



# Public Health Perspectives on Human Rights in Development

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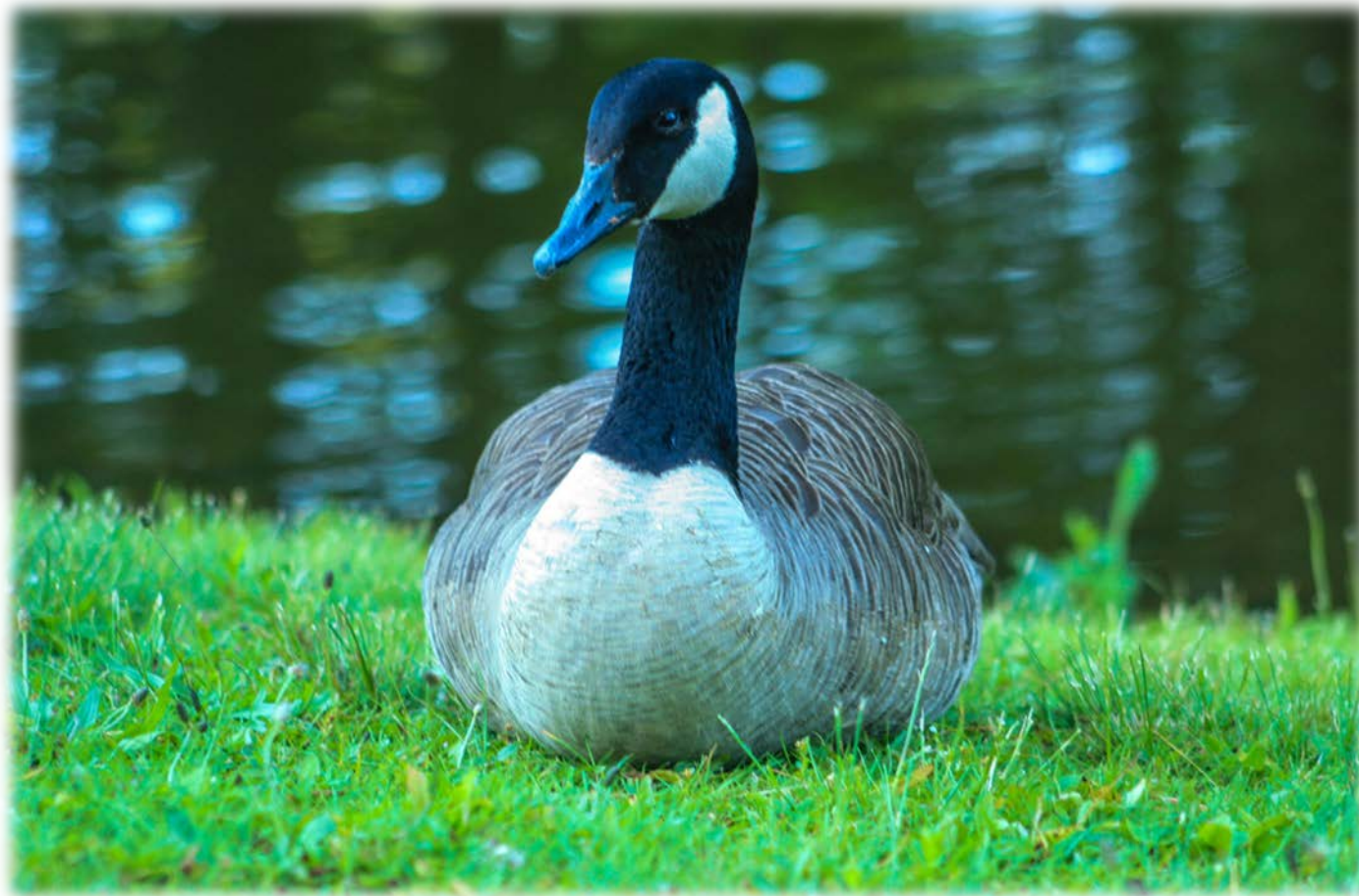


**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs





*Public health, Ethics and Human Rights are complementary fields motivated  
by the paramount value of human well-being – Jonathan Mann*



OUTLINE



3 COMMON MYTHS



3 PERSPECTIVES



Q & A



MYTHS





## Mental illness leads to violent and unpredictable behavior

- 3-5% of mentally ill have a history of violent behavior
- 10 times more likely to be victims of a violent crime



Mentally-ill are 16 times more likely to die from a police encounter compared to general population



