Sample Searches in Public Health

Scenario: A new nurse working as a community health educator is interested in learning more about people’s knowledge of and attitudes toward HPV.

Search: (Health Knowledge OR Health Attitudes) AND Human Papillomavirus

Results: Journal articles and dissertations exploring what people know and what they believe about HPV infection and vaccines. Populations addressed include college students, rural and urban women, and different ethnic and cultural groups.

Scenario: A medical student studying a recent measles outbreak is investigating why people decline vaccinations.

Search: Immunization AND Risk Perception

Results: Articles exploring the beliefs a variety of populations hold regarding immunizations. Includes studies looking at the attitudes of health care workers and parents, and articles focused on the H1N1 vaccine.

Scenario: A public health nurse has been asked by the director of a local community center to help develop a program to promote the benefits of basic cleanliness and personal care.

Search: Hygiene AND Health Promotion

Results: Articles evaluating a variety of educational approaches to promoting better hygiene. Includes studies looking at hand washing behaviors, oral health and more.
## Selected Search Terms

The search terms provided here are just a few excerpts from the many relevant terms in PsycINFO’s thesaurus. If you aren’t sure how to use these terms (called Subject Terms, Subject Headings, or Index Terms depending on your interface), check with your librarian or consult the PsycINFO Quick Reference Guide you may also have received at the same time as this handout.

### Global Health
- Epidemics
- Hygiene
- Immunization
- Infectious Disorders
- Pandemics

### Health Care Policy
- Health Care Costs
- Health Care Economics
- Health Care Delivery
- Health Care Reform
- Health Disparities

### Health Insurance
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Quality of Care
- Underinsured (Health Insurance)
- Uninsured (Health Insurance)

### Health Behavior
- Health Attitudes
- Health Care Seeking Behavior
- Health Care Utilization
- Health Knowledge
- Health Literacy
- Health Service Needs
- Treatment Barriers

### Public Health Services
- Community Services
- Emergency Services
- Health Education
- Health Promotion
- Health Screening
- Mental Health Programs
- Public Health Service Nurses
- Public Service Announcements

### Maternal & Child Health
- Childhood Development
- Infant Development
- Pregnancy Outcomes
- Prenatal Care
- Reproductive Health

### Nutrition & Exercise
- Aerobic Exercise
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Failure to Thrive
- Food Intake
- Hunger
- Nutritional Deficiencies
- Obesity
- Physical Fitness
- Starvation
- Underweight
- Weight Control

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