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## Multisectoral studies in Public Health in Ukraine

Tatiana Andreeva

The second issue of the TCPHEE contains materials presented at the conference 'Economics, sociology, theory and practice of public health' conducted in Kiev on April 12-15, 2011. Conference participants were the faculty, doctoral and master students of the School of Public Health (SPH) at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA).

Reports were first discussed during the conference and then submitted as conference abstracts for the editorial review. The revised versions were then peer-reviewed and were subject to editorial approval again.

These materials show the range of the studies conducted at the SPH NaUKMA and to a certain extent the range of problems related to Public Health in Ukraine. It is instrumental to consider problems and solutions in public health from the perspective of five-level indicators widely used by the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. These indicators include Inputs (all kind of resources), Processes (activities needed to develop programs and build capacities based on the available resources), Outputs (including products, programs and policies which are to be used as interventions able to make difference), Outcomes (related to population behaviors and knowledge), and Impact indicators (related to biological results including diseases and deaths).

**Input level** studies are represented in this issue by two papers which cover financing aspects of health system functioning [8; 10].

**Output level** related to services, policies, and interventions is covered by a study related to prevention services for youth [15]. Policies are also

considered in the studies related to tobacco control issues [5; 6; 24]. Services-related conclusions can be found in several studies [3; 4; 9; 13; 14; 16; 25].

**Impact level** health outcomes are discussed in several studies related to **infectious diseases**, mostly HIV [17; 21-23], and tuberculosis [13]. These studies explore behavioral and social risk factors of acquiring infectious diseases [13; 22], ways to measure prevalence [17; 23], and interventions to prevent spread of infection [21].

Outcomes related to the risk of **non-communicable chronic diseases** included risk of being overweight [7]. Regular use of vegetable oil and dairy products was shown to be typical for healthier individuals as measured by the number of diagnosed chronic diseases [18]. A more integrative indicator – life expectancy at birth – was considered as well [20].

Another group of studies is related to **reproductive health** outcomes: miscarriages [12] and induced abortions [3; 4]. The studies shows that public perceptions of health problems may significantly differ from a real situation: while young girls are traditionally considered the main risk group for termination of pregnancy, married women who already have children are the neglected risk group which needs to be supported with contraceptives [4].

**Behavioral** questions are widely asked in health-related population surveys conducted in Ukraine with funding from different international sources. This provides fruitful material for analysis and informing decision-making. Examples of such studies include 17 papers presented

in this issue [3-7; 9; 11-14; 16-19; 24; 26; 27]. Both empirical studies and some theorizing [1; 2] are presented. Authors aimed to explore potential predictors and employed a wide range of regression models from logistic to generalized linear models.

Several types of health behavior are considered in more detail: alcohol, tobacco, drugs use, and condom use.

Studies based on the ESPAD surveys [11; 19] reveal social and familial factors of **alcohol use** among adolescents.

**Tobacco**-related studies based on the data of surveys conducted in Ukraine consider factors associated with quitting smoking [5; 6; 24].

**Drug use** studies cover factors related to opiate overdose [25], additional risks typical for female injection drug users [21], and development of injection drug use epidemic in Ukraine [26].

Three studies approach factors which may determine the probability to use **condoms** [9; 14; 27]. A wider research question of using contraceptives in general by women of reproductive age is considered as well [16].

Health behavior studies presented here are related to general population [3-7; 12; 16; 22; 24], young people [11; 19; 27], and certain high-risk groups including injection drug users [13; 21; 23; 25; 26], female sex workers [17], and men who have sex with men [9; 14].

Several papers presented here show that belonging to a certain social group is more important than knowledge [9], or access to services [14],

so the behavioral or health outcomes of the routine public health interventions could be negligible.

The authors expect that the presented studies will be used for development of evidence-based public health policies in Ukraine and are willing to conduct more sophisticated well-designed studies which would measure effectiveness and efficiency of health interventions and inform related program and policy decisions. This as well as cross-country comparative studies could be the future for the researchers participating in this issue and for this journal.

The two start-up issues of the journal were based on materials of two conferences. However, after this we are open for wide range of papers. Our journal expects to become a forum which might contribute to the development of modern public health in the part of the world called Eastern Europe.

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