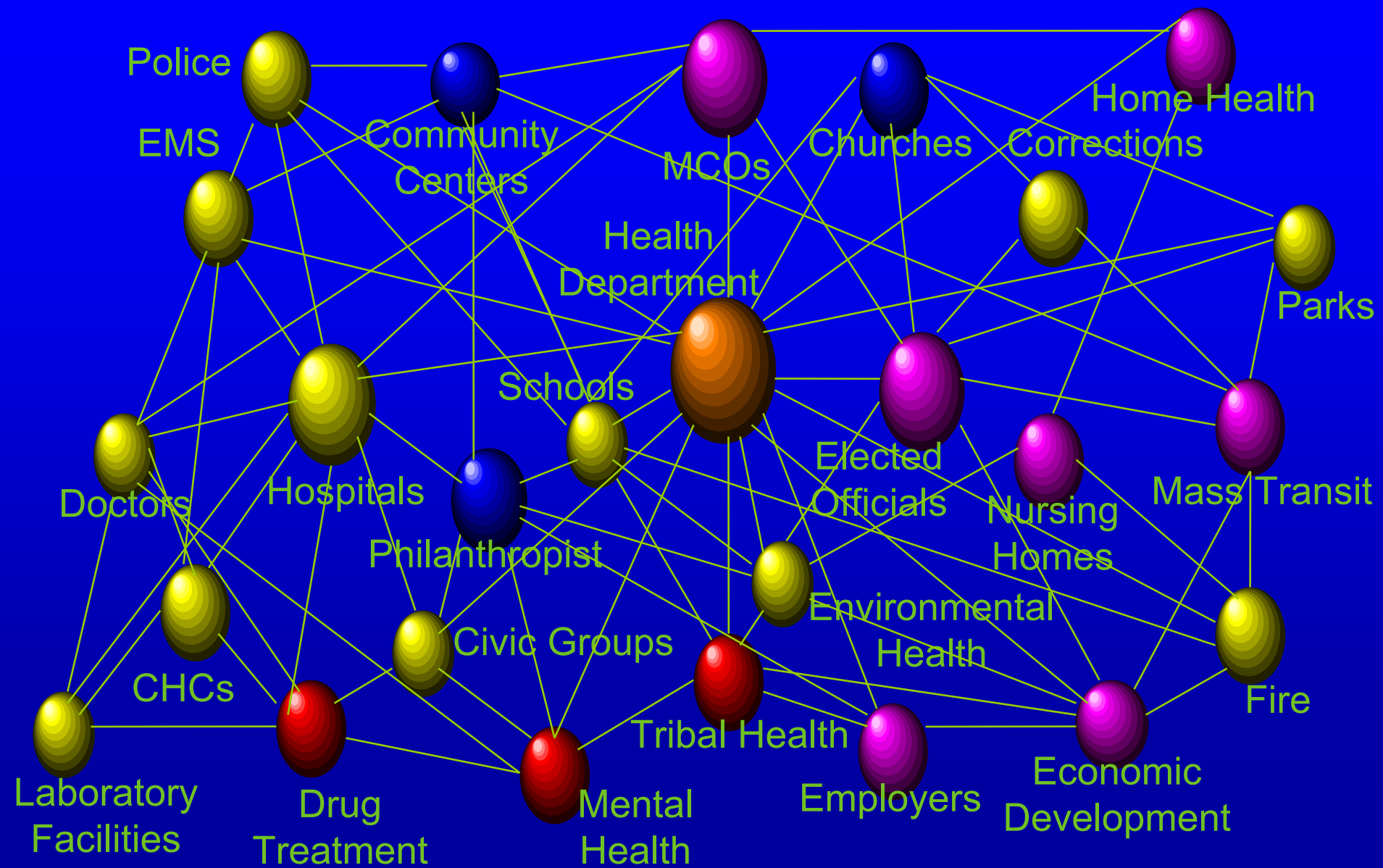
The Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians

- The association was created less than a decade ago as a result of the need to revise the curriculum for specialization in public health and to combat the attempts to remove the requirement of a public health specialty for regional MOH directors
- Since its foundation it has become a key player in major public health issues with the backing of the Israeli Medical Association
- It has still not achieved its two original objectives
- It has revised the curriculum and will monitor its application without changing the original two-track system for specialization

