

FOURTH EDITION

Community Health Nursing

Concepts and Practice

Barbara Walton Spradley
Judith Ann Allender



Lippincott

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Barbara Walton Spradley, RN, MN

Associate Professor
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Judith Ann Allender, RN, C, EdD

Associate Professor
Department of Nursing
School of Health and Social Work
California State University
Fresno, California



Lippincott

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Fourth Edition

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To our husbands, Neil and Gil, with love and thanks

Contributors

.....

Dorothy Brockopp, PhD, RN

Nurse Researcher
Department of Nursing
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

CHAPTER 26 Research in Community Health Nursing

Kathy Karsting, RN, MPH

Director of Nursing
Northeast Colorado Health Department
Sterling, Colorado

*CHAPTER 23 Protecting Community Health Through
Control of Communicable Diseases*

Terry Miller, MSN, PHN, PhD

Associate Dean
College of Applied Sciences and Arts
California State University, San Jose
San Jose, California

*CHAPTER 28 Health Policy, Politics, and
Community Health Advocacy*

Contributors to Previous Editions

.....

Sara T. Fry, RN, PhD

Michele Hadeka, RN, MS

Laura N. Garris, BA

Pamela Thul-Immler, RN, C, MPH

Elaine Richard, RN, MS

Reviewers

.....

H. Terri Brower, RN, FNP, EdD
Professor
School of Nursing
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

Sharon Davis Burt, MSN, PhD, PHN
Lecturer
School of Nursing
San Diego State University
San Diego, California

Imelda Clements, RN, PhD
Professor
Lansing School of Nursing
Bellarmine College
Louisville, Kentucky

Mary Louise Jewell, RN, PhD
Associate Professor and Chair
The Nursing Department
Immaculata College
Immaculata, Pennsylvania

Mary D. Jerrett, RN, EdD
Associate Professor
School of Nursing
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
Canada

Barbara Leonard, RN, PhD
Associate Professor
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

M. Peggy MacLeod, RN, MN
Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Canada

Melanie McEwan, RN, CS, PhD
Assistant Professor
School of Nursing
Baylor University
Dallas, Texas

Marilyn Morton, RN C, MPH, MS
Associate Professor
Department of Nursing
State University of New York College at
Plattsburgh
Plattsburgh, New York

Catherine Paradiso, RN, CCRN, MS
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Mobile Health Unit Coordinator
The Visiting Nurse Association
Home Care of Staten Island
Lake Avenue Office
Staten Island, New York

Olive Santavenere, RN, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Nursing
Southern Connecticut State University
Haven, Connecticut

Preface

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The fourth edition of *Community Health Nursing: Concepts and Practice* represents a continuing effort to capture the essence and clarify the practice of community health nursing. It is written to share the authors' enthusiasm for a field whose dynamic nature calls for nursing creativity, leadership, and innovation. The potential for community health nurses to protect and enhance the health of at-risk populations and to influence the quality of health services poses an exciting challenge.

As a basic text, the fourth edition, like the other three, is designed to give undergraduate nursing students a comprehensive introduction to the field of community health nursing. It is also designed to be a professional resource in order to enlarge the vision and enhance the impact of practicing community health nurses.

With an escalating demand for nurses to practice in the community, it is important that the meaning of community health nursing as a specialized field of nursing practice be clearly understood. The challenge for the nurse who wishes to practice community health nursing lies in incorporating public health principles with nursing knowledge and skills to offer preventive, health-promoting, and protective services that benefit aggregates. As beginning practitioners, nurses in this field may have limited impact on aggregates, but an aggregate orientation must be germane to their practice. At advanced levels of practice, with advanced preparation in public health, nurses can become specialists in public or community health.

The fourth edition of this text continues to use the term *community health nurse* to describe a practitioner in the community whose work incorporates public health philosophy, theory, and skills with an emphasis on aggregates.

Organization of the Text

In this edition the text is organized into five units. Unit titles as well as most chapter titles have been reworded to include more descriptive language and provide greater continuity for the reader.

Unit I, Understanding the Foundations for Community Health Nursing Practice, introduces the student to the conceptual and historical bases for practice in this field. Eight chapters comprise this unit providing the background of community and health (Chapter 1), the structure and function of community health services (Chapter 2), and health care

(Chapter 3), as the context in which to understand the nature of community health nursing (Chapter 4), and its roles and settings for practice (Chapter 5). The unit ends with three chapters on foundational topics that influence community health nursing practice: health and safety issues in the environment (Chapter 6), cultural influences on health (Chapter 7), and values and ethical decision making in community health nursing (Chapter 8).

Unit II, Applying the Tools of Community Health Nursing Practice, provides the student with an understanding of the tools needed for practice in this field and how to use them. The unit opens with two chapters emphasizing the aggregate approach: how to assess and intervene with communities as clients (Chapter 9) and how to work with populations and groups (Chapter 10). The remaining five chapters describe specific tools: the nursing process applied to aggregates (Chapter 11), epidemiological assessment (Chapter 12), communication and collaboration in community health (Chapter 13), educational interventions to promote community health (Chapter 14) and crisis prevention and intervention in the community (Chapter 15).

