



Health 2015

public health programme

■ MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH



Brochures 2001:8eng

Health 2015 public health programme

The Government adopted in May 2001 a Resolution on the Health 2015 public health programme outlining targets for Finland's health policy for the next fifteen years. Its main focus is on health promotion. The foundation for the programme is provided by the Health for All programme of the World Health Organization, which was revised in 1998. The present programme is a continuation of the Finnish national Health for All 2000 strategy, and has been prepared by the Public Health Committee set up by the Government. This process involved consultation with specialists, analyses, seminars and group work.

Many actors contribute to enhancing public health

Health 2015 is a co-operation programme that aims at health promotion in all constituent parts of society. It is meant not only for health care but also for other sectors of government, since public health is largely determined by factors outside health care, such as lifestyle, environment, quality of products and other factors either beneficial or deleterious to the health of the community. The concepts 'settings of everyday life' and 'course of life' play a key role in the programme. Local decisions in homes, daycare centres, educational institutions, workplaces, services and transport may all either further or detract from the potential for good health. Owing to their autonomy and extensive powers, the local authorities have good potential to achieve the targets of the programme. The choices and actions of individuals, families and groups are crucial for health.

Targets for different age groups

- 1. Child wellbeing and health to increase, and symptoms and illness caused by insecurity to decrease appreciably.*
- 2. Smoking by young people to decrease, to less than 15% among those aged 16-18; health problems associated with alcohol and drug use among the young to be dealt with appropriately and will not exceed the level of the early '90s.*
- 3. Accidental and violent death among young adult males will be cut by a third from the level of the late '90s.*
- 4. Working and functional capacity among people of working age and working conditions to improve, helping people to cope longer in working life; retirement to be about three years later than in 2000.*
- 5. Average functional capacity among people over 75 to continue to improve as it has for the last 20 years.*

Targets for everyone

- 6. Finns should expect to remain healthy for an average of two years longer than in 2000.*
- 7. Finns' satisfaction with health service availability and functioning of health services, and their subjective healthiness and experiences of environmental impacts on personal health at least to remain at the present level.*
- 8. In implementing these targets, another aim will be to reduce inequality and increase the welfare and relative status of those population groups in the weakest position. The objective will then be to reduce differences in mortality between the genders, groups with different educational backgrounds, and different vocational groupings by a fifth.*

Common targets help to co-ordinate the actions

The programme presents eight targets for public health, which focus on major problems requiring concerted action by a number of bodies. They indicate the outcomes to be aimed at in different phases of life. In addition, there are 36 statements concerning the lines of action involving challenges and guidelines relating to citizens' everyday environments and actors in society.

Implementation and monitoring

The implementation and monitoring of the Health 2015 programme is co-ordinated by the Public Health Committee and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Other sectors of government and various bodies are taking part in implementing the targets in extensive partnership. The Committee has set up two sub-committees to support and promote the attainment of the targets of the programme: a horizontal sub-committee and a sub-committee for local action. These sub-committees will build entireties of the actions taken on the basis of the programme targets and lines of actions.

The Committee and its sub-committees are to monitor and assess the attainment of the targets and the effectiveness of the measures undertaken. Indicators will be selected or devised to monitor the attainment of the targets. How fully targets have been met will be assessed every fourth year in the Social and Health Report. The programme is to be taken into account in the steering of the administrative sector of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Activities of non-governmental organizations are supported by among other things funding projects furthering the targets of the programme through appropriations allocated for health promotion.

A precondition for attaining the targets is that all sectors and levels of government, the private sector and civil action must make the population's health a key principle guiding choices.

The Public Health Committee

The Public Health Committee is linked to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The Government appoints it upon the submission of the Ministry for a term of three years. The members of the Committee represent various branches of government, the municipal sector, the health service system, non-governmental and professional organisations, and health research.

The tasks of the Committee include monitoring the development of public health and the implementation of health policy, as well as developing the national health policy and building up health promotive co-operation with different sectors of administration, NGOs and other bodies. The chairman of the Committee is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Mr Markku Lehto. The Committee has a full-time general secretary, Senior Officer Taru Koivisto.

Further information

The Health 2015 public health programme has been published by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in Finnish (publication No. 2001:4), Swedish (2001:5) and English (2001:6). The Health 2015 programme has web-pages of its own, www.terveys2015.fi, where you can find more information about topical issues and the implementation of the programme. The publications are also available on the Internet pages.



Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Public Health Committee
PO Box 33, FIN-00023 Government
Finland

General Secretary of the Committee:
Ms Taru Koivisto, Senior Officer
Tel. +358 9 16001
E-mail: terveys2015@stm.vn.fi
Internet: www.terveys2015.fi

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