- i. Suicidal ideations never resolve
- ii. Talking about suicide encourages one to hurt themselves
- iii. Having a mental illness leads to suicide (?causation)
- iv. There are no warning signs, they happen suddenly

- 22 to 38% of adolescents have thought about suicide in the past year (Nock, 2008)
- Close 95% of patients with Dep., BPAD, SCZ **DO NOT** die by suicide
- Comprehensive risk assessment



Suicide as a social justice issue & not just a mental health problem



Having a mental illness voids you of having the capacity to take decisions regarding your life & health

“During the era of institutionalization, the societal view in America was that persons with mental illness lacked the capacity to make decisions. There was no distinction between voluntary and involuntary admissions to psychiatric hospitals; all admissions were involuntary’

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT – Assumption of capacity as a default



Capacity vs Competency  
Autonomy vs Paternalism  
NGRI





# PERSPECTIVES





# *Interdisciplinarity of Public health*



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Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS)  
 Ministry of Water Resources  
 Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Prevention  
 Ministry of Rural Development  
 Ministry of Environment & Forests  
 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

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Technology / EMR/ GIS



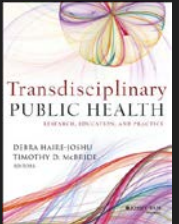
17.5% of world's population with 4% of world's fresh water resources



Point of use technologies – UV, UF, NF, RO, I, CL, Br ....



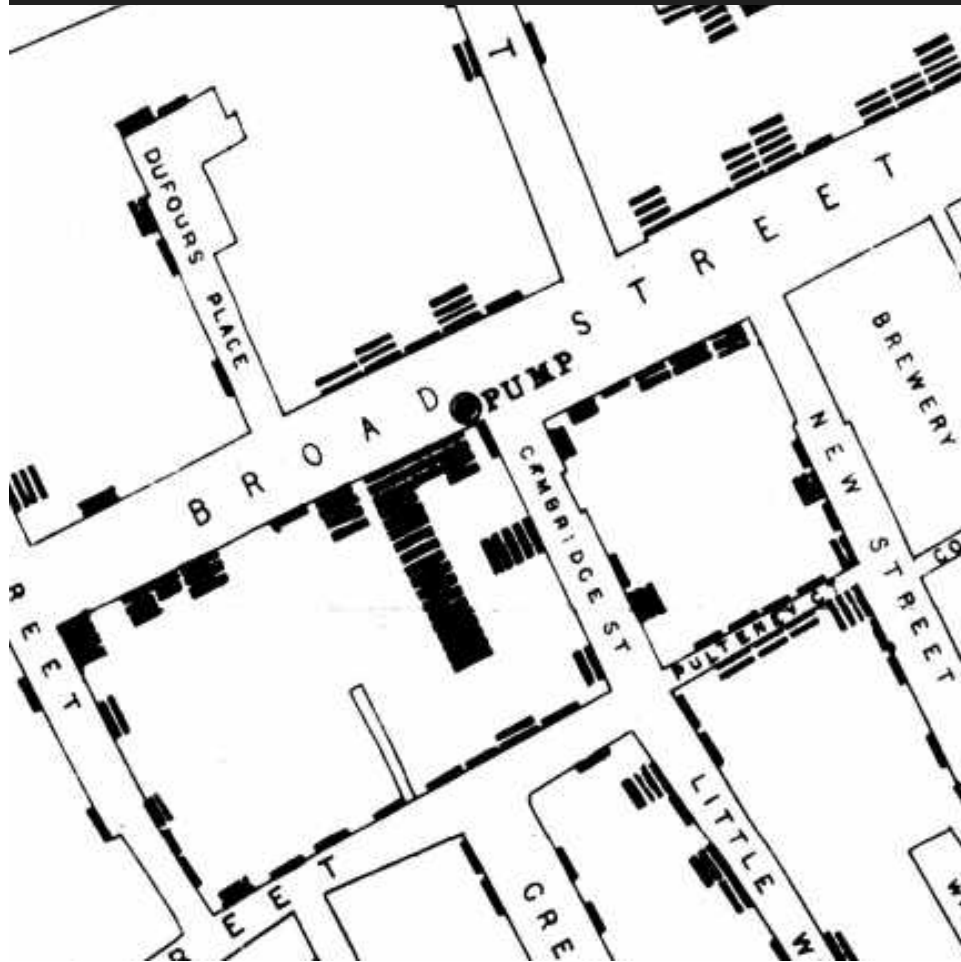
38 MN people affects; loss of 73 MN work days & 1.5 MN child deaths