Unit III, Promoting and Protecting the Health of Families, is new and provides the student with background on theoretical bases for promoting family health (Chapter 16), and nursing assessment and practice with families (Chapter 17). These chapters were organized under different units in previous editions. While nurses work with individual families in the community, this text also supports the need to view clusters of families as aggregates for community health nursing intervention.

Unit IV, Promoting and Protecting the Health of Populations, helps students to understand the needs of and how to intervene with specific population groups. The first four chapters in this unit emphasize promoting and protecting the health of populations in each major life cycle stage: maternal, prenatal, and newborn populations (Chapter 18), Toddler, preschool, school age, and adolescent populations (Chapter 19), adults and the working population (Chapter 20), and the elderly population (Chapter 21). The remaining three chapters focus on specific at-risk groups: those needing home care (Chapter 22), those at-risk for communicable diseases (Chapter 23), and those who are vulnerable because of socioeconomic, cultural, or behavioral factors (Chapter 24). These last two chapters are entirely new in the fourth edition.

Unit V, Expanding the Community Health Nurse's Influence, emphasizes for students the ways in which community health nurses can influence the health care system. The opening chapter (Chapter 25) describes leadership, power, and how nurses can effect change in community health. Next, the need for research in community health nursing (Chapter 26) is stressed with examples of nursing research and discussion of practicing nurses' involvement in and use of research. Promoting quality in health services is the focus of Chapter 27. The text concludes with a clearly presented overview (Chapter 28) of the political process, how health policy is developed, and how the nurse can be involved as an advocate for the health of the community.

New Chapters

To keep abreast of changes in health needs, services, and financing, this edition introduces new topics and expands on many others. Four new chapters have been added. A new chapter on health economics (Chapter 3) incorporates earlier material on health care financing with extensive discussion of the issues and concepts involved in health care reform. Another new chapter, Chapter 13, expands earlier content to emphasize effective communication and collaborative relationships in community health. An entirely new

chapter, Chapter 23, deals with communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis, that pose serious threats to public health. The fourth, Chapter 24, is also an entirely new chapter that focuses on at-risk populations. This chapter provides a model for understanding the causes of vulnerability and discusses needs and interventions with three specific at-risk populations: homeless persons, substance abusers, and the mentally ill and disabled. The remaining chapters have all been revised, updated, and in some cases expanded to reflect the most recent information on issues affecting community health and the practice of community health nursing.

Key Features

The fourth edition of *Community Health Nursing: Concepts and Practice* includes key features from previous editions as well as new features.

Features continued from previous editions include:

- **An emphasis on aggregate-level nursing** and the community health nurse's opportunity and responsibility to serve not only individuals and families but also to promote and protect the health of communities and populations.
- **An emphasis on health promotion, health protection, and illness prevention.** This, in addition to the aggregate emphasis, reflects the view set forth in this text that community health nursing is the amalgamation of nursing science with public health science. Public health philosophy, values, knowledge, and skills are an essential part of community health nursing practice.
- **A balance of theory with application to nursing practice.** The fourth edition continues the presentation of theoretical and conceptual knowledge to provide students with an understanding of human needs and a rationale for nursing actions. At the same time the text presents practical information on how the nurse can use theory to undergird practice.
- **A summary of highlights** at the end of each chapter provides students with an overview of material covered and serves as a review for study.
- **References and Selected Readings** at the end of each chapter provide students with classic sources, current research, and a broad base of authoritative information for furthering knowledge on the chapter's subject matter.
- **A student-friendly writing style** has been a hallmark of this text since the first edition. Topics are expressed and concepts explained to enhance students' understanding and capture their interest. Writing style remains consistent throughout the text (including contributed chapters) to promote an uninterrupted flow of ideas for students' learning.

Features new to this edition include:

- **Learning Objectives and Key Terms** sharpen students' focus and provide a guide for learning the chapter content.
- **Critical Thinking Activities** at the close of each chapter are designed to challenge students, promote critical thinking skills, and encourage their active involvement in solving community health problems.
- **Recurring Boxed Displays** throughout the text highlight important content and create points of interest for student learning. The recurring displays are:
 - **Research Boxes** describe a nursing research study related to the chapter subject matter.

- **Issues Boxes** explore issues affecting community health nursing practice.
- **Levels of Prevention Boxes** address a chapter topic and describe nursing actions at each of the three levels of prevention.
- **World Watch Boxes** emphasize an international perspective on chapter topics.
- **New Photographs and Art** have been added throughout the text to clarify important concepts and enhance students' interest in and understanding of material.
- **Glossary and Appendices** provide definitions of all key terms highlighted throughout the text plus other important resources for student learning and community health nursing practice.

Barabara Walton Spradley, RN, MN

Judith Ann Allender, RN, C, EdD

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Three individuals have made important new contributions to this fourth edition. Kathy Karsting wrote most of the new chapter on communicable diseases. Dorothy Brockopp and Terry Miller made substantial revisions in their respective chapters on community health nursing research and on politics, policy, and community health advocacy. We are grateful to each of them.

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