

# Public Health and Medicine: The Role of Physicians in Society

Cynthia B. Morrow, MD; David B. Trinkle, MD; David W. Musick, PhD; Joalenn Tabor, BS

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

## Background

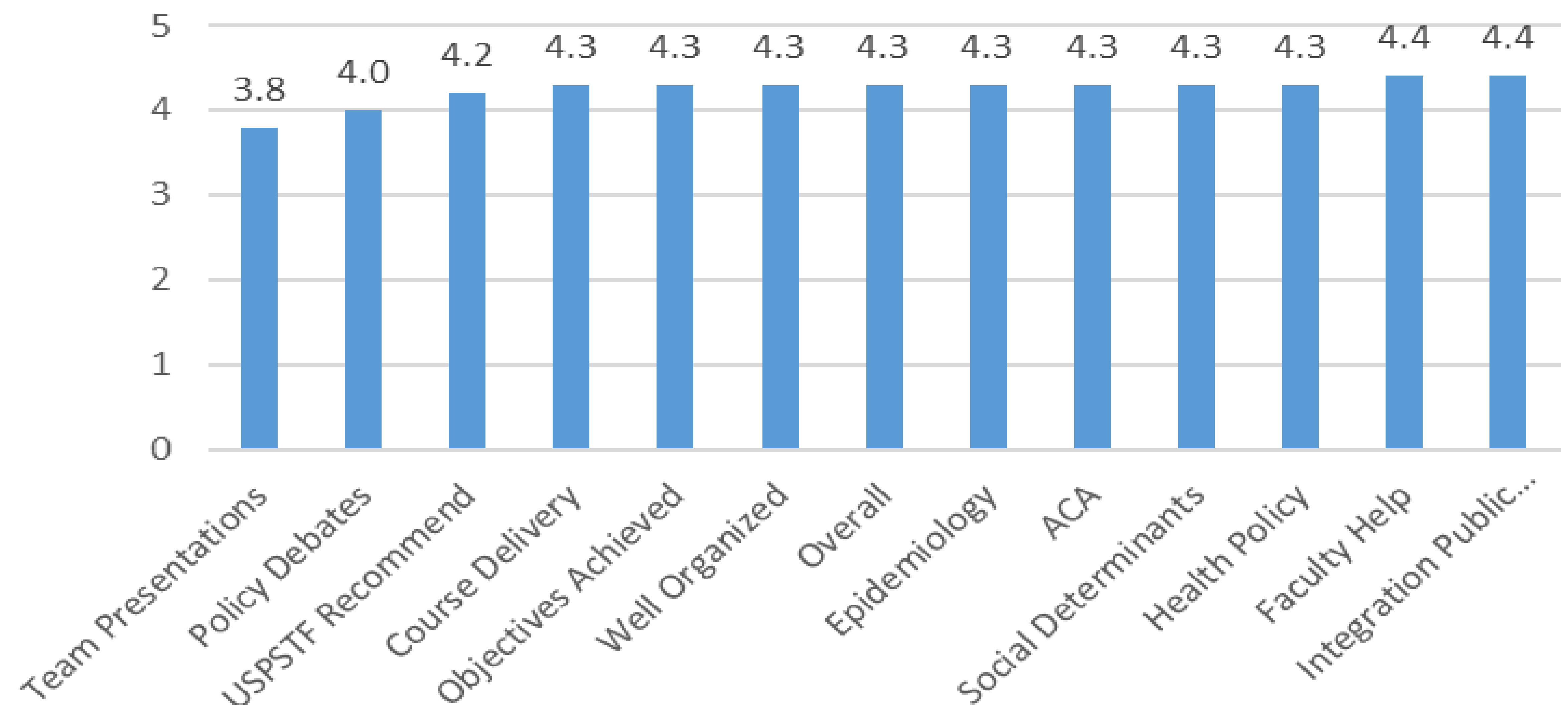
- Health system science (HSS) is the “third pillar” of medical education; but this has created a current gap in the medical school curriculum
- Medical students are often lacking in basic knowledge of public health and its relevance to clinical practice
- Public health and medicine must work together to achieve maximum levels of improvement in overall quality of care delivery, prevention of harm and effective public health interventions<sup>1</sup>

## Methods

- We implemented a revised six-week instructional block for 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical students featuring:
  - **Clinical case exercise:** opioid use as a public health crisis
  - **Simulated epidemiological public health outbreak investigation** involving Hepatitis C
  - **Team debates** on three public health issues chosen by the class
  - **Reading key articles** pertaining to public health, physician advocacy, health policy, social determinants of health, cultural humility, health equity
  - **Interactive didactic presentations** by faculty trained in public health/policy

