

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY A

“PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH”?



SWIPE TO LEARN MORE



LOOK BEYOND THE INDIVIDUAL



A public health approach asks:



What happened to this person?

It also asks:



**What conditions allowed
this harm to happen?**



This includes housing instability, poverty, discrimination, unsafe workplaces, and limited access to services.

PRIORITIZE PREVENTION



**We should not wait until someone is harmed.
Prevention can include:**



Safe & Stable Housing

A secure place to live reduces vulnerability.



Living Wages & Workplace Protections

Fair pay and safe workplaces prevent exploitation.



Accessible Healthcare

People need physical and mental healthcare.



Youth & Family Support

Early support can prevent harm and crisis.



Education & Strong Social Services

Communities need information and trusted services.

ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES

LEARNING TIPS



**Harm does not happen in isolation.
People may face greater risks because of:**

01

Poverty & Economic Insecurity

Limited income can increase dependence and reduce available choices.

02

Immigration-Related Fears

Fear of authorities may prevent people from seeking help.

03

Racism & Discrimination

Bias can limit access to jobs, housing, and services.

04

Family or Community Violence

Past or ongoing violence can increase vulnerability to harm.

05

Housing Instability

Unsafe or unstable housing can increase exposure to exploitation.

06

Lack of Trusted Support

Isolation can make it harder to recognize harm or seek assistance.



**A public health approach works
to change these conditions.**

PROVIDE SUPPORT, NOT PUNISHMENT



People experiencing harm may need:



Safety Planning

Support identifying risks, choices, and safer next steps.



Healthcare and Counseling

Accessible physical, mental health, and trauma support.



Legal Assistance

Help understanding rights, protections, and available options.



Housing and Financial Support

Resources that increase stability and reduce dependence.



Culturally Responsive Services

Support that respects language, culture, identity, and experience.



Help Without Fear of Arrest or Punishment

Services should not depend on criminalization or law enforcement involvement.



**Support should be voluntary,
confidential, and trauma-informed.**

USE DATA RESPONSIBLY



Data can help communities:



**Identify gaps
in services**



**Understand who is
being overlooked**



**Direct resources where
they are needed**



**Measure whether
programs are working**



**Data should protect privacy
and avoid further harm.**

CENTER IMPACTED COMMUNITIES



Policies work better when they are shaped by people directly affected.

Listen First

Listen to survivors and community members about what they need.

Value Expertise

Pay people for their lived experience and community knowledge.



Build on Strengths

Build on community strengths and avoid one-size-fits-all responses.

Share Decision-Making

Include directly impacted people in planning, policy, and solutions.

PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

Prevent Before Crisis

Address risks early, before harm occurs.



Support, Don't Punish

Provide voluntary, confidential, trauma-informed help.



Invest in Communities

Fund trusted, community-based services and solutions.



Address Harmful Systems

Change policies and conditions that create vulnerability.



Build Long-Term Safety

Direct resources toward stability, health, and well-being.



Public safety grows when communities have what they need to thrive.

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