

**O.P.L.A.S.  
OPEN PROGRAM OF  
LEARNING AND ASSISTING  
STUDENTS.**

# **Introduction to Environmental Health**

10/20/2018

# Definition: 'Health ...'

- **'...is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'(WHO, 1948)**
- **'Health is only possible where resources are available to meet human needs and where the living and working environment is protected from life-threatening and health threatening pollutants, pathogens and physical hazards'(Who, 1992a)**

# Definition: 'Environment'

- '...[All] that which is external to individual human host. [It] can be divided into physical, biological, social cultural any or all of which can influence health status in populations.' (WHO, 1995)

# Definition: 'Environmental Health'

- **'...comprises those aspects of human health, including quality of life, that are determined by physical, biological, social and psychosocial factors in the environment. It also, refers to the theory and practice of assessing, correcting, controlling, and preventing those factors in the environment that can potentially affect adversely the health of present and future generations'**  
**(WHO, 1993a)**

# **Definition: 'Health Effect...'**

- '...is the specific damage to health that an environmental hazard can cause an individual person. Often the same hazard can cause a range of different effects of different severity.' (Yassi et al., 2001)**

# Interdependence

- Health depends on resources.
- Good health depends on accessibility to sustainable resources.
- Bad health results from inaccessibility to sustainable resources or exposure to a hazard.
- Sustainable resources and hazards exist in the environment.
- Therefore, quality of health depends on the environment

# Interdependent Environments

- A relational definition of environment is a function of scale, boundaries, spatial proximity and recipient populations
- When considering a global scale, focus is on the effect of an unbounded environment, e.g. air, on all populations anywhere

