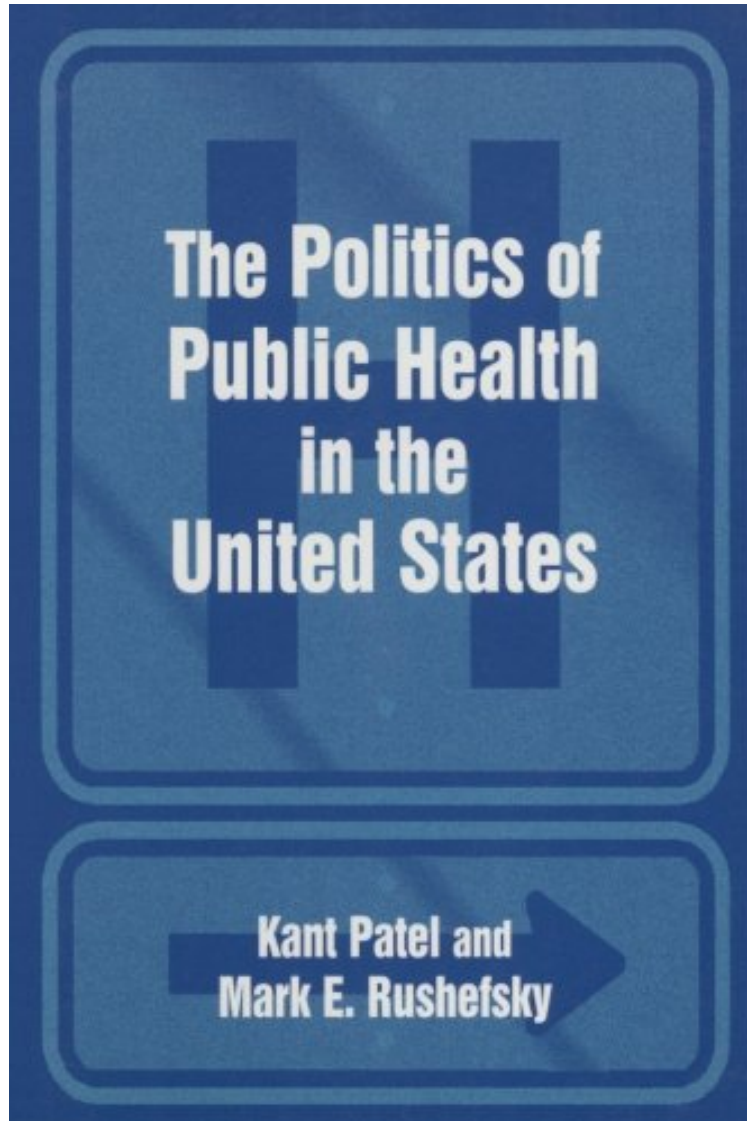


[Library ebook] The Politics of Public Health in the United States

The Politics of Public Health in the United States

Kant Patel, Mark E Rushefsky

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Kant Patel, Mark E Rushefsky : The Politics of Public Health in the United States before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics of Public Health in the United States:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. See their later bookBy doug kortyThis is pretty much of a textbook. If you are looking for more of a trade book or popular book, try their newer book,Health Care Politics and Policy in America. This book is fairly comprehensive and well done but is meant for college courses, not general reading.Midwest Independent Research, educational websites. Improving health, mwir-improvinghealth.blogspot.

There are book lists here. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. America's public healthcare system is unhealthy. By Robin Orłowski. Comparing America's public health infrastructure against that of other industrialized nations, this academic tome concludes why America has the paradox of spending the most on health care while also having the lowest life expectancy and highest infant mortality rates. Reserved for the elite, our health care system does very little (if anything) in this area. The two sources of this problem, the authors convincingly argue are money and politics. An early 1990's healthcare reform by the Clinton administration failed because the healthcare industry and their politicians convinced voters that 'bureaucrats' would then remove 'choice' from them---selectively omitting the ever-growing numbers of Americans who lacked that option without healthcare insurance. They make a very convincing argument that increased public health care spending actually is fiscally responsible as opposed to a 'big government handout'. With an emphasis on preventative healthcare, and self-responsible lifestyles, public health ultimately compliments America's reputation as the most economically conservative Western industrialized nation. Therefore, we cannot begin implementing public health programs in the country soon enough. Patel and Rushefsky also critique the public healthcare workers themselves who have (presumably attempting to play the 'model bureaucrat') avoided ALL involvement in political discussions about public health. A non-partisan civil service is an admirable goal, but when political entities ultimately fund your agency--and provide your paycheck---you need political savvy and activity. The 'neutral' public-sector worker simply cannot exist by the very nature of how the system itself needs to work. However, a flaw of the book is ironically the authors inability to consider how much government involvement in this area could actually be too much. They convincingly and authoritatively make the case that American health care is fundamentally political, but then veer from dispassionate scholarship into partisan advocacy. Personally agreeing on the need for healthcare system overhaul, I am also conscious that any entity will subsequently fight to protect it's own budget. Once established, it is rare that any agency will then petition to shrink itself simply because this is how public administration works.

Our public health system is primarily concerned with the promotion of health and the prevention of disease. But while everyone may agree with these goals in principle, in practice public health is a highly contentious policy arena. that is inevitably entangled with sensitive issues ranging from occupational safety and environmental hazards to health education, immunization, and treatment of addiction and sexually transmitted disease. Today however, concern for protecting the population against bio-terrorism and new epidemics such as SARS is tipping the balance back toward increased support for public health. This book focuses on the politics, policies, and methodologies of public health and the twenty-first century challenges to the public health system of the United States. It explores the system's relatively weak position in the American political culture, medical establishment, and legal system; scientific and privacy issues in public health; and the challenges posed by ecological risk and the looming threat of bio-terrorist attack. Each chapter includes study questions. The volume also includes a chronology of major laws and events in public health policy along with an extensive bibliography.

"Patel and Rushefsky's text does an excellent job in framing the history of public health policy in the United States and the politics behind it. It is a must-read for any public health student who needs a base for understanding the politics of public health and how we got where we are today. It also provides a challenge to public health professionals to get involved in the policy arena, in order to facilitate the needed attention and resources toward public health in the future. Well done."