

Public Health Challenges for Hong Kong

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Since ancient times the health of populations has been recognized as key to the success of a society. To quote Cicero: The health of the people is the highest law.

The World Health Organisation defines health as “*a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity*”.

The most commonly used definitions of public health stress its multidisciplinary nature. For example :

“The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organised efforts of society” Sir Donald Acheson

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

This presentation will describe some of the global health challenges and the relationships between health and economic prosperity in developed and developing countries. Using the three domains model of public health practice the challenges public health in Hong Kong will be further explored and policy implications discussed.