

Public Health Education in Japan Past, Now, and Future



Teikyo University
Graduate School of Public Health

Yoshiharu Fukuda

Who is Public Health Professionals in Japan?

- **Governments (national and local):** Public health nurses, public health doctors, etc.
- **Universities and academia:** Faculty staffs and researchers.
- **Occupational health:** Occupational physicians, nurse, industrial hygienists, etc.
- **Others:** In biostatistics, epidemiology, international health, NGO, private sectors, etc.

Where have PH professionals been educated?

- Health professional schools (medical, nursing, etc)
- Schools for public health nurses (local governmental)
- Schools of public health in other countries, mainly USA and UK
- Others: National Institute of Public Health, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, etc.

Recently, Schools of Public Health in Japan

Conservative Systems of Public Health Education in Japan

(1) One discipline in health professional education

- Health professionals are required to learn public health in schools (medical, nursing, etc).
- The schools including graduate schools have departments and faculty staffs related public health.
- Medical schools (universities) have important roles for public health education and research.

Example: Medical school/graduate school of medicine

Anatomy

Internal Medicine

Physiology

Surgery

Public Health

Ophthalmology

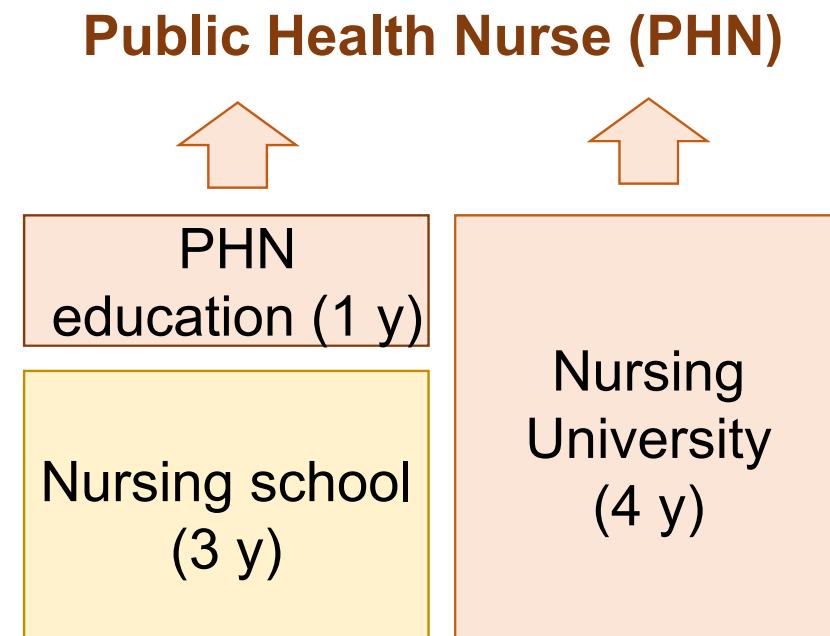
•
•
•

•
•
•

Conservative Systems of Public Health Education in Japan

(2) Education of “public” health professional

- Public health nurses (PHN) as governmental health professional are educated traditionally by public schools.
- PHN have been important resources to implement various national health programs all over the country.



Current Public Health Education

Can

- Educate basic public health knowledge to all health professionals
- Secure public health professionals, especially PHN, to implement national public health policies

Can't

- Educate highly competent professionals to address to complicated public health problems
- Facilitate non-health professionals to involve in public health

Recent Trends in PH Education in Japan

- **School of Public Health (SPH)**

From 2000, five SPHs were established.

Four schools (Kyoto, Kyushu, Tokyo and Teikyo Univ) were accredited by the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA),
..... but not by CEPH.



- **Increase of MPH programs**

Some graduate schools, mainly medical universities, have courses for master of public health (MPH).

Challenges to the Future

- Increase of public health schools and programs
- Improve and assure quality of the schools and programs to the international standards
- Re-arrange and organize education systems with conservative PH educations
- Expand markets of public health education and professionals

The SPHs and the schools with MPH programs have established an association to tackle these challenges.