## Results

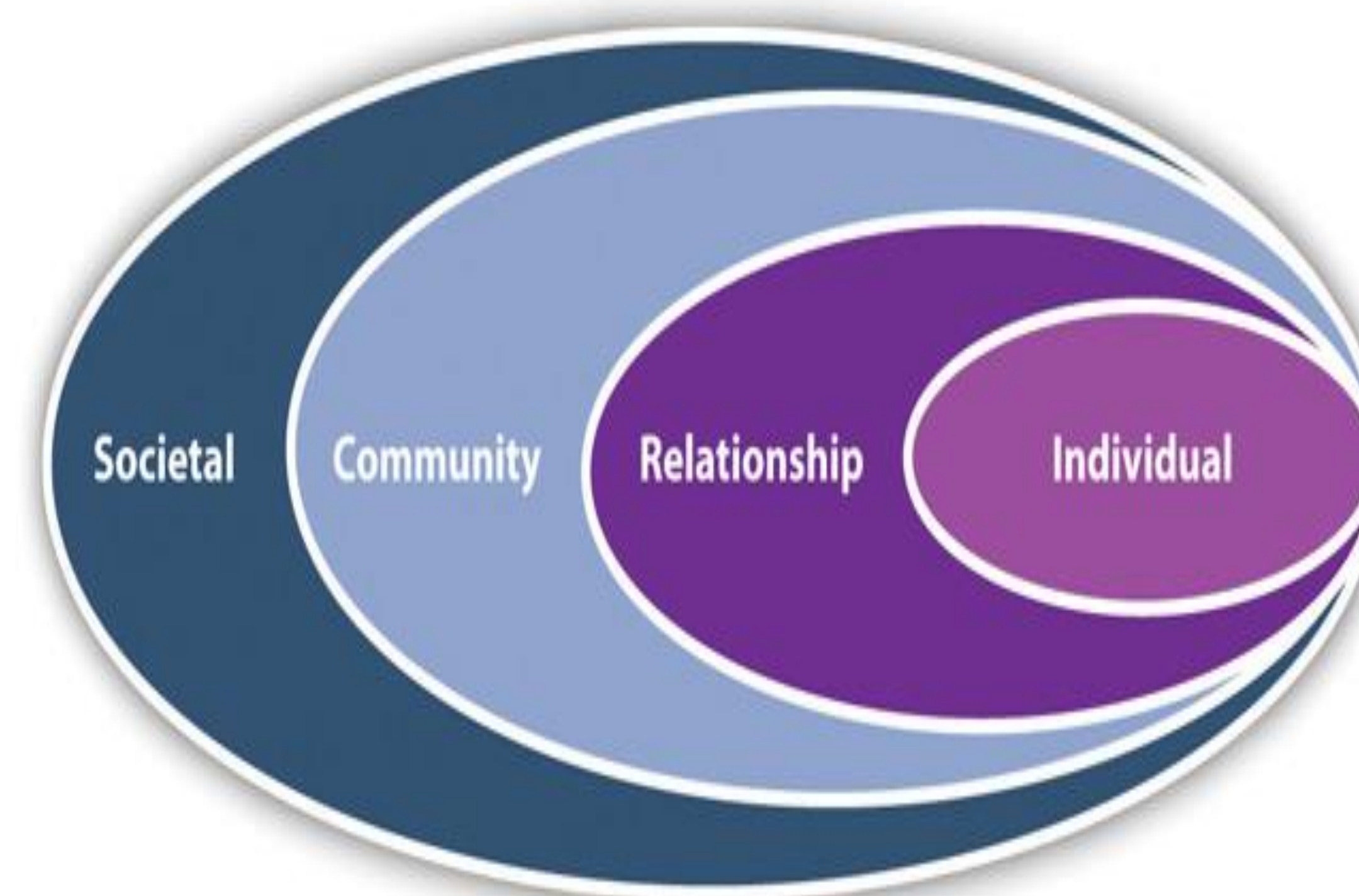
### Student Feedback - Public Health & Medicine



Rating Scale: 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree

84 students (100%) completed end of block summative feedback surveys (13 items across two years)

## Socioecological Model of Health Care/Delivery



## Conclusions

- Public Health and Medicine block was well received overall
- Future iterations will expand IPE focus on health policy issues and include additional clinically-oriented activities

## References

1. Frieden TR. The Future of Public Health. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2015; 37 (3): 1748-54.