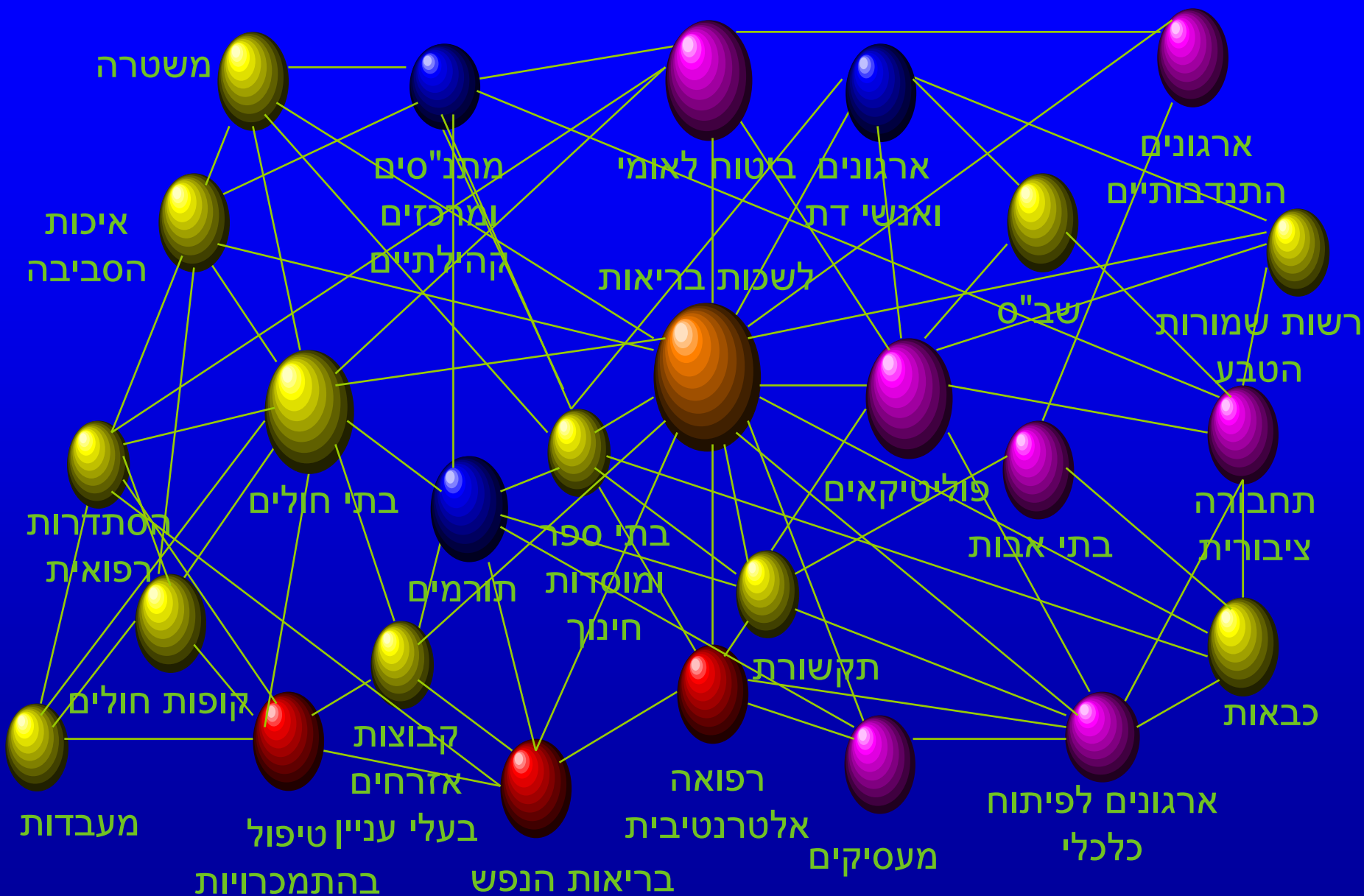
Workplan

- Define the required structure and functions of public health in Israel - to improve the capacity of Israel in facing new challenges
- Comply with international standards which are being developed while revising the model for the needs and priorities of Israel
- After gaining general acceptance of the model there is need for examination of the current situation in comparison with the model and issuing recommendations for change
- Integrate the model - structure and functions within the strategic goals for health - Health 2020

The Public Health System



מבנה מערכת בריאות הציבור



Structure of the Strategy paper

- **Background**
- **Definition of terms**
- **International comparisons**
- **The case for action**
- **The Israeli public health system - mission and definitions**
- **The model for public health system**
- **The essential functions of public health in Israel and integration with infra-structural model**
- **The role of public health physicians in the public health system**

What is public health?

Development in terms

Winslow, 1920: The untilled field of public health. Modern Medicine

"Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health and efficiency through the organized effort of the community for: the improvement of environmental sanitation; the control of community infections; the education of the individual in the principles of personal hygiene; the organization of medical and nursing services for the early diagnosis and treatment of disease; and the development of social mechanisms that will guarantee everyone a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health, organizing these benefits such that each individual will be in a position to enjoy his innate right to health and longevity."

