Olomaekugbe Blessing, G. Demydenko

Public Health Ethics

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention (Association of Schools of Public Health USA).

As a duty, Public health Ethics perform the following:

* Producing benefits, often but not exclusively health benefits, and often interpreted in health policy as a utilitarian commitment to maximizing aggregate health benefits
* Preventing harms, often health harms, such as preventable morbidity and premature death
* Distributing health benefits fairly, or distributive justice (fair distribution of social goods)
* Procedural justice (fair process), participation, and transparency
* Respecting individual autonomy and liberty of action
* Respecting and fulfilling universal human rights
* Respecting privacy and confidentiality
* Protecting non-dominant subgroups from marginalization and stigmatization
* Building and maintaining trust

Health Participation has long been a basic principle of public health. Participatory processes are defended on grounds that the research and action that result will be more effective, fulfil an obligation of procedural justice, and produce more equitable outcomes. They may also protect non-dominant communities from health interventions that further marginalize and stigmatize them and may go some distance in cultivating trust between research institutions and community partners.