

1. **The modern concepts of health derive from what two related yet different disciplines? Describe what each do.**

The modern concept of health (holistic wellbeing) derives from both public health and medicine. Public health advocates for the health of the population as a whole, and thinks in epidemiological terms. Medicine, on the other hand, concerns itself with the health of the individual, and works in terms of healing physical illnesses and disabilities.

2. **Explain what the modern concept of health is.**

Health is not just absence of disease or infirmity, but the state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing (WHO). As such, global health is much broader than simply medical intervention: it is a holistic approach to public and individual health that necessitates both ascertaining and resolving medical and social issues in an ethical and culturally sensitive manner.

3. **When was the modern concept of human rights introduced globally?**

The modern concept of human rights was introduced globally by the UN in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This declaration codified the ethical progress of humanity from antiquity through WWII. It declared that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

4. **What are some fundamental characteristics of modern human rights.**

Human rights are the rights of individuals. They are innate to people (because of their humanity), equal for all humans, and universal (applicable everywhere).

5. **What are three important linkages between health and human rights? In your own words what does each entail?**

1) Health policies, programs, and practices intersect with human rights. This entails working with governments (and global governance, collectively) to enact policies that enable people to access quality health care and allow NGOs and international health organizations to work in needy areas, as well as ensuring their ethical treatment of patients.

2) Violations of rights have important health effects. When rights and trust are violated, adverse medical outcomes will follow. While these violations have been often overlooked, it is the responsibility of organizations and governments to assess and eliminate these lapses wherever they are found. In addition, it may be noted that health has been consistently linked to social standing in studies around the world.

3) Promotion and protection of health are inextricably linked to promotion and protection of human rights and dignity. While the predominant perspective in global health for a long time was that public health demanded primarily medical interventions and sanitation awareness, this current interpretation has widened to include cultural and human rights aspects too. It is now known that to effectively improve health in a given area, human rights must be protected and social improvements must come, in addition to medical interventions. The impetus is on health organizations to collaborate with governments to promote equity (decreasing inequality) as part of their work of improving public health.