Future Trends in Public Health

In the past decade, managed-care programs realized the value of education and prevention, became willing to make more changes to promote healthy lifestyle choices, and have implemented many collaborative programs in immunization efforts and preventative services (Koplan & Harris, 2000). The public health sector has had many accomplishments in the past decades; yet, public health professionals have many challenges and opportunities ahead of them. Public health practitioners, researchers, legislators, and educators must prepare for changes that are affecting population health trends in the United States. Some of these trends include the following:

- The aging population in the United States
- Changing patterns in the racial and ethnic composition in the United States
- The explosion of newly emerging information technologies
- Changing needs in the public health work force
- Growth in health-related partnerships

All of these trends indicate that the collaboration of public health and managed care will have to shift focus to accommodate the new trends influencing the population and to make use of new developments that are taking place. For example, more programs will need to be bilingual to accommodate the increasing Hispanic population in the United States. Programs will also need to address the needs of the elderly as the population continues to age.

Reference