

09/27 Urbanization and Public Health

Health Environments

Natural vs. urban environments

How many hours are you outside each day?

Urbanization

1700: 90% of Americans live in towns < 5000

Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston

Immigration and urban growth in the 19th century

Boston

New York

New Orleans

Health of Cities

Substantial urban vs. rural disparities

Mortality increased with increasing immigration

Squalor: garbage, sewage, animals: only 20% take one bath per year

Epidemics: smallpox, measles, yellow fever, cholera

Epidemiology 101

Epidemics vs. endemic

Virulence

Disease Theories in the 19th century

Miasmatism vs. contagionism

Constitution

Morality and religion

Responding to Epidemics

Miasmatists: flee environment, or change environment: sanitation

Contagionists: quarantine, isolation, disinfection

Case: *Cholera Years*

Changing theories of disease: John Snow

Rise of effective government responses

Health and Environments: Hurricane Katrina