COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS

JIMMY OSURET
MaKSPH
MPH
20 June, 2016

Definition of a Community

- A cluster of people with at least one common characteristic (geographic location, occupation, ethnicity, housing condition etc.)
- A group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society

Components of a Community

- A community is a whole entity that functions because of the interdependence of its parts or subsystems.

subsystems

- Physical environment/housing
- Education
- Safety and transportation
- Politics and government
- Health and social services
- Communication
- Economics
- recreation

Subsystems of the community/HOUSING

- What type of housing facilities are there in the community?

- Are there enough housing facilities available?

- Are there housing laws/regulations governing the people?

- What are these laws?

Subsystems of the community/EDUCATION

- These include laws, regulations, facilities, activities affecting education, teacher student ratios, distribution of schools, what informal educational facilities & activities exist in the community

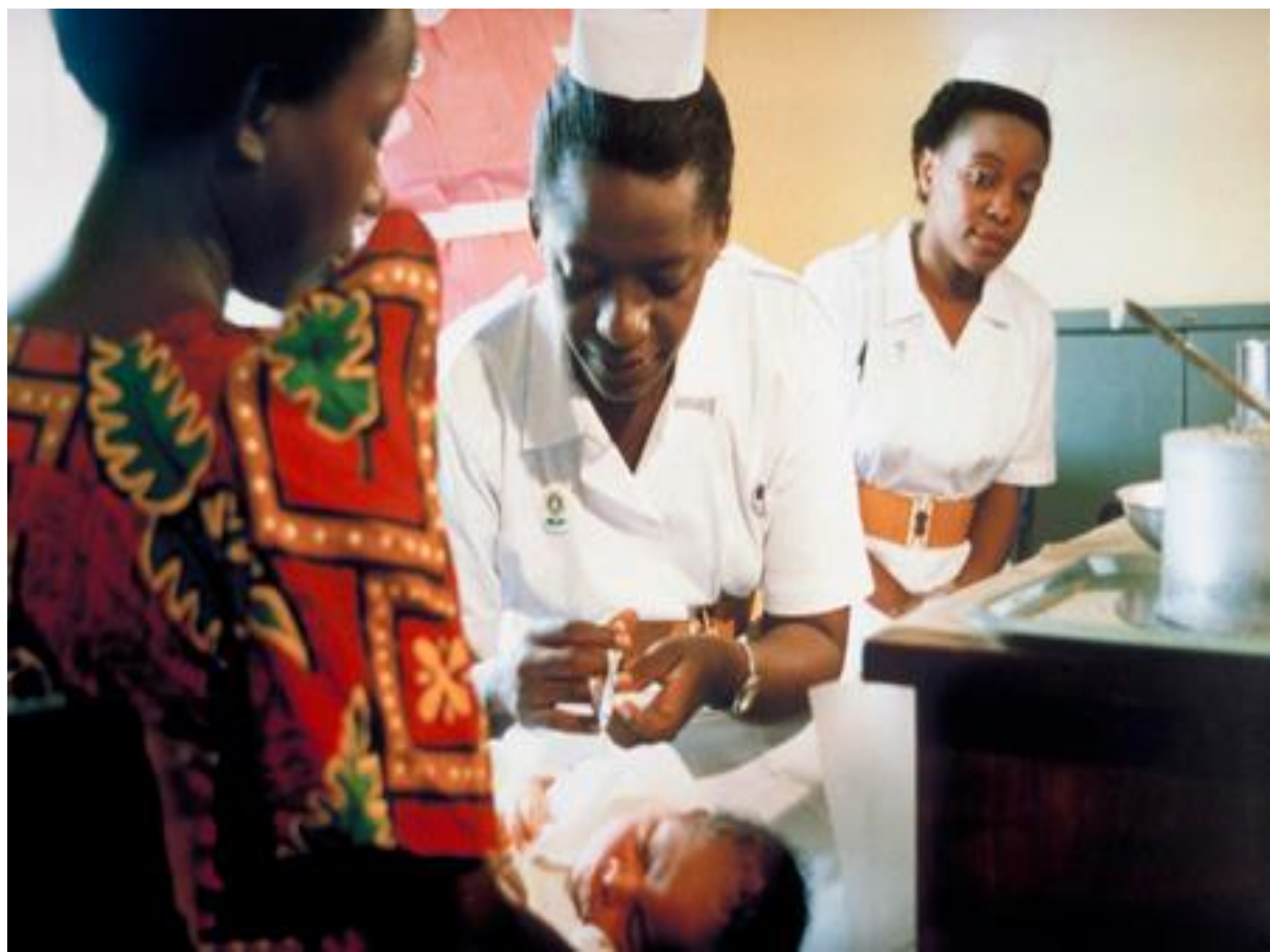# Subsystems of the community/Safety and transportation

- Fire protection facilities and fire prevention activities.

- Type of transport systems

Subsystems of the community/politics and government

- Political structures present in the community, decision-making process/pattern leadership styles observed etc.

