



Minnesota Department of Health
Office of Public Health Practice
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Public Health Curriculum Idea - *Public Health Newspaper Search*

Begin by handing out sections of the Sunday newspaper to your students. Ask them to work in pairs to find articles that talk about public health issues. Give them about 10 minutes to identify and circle those issues. Then ask students to share what they found.

Hand out the list of public health goals for Minnesota (see below). Describe the range of topics that public health addresses. Then ask students to go back to their papers and identify public health issues. Ask them to share what they learn. Often students will say “everything” is public health.

Explain that while public health covers many topics, the focus of public health is really prevention. The take home point is, when public health work is successful, they will be less likely to find the articles in the paper.

Healthy Minnesotans Public Health Improvement Goals 2004

Note: These goals are occasionally updated. For the most current list of goals please visit their website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/phg/goals.html>.

- Goal 1: Reduce the behavioral risks that are primary contributors to morbidity and mortality.
- Goal 2: Improve birth outcomes and early childhood development.
- Goal 3: Reduce unintended pregnancies.
- Goal 4: Promote health for all children, adolescents and their families.
- Goal 5: Promote, protect and improve mental health.
- Goal 6: Promote a violence-free society.
- Goal 7: Reduce the behavioral and environmental health risks that are primary contributors to unintentional injury.
- Goal 8: Improve the outcomes of medical emergencies.
- Goal 9: Reduce infectious disease.
- Goal 10: Promote the well-being of the elderly, those with disability, disease and/or chronic illness.

Downloaded from Pathways to a Public Health Career website
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/pathways>

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- Goal 11: Reduce exposure to environmental health hazards.
- Goal 12: Promote early detection and improved management of non-infectious disease and chronic conditions.
- Goal 13: Promote optimal oral health for all Minnesotans.
- Goal 14: Reduce work-related injury and illness.
- Goal 15: Assure access to and improve the quality of health services.
- Goal 16: Ensure an effective state and local government public health system.
- Goal 17: Eliminate the disparities in health outcomes and the health profile of populations of color.
- Goal 18: Foster the understanding and promotion of social conditions that support health.