Book Review

101 Careers in Public Health
Beth Seltzer. New York: Springer Publishing Company; 2011. Paperback; 256 pages; $26.

Educating and energizing the public about the field of public health and providing information about the wide range of public health career opportunities are important activities for sustaining the public health workforce. One of the aims of *Public Health Reports* is to encourage individuals to participate in the public health field. *101 Careers in Public Health* was reviewed as a potential resource for future students who may be thinking about a career in public health but don't know their options or where to start.

101 Careers in Public Health is separated into three main sections. Part I provides the reader with general information on public health, educational credentials for public health professionals, and pathways for finding employment. Part II describes the various careers available in public health. Part III briefly discusses the future of the field.

In Part I, the description of the field of public health is written for those new to the field. This section includes definitions and describes the 10 essential public health services. The discussion on public health credentials lists the main degrees found in the field and briefly informs the reader of certification or licensure requirements for some positions. It was good to see the newer Certification in Public Health mentioned, but none of the more established certifications were identified. Readers may have benefited from more information in this section. A fairly comprehensive list of potential pathways for opportunities, fellowships, and relevant agencies at the federal level is included for job seekers. Those interested in federal positions are provided a good starting point. Very brief information about state and local opportunities is included. Although it would be difficult to characterize opportunities across states and localities, it might have been helpful to showcase a few examples.

Part II is divided into chapters focusing on broad areas of public health, such as infectious disease and occupational health and safety. Within each chapter, a number of positions (e.g., biostatistician and medical director) are highlighted. Each highlighted position includes a work description, required degrees and certifications, core competencies, compensation range, types of workplaces where this position can be found, the outlook for future employment, and websites for additional information.

In addition, within each chapter, two positions include an interview with a professional currently working in the position. Interviewees are asked about their typical day, education, path to current position, best and most challenging parts of the job, and advice for those entering this career. The profiled individuals include professionals with varied degrees and certifications, from bachelor degrees to those with multiple doctoral degrees. The list of public health areas and positions appears to be very comprehensive, placing equal emphasis on careers at the state, local, and federal level. The descriptions and interviews in this section are truly excellent. The information essential to understanding and weighing the benefits and drawbacks for each position is provided to the reader in an organized manner. The interviews add a personal touch to the descriptions and highlight the intrinsic value of working in public health.

Part III briefly describes public health areas that may be expanding due to natural disasters, climate change, population shifts, and social media. It also discusses the potential for additional positions, supported by the Health Care Reform bill, at a time when public health funding and some areas of the public health workforce are dwindling.

101 Careers in Public Health provides an interesting and informative look at employment in the field of public health. It is an excellent resource on the wide range of public health career choices and what they entail. College students and new graduates especially will find this book useful, but it may also be of interest to public health professionals who are thinking about diversifying. It is well worth the modest $26 cover price.

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