Subsystem of the community/Health

- Health facilities & activities distribution, utilization, ratio of providers to clients served; priorities in health, programs developed

Subsystems of the community/communication

- Systems, types of communication, be it formal or informal
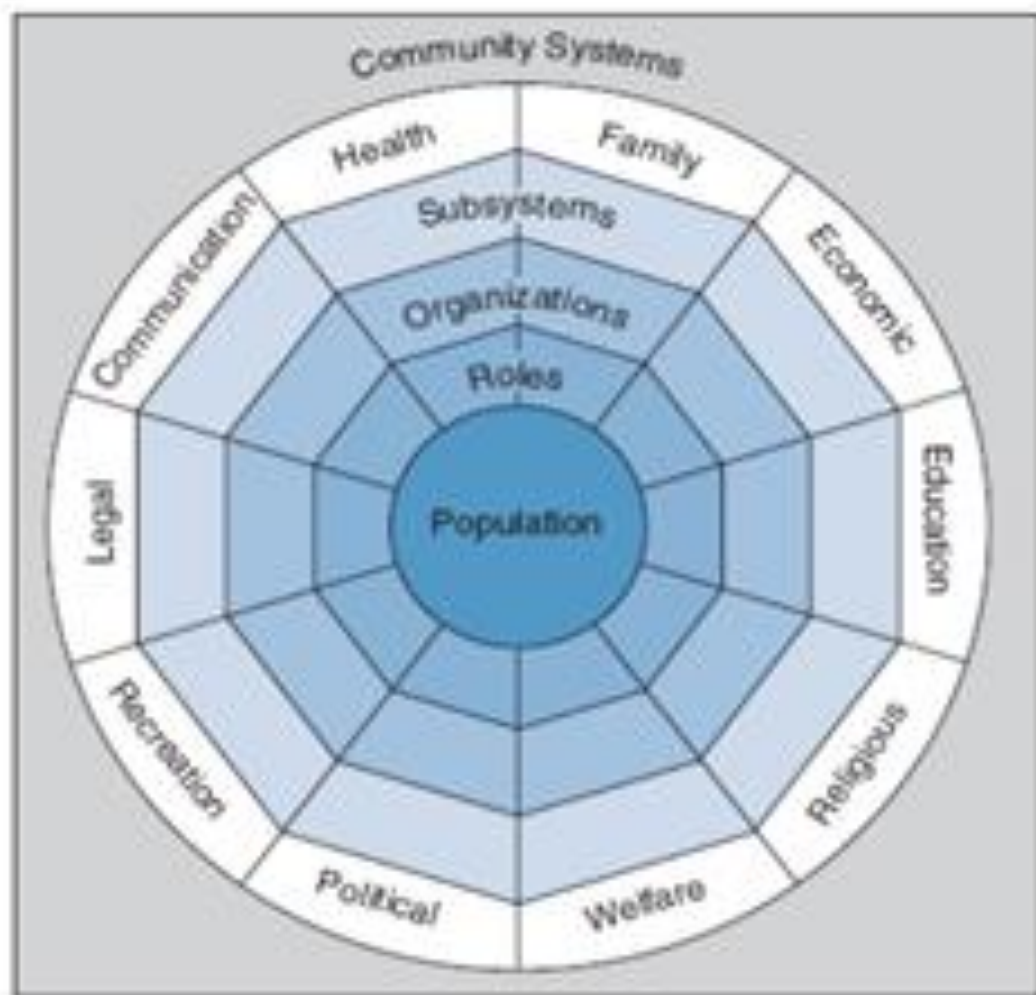
Subsystems of the community/Economic

- Occupation, types of economic activities, income etc.

Subsystems of the community/Recreation

- Recreational activities/facilities; types; consumers, appropriateness to consumers etc.

Community systems

Community diagnosis definition

- Community diagnosis is a comprehensive assessment of health status of the community in relation to its psychosocial, physical and biological environment.

definition

- Community diagnosis generally refers to the identification and quantification of health problems in a community as a whole in terms of mortality and morbidity rates and ratios, and identification of their correlates for the purpose of defining those at risk or those in need of health care.

Purpose of community diagnosis

- Evaluate existing problems, determine available health resources, services and systems of care in order to set priorities for planning, implementing and evaluating health action, by and for the community.
- It helps to find the common problems or diseases, which are troublesome to the people and are easily preventable in the community.
- Community diagnosis can be a pioneer step for betterment of rural community health.
- It is a tool to disclose the hidden problems that are not visible to the community people but are being affected by them.

Purpose of community diagnosis continued

- It helps to access the group of underprivileged people who are unable to use the available facilities due to poverty, prevailing discriminations or other reasons.
- It helps to find the real problems of the community people which might not have perceived by them as problems.
- Assess attitudes toward community health services and issues and hence It helps to impart knowledge and attitudes to turnover people's problems towards the light of solution.
- Identify priorities, establish goals, and determine courses of action to improve the health status of the community
- Establish an epidemiologic baseline for measuring improvement over time.

Community assessment methods

Analysis of health event: involves identification and characterization

Identification of the health event: collect data qualitatively and quantitatively

Characterization and prioritization: rank based on frequency; magnitude

Vulnerability analysis: individuals, household, community using simple ranking scores: determine factors responsible for vulnerability

Capacity analysis: existing capabilities

Setting priorities and translating priorities into action plan: based on information gathered –prevention , mitigation and preparedness

Description of a community problem (for research; development; business)

- Is there a problem statement? Does it cover the following cardinal questions?

- What is the problem

- What is the magnitude of the problem?

- What are the key issues/areas of the concern need to be addressed

- How will information generated be used to change policy and practice.