## London Cholera epidemic, 1854

616 people died

John Snow – Father of modern epidemiology





- Gorakhpur tragedy
  - Systemic failure of the health system
- Mumbai bridge collapse
  - Infrastructure failure
- Alcohol, tobacco & Drug use
  - Implications for Policy
- Poverty in India
- Waste management
- Environmental safety & natural disasters

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ECHNOLOGY

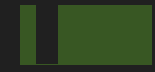
SOCIAL WORKERS

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HUMAN RIGHTS

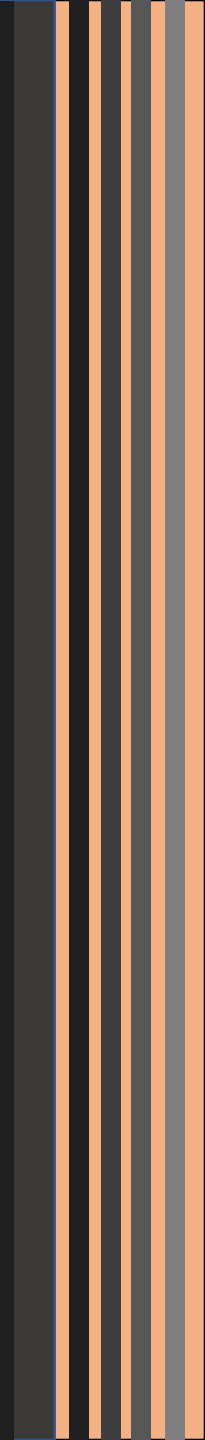
# Interdisciplinarity of Public health



ALAKKUDI

LONDON

*COMMON TO ALL THIS?*



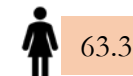
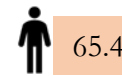
# Interconnectedness between socio-economic wellbeing & health outcome



