

## Exploring Public Health:

In 1967, U.S. Surgeon General William H. Stewart famously declared it was "time to close the book on infectious diseases and declare the war against pestilence won." The prevalence of HIV/AIDS, MRSA, drug resistant TB, and pandemic influenza demonstrate that Dr. Stewart's declaration was premature. The prevalence of, amongst others, infectious diseases, obesity, and environmental hazards in society create a need for public health. Public health is "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." (1920, C.E.A. Winslow). Public health officials work at the local, state, national and global levels to improve the overall health of the population. The goal of this skill module is to introduce you to current (and past) public health issues facing society.

For this skill module you need to:

- 1) Read an issue from within the previous six months of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published by the CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>)
- 2) Summarize an article from the MMWR in 100 to 200 words and explain the significance of the issue addressed in the article.
- 3) Find an article in the American Journal of Public Health that interests you. The archives found at [www.lib.utexas.edu](http://www.lib.utexas.edu) dates back to 1912! There are plenty of fascinating choices such as a 1919 article about the Chicago schools during the Spanish influenza outbreak and a 1944 article addressing the effects of Malaria on US troops. Once you have found your article, summarize the goal of the study, the methods used, as well as the results and conclusions.