

The Emerging Role of Nursing in Environmental Health

Water Quality as a Public Health Issue

Penni Wilson, RN BN & Dr. Ruth Grant Kalischuck RN PhD

CHNC Conference 2011

Halifax, Nova Scotia

May 17, 2011

Health

Biomedical orientation

- absence of disease

WHO definition of health (1948)

- multidimensional/ resource for everyday living

Lalonde Report (1974)

- incorporation of behavioural aspects/ control

Determinants of Health (1990's)

- product of socio environmental factors

Socio-ecological view of health

- inclusive of systems/relationships

Public Health

Public Health Medicine

- Focus: prevention of disease

Declaration of Alma Ata (1978)

- Focus: downstream to upstream

WHO Conference on Health Promotion (1986) – Ottawa Charter

- Focus: development of policies to protect and promote health

Determinants of Health (1990's)

- Focus: health inequities related to social and environmental factors

Socio-ecological Approach

- Focus: environment & integration of ecosystems into population health efforts.

The Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice Model



Community Health Nurses of Canada, 2008

Water: The Issue

- Water contamination
- Water scarcity
- Threat to human health
 - Physical
 - Mental
 - Economic development/ socio-economic status
 - Ecosystems

Safe and Secure Water

- A human right (United Nations)
- A determinant of health (World Health Organization)
- Millennium Development Goal #7 (WHO)
- G8 Water Action Plan
- Water for Life

Nurses and Environment

- A pillar of the metaparadigm of Nursing
- Florence Nightingale
- An under developed role of nurses
- Unique positioning of Public Health Nurses to promote health related to water quality
- Nurses' voices have been largely absent

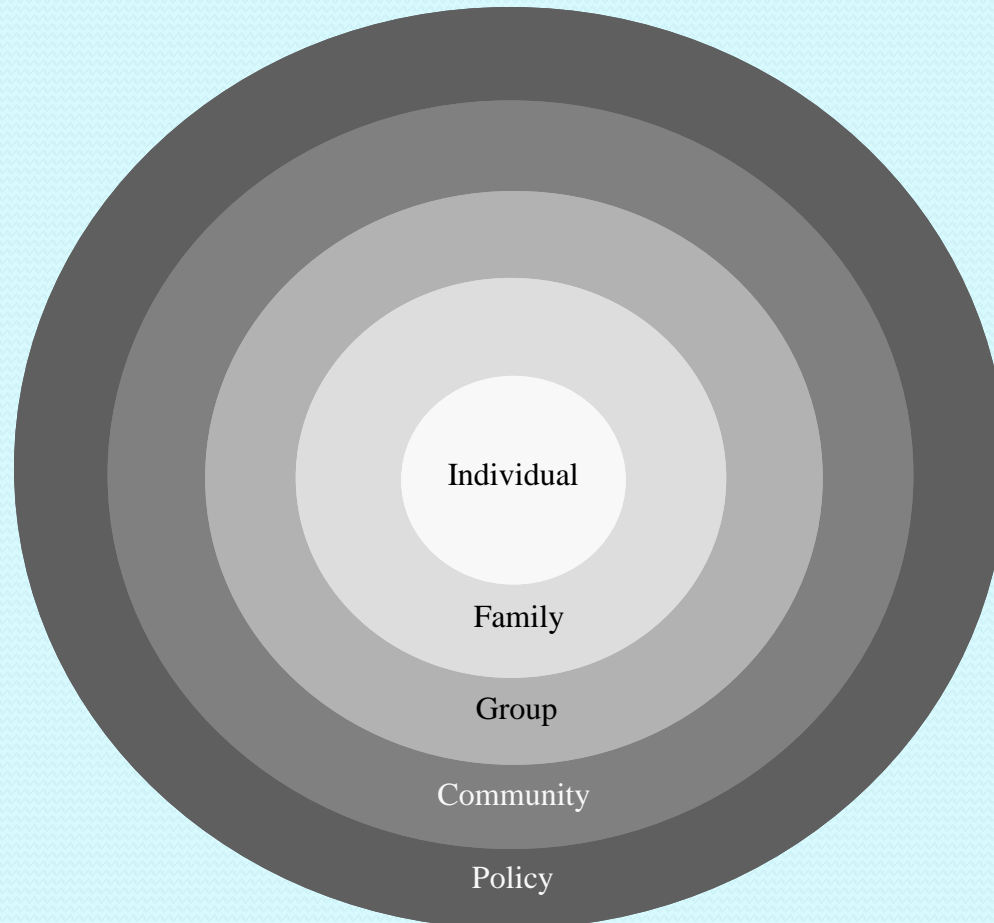
Nurses and Environment

- ICN Position Statements
 - Nurses, Climate Change, and Health (2008)
 - Reducing Environmental and Lifestyle-related Health Hazards (2007)
 - Universal Access to Clean Water (2008)
- CNA Position Statements
 - Global Health Partnerships (2011)
 - Toward an Environmentally Responsible Canadian Health Sector (2009)
 - Climate Change and Health (2009)

Community Health Nurses and Environment

- CHNC Standards of Practice
- Public Health Nursing Specific Competencies (CHNC, 2009)
- Environmental Scan: CHN's Speak Out! (CHNC, 2010)
- Public Health – Community Health Nursing in Canada: Roles and Activities (CHNC, 2010)
- Community Health Nursing Vision 2020: Shaping the Future (CHNC)

Socio Ecological Model





Thank you!

Questions?