Facets of Public Health in Europe

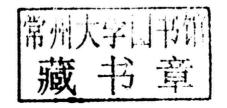
Edited by Bernd Rechel and Martin McKee



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Facets of Public Health in Europe



























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Foreword I

Governments across Europe are increasingly recognizing the need to strengthen essential public health functions so as to maximize their contribution to health, wealth, and societal well-being. This book brings together the most up-to-date evidence on public health practice in Europe, identifies areas where improvements are most urgently needed, and shows how these can be achieved. Leading experts throughout Europe address a broad range of topics, including health monitoring, health protection, healthcare, public health leadership and public health research. The chapters provide valuable insight for researchers and policy-makers seeking to understand the current situation and to identify future directions for public health.

A number of cross-cutting themes emerge from this volume. One is the importance of intersectoral working. The health sector can only address some of the determinants of health, and action by all sectors is required to improve the health of populations. As the contributions to this volume highlight, there are a number of strategies that can be used to achieve this aim, such as coalition-building across sectors, identifying shared objectives, and creating intersectoral governance structures.

Another key finding permeating this volume is the existence of wide inequalities between and within countries in Europe. Tackling these inequalities is of paramount importance for public health.

While this book makes an important contribution to our understanding of the state of public health in Europe, it also highlights an emerging research agenda. We still know too little about what public health policies and interventions are being implemented where and even less about which are most effective. Filling

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these knowledge gaps will be important for stepping up efforts to improve public health. This volume provides a fascinating account of how far we have come and provides some essential signposts of where we might go next.

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