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

SOCIAL ECOLOGY

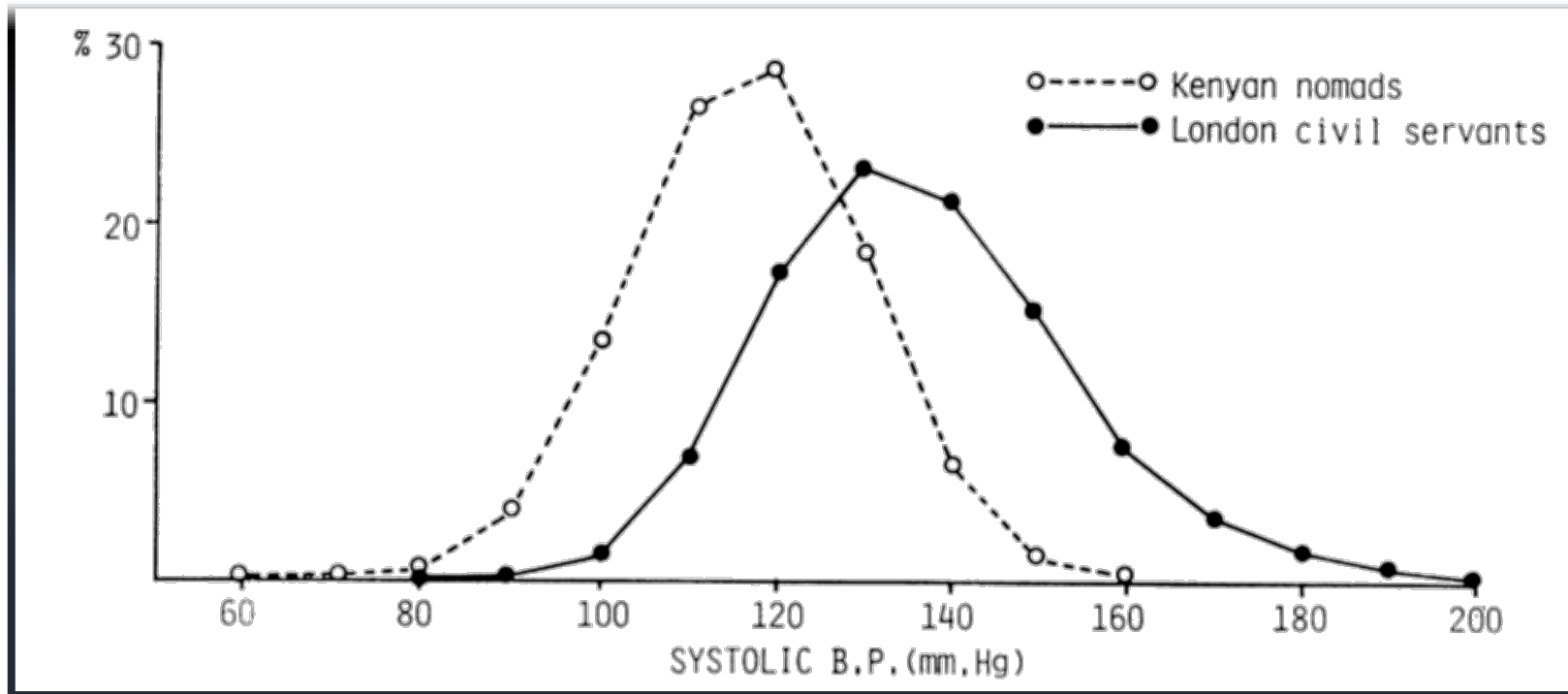




“Higher Socio-economic status, as indexed by the height of the obelisk was associated with greater longevity”

“Longevity was associated with greater accumulation of assets”  
*[Greater for women]*

# SICK INDIVIDUALS & SICK POPULATIONS



PRIMORDIAL

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

TERTIARY

Public Health

Medicine

# Interconnectedness between socio-economic wellbeing & health outcome



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING



SOCIAL ECOLOGY

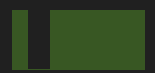
*Shifting population curves rather than dragging the tails*



# Law & Health

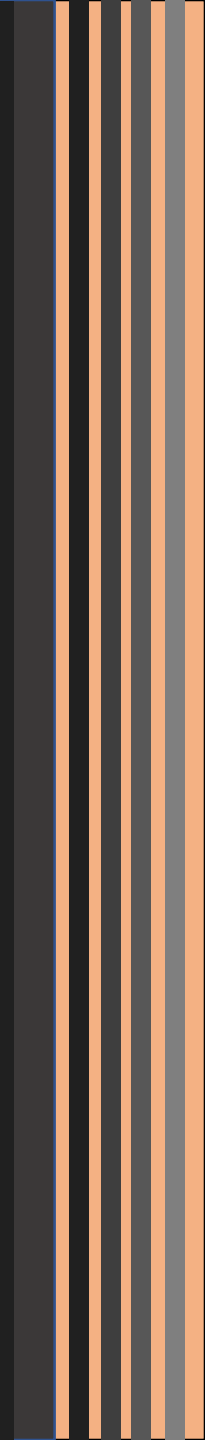


PUBLIC HEALTH



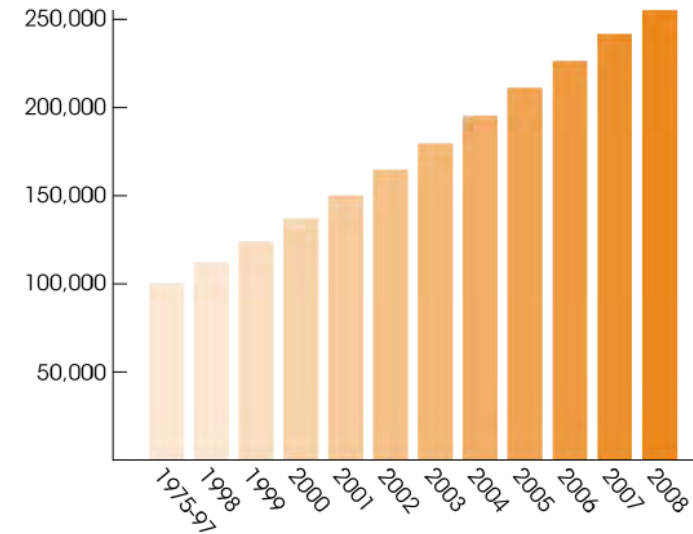
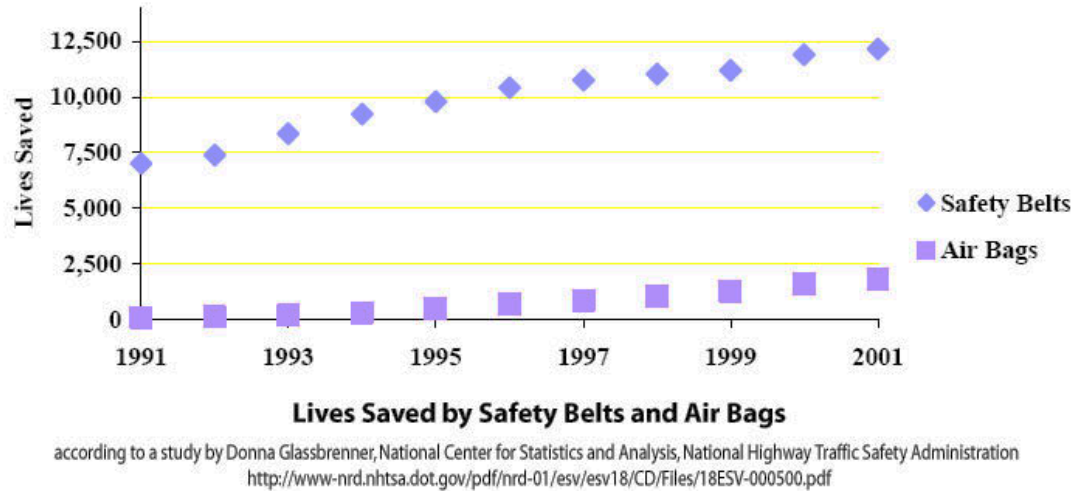
MENTAL HEALTH