Wanless D, Securing Good Health for the Whole Population, February 2004

"The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities and individuals

The Israeli Public Health System: Mission and Definition

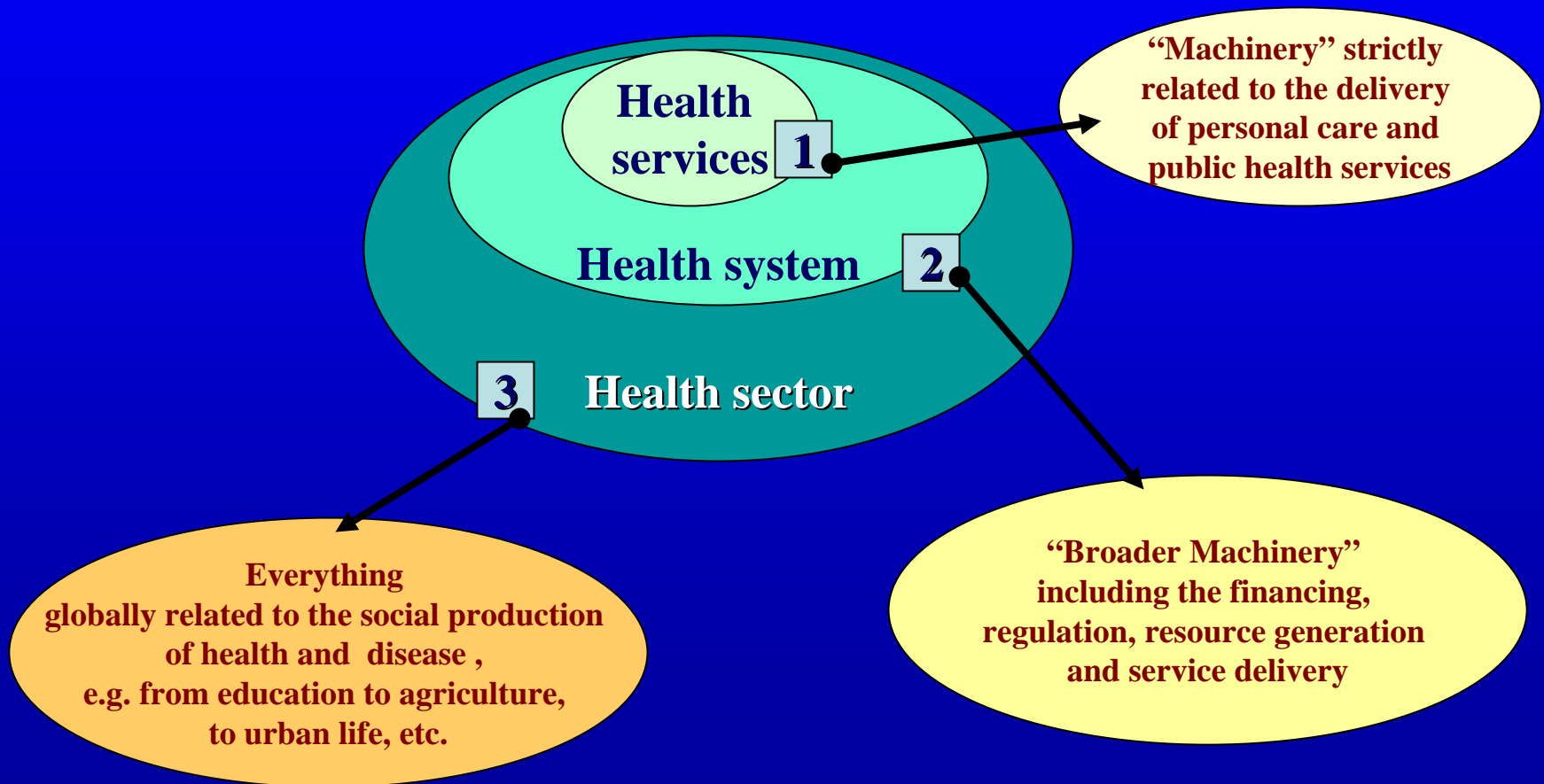
Mission:

- **Promoting the health of the population, prevention of disease and death and improving quality of life while striving to overcome inequalities in health and maintaining economic efficiency and continuous improvement in the quality of health services**

Definition:

- **The organisations that are involved in achieving the mission of public health, including the ministry of health and its various units, the health maintenance organisations, other government agencies, local municipalities, NGOs, communities and individuals and the interaction between them**

Health services, system and sector



The Essential Functions of Public Health in Israel - I

1. Initiation, planning and development of public health policy and administration of the system on its basis
2. Monitoring and assessment of the population health status to enable identification of needs, risks and any state requiring intervention
3. Evaluation of efficiency and quality of personal and community health services
4. Identification, prediction, prevention and control of environmental-related health risks (habitation, workplace, air, food and water)
5. Initiation, promotion and performance of health related research

The Essential Functions of Public Health in Israel - II

6. Health promotion and disease prevention
7. Planning and coping with events which affect public health: unforeseen morbidity, disease outbreaks and natural or manmade catastrophies
8. Development and training of the workforce in public health
9. Creation of partnerships to promote knowledge, coordination and maximal efficiency in the use of resources
10. Promoting legislation, monitoring and enforcement of legislation in public health

Hierarchy model of the functions of public health