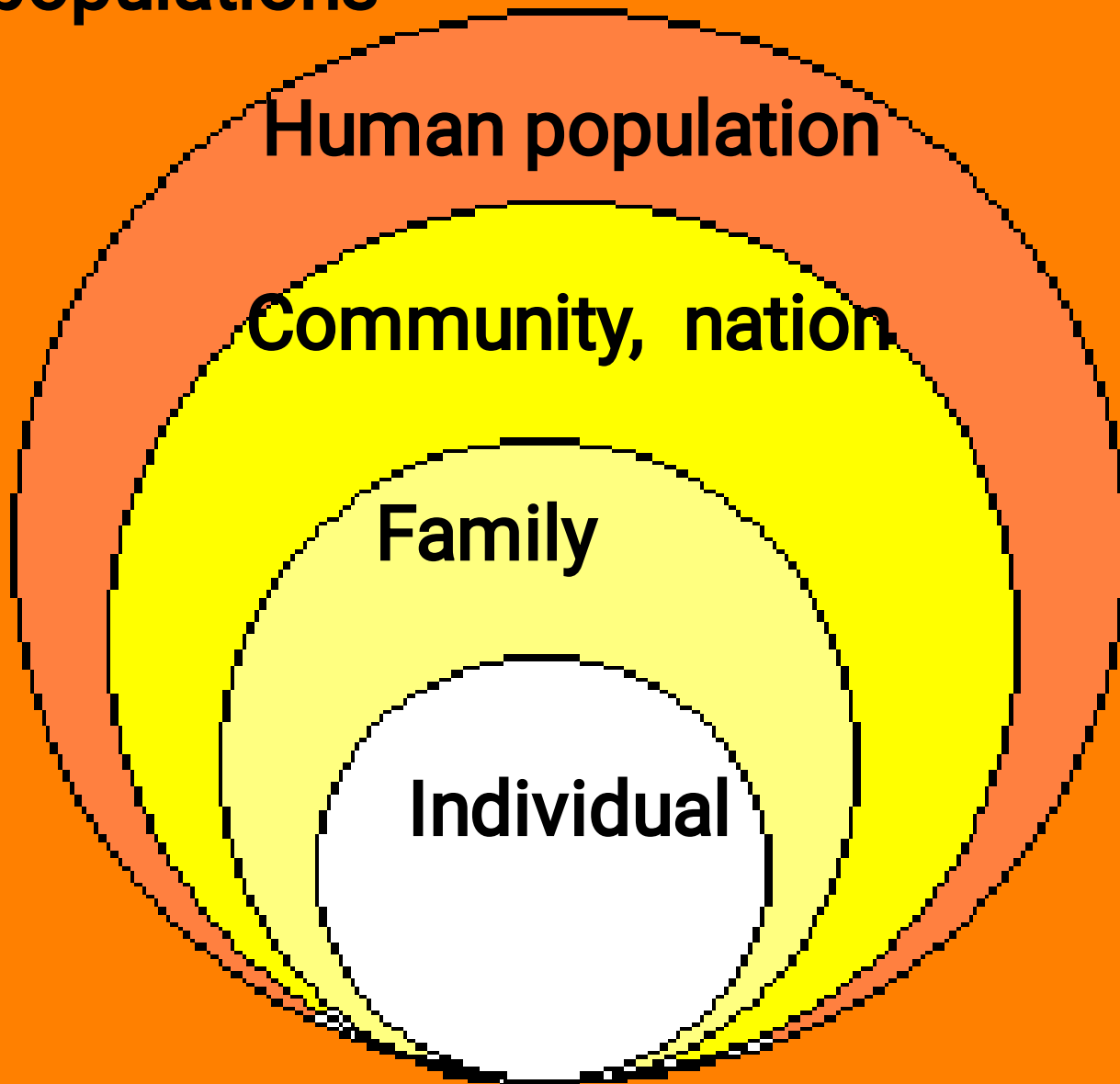


# Interdependent Environments

- **When considering local scale, focus is on effect of both a bounded and an unbounded environment, e.g. water and air, on a subpopulation closest to the exposure event**
- **The local scale is a subpart of the global scale**

# Population Perspective of Relations

All populations



Human population

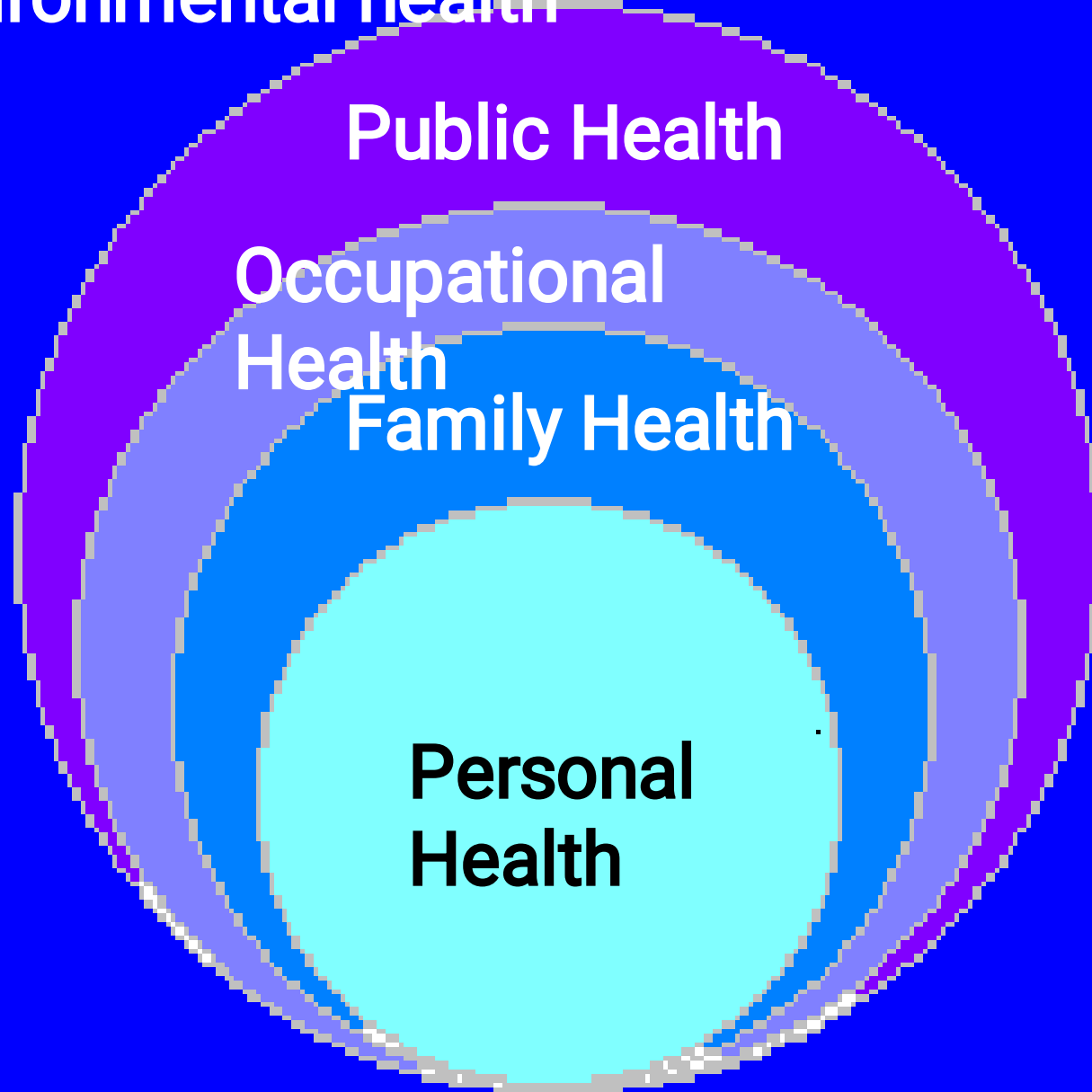
Community, nation

Family

Individual

# Health and Environment Perspective of Relations

Environmental health



Public Health

Occupational  
Health

Family Health

Personal  
Health