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## Primary Vs Secondary Law

255K since 1975



In spite of widespread consensus regarding public health impact of seat belt laws, there are groups that oppose them based on libertarian grounds. A 1986 op-ed in New York Times extended to rear by 2002. Still, a 2017 study done across 17 cities showed said that "a mandatory-seat-belt law violates the right to bodily privacy and self-control" 25% of people using seat belts.

Direct Regulation



Control Information

TAXATION



Indirect Regulation



De-Regulation



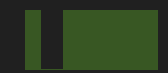




# Law & Health

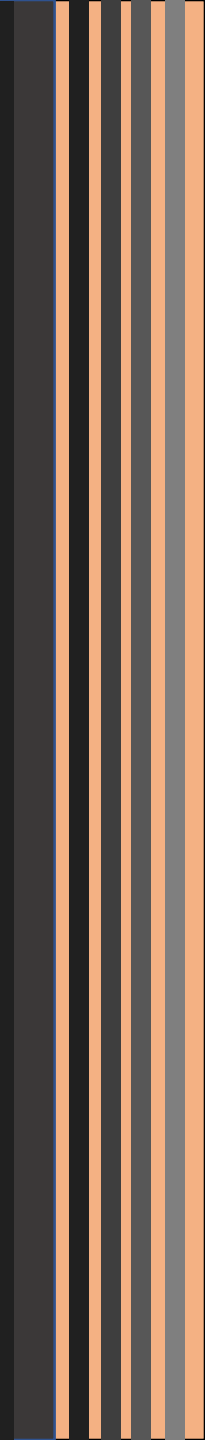


PUBLIC HEALTH



MENTAL HEALTH

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*The Lanterman-Petris-Short Act – Ronald Reagan (1967)*

Welfare and Institutions Code 5150

**72 HOURS**

## NGRI / GBMI

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*OVERUSED 1/0.25*  
*Limited to criminal cases*  
*No risk to NGRI claim – 22%*  
*Jail free card*

## Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, 2016

*H. R. 2646*

**Strengthen community response systems**

*Training to law enforcement, correction officers and first responders*

**Support Mental health workforce**

**Extend Garrett Lee Memorial Act**

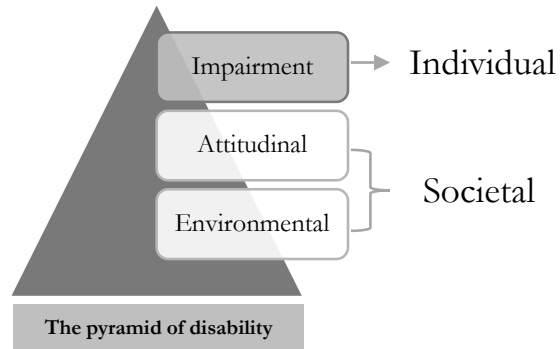
*Suicide prevention; Awareness of mental health & substance use*

**Integration of physical & Mental health**

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# UNCRPD



## United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability

- Charity-based to Rights-based
- India ratified in 2008
- GOI drafter a number of bills
  - Right of Persons with Disabilities, 2014
  - Mental Health Care Bill, 2013
  - Mental Health Care Bill, 2016
    - **DECRIMINALIZED SUICIDE**
  - Mental Health Care Act, 2017



*Interdisciplinarity of Public health*

*Interconnectedness between  
socio-economic wellbeing & health outcome*

*Public Health & Law*

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*Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten*  
- B F Skinner







THANK  
YOU



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