

The government has paid little attention to Public Health. As the **Industrial Revolution** brought more people into the cities people's health declined, due to overcrowding and poor sanitation

1800s Public Health

Public Health had begun to improve but people were still expected to live for themselves.

Public Health Timeline

1750- Beginning of the Industrial Revolution. People start to move into the cities for work. Sanitation and public health decline

1832- First Cholera epidemic.

1842- Chadwick publishes his Working conditions of the Working Poor which encourages the government to spend money on the poor to improve their health

1848 1st Public Health Act. Councils CAN set up Health Boards but they are NOT COMPULSORY

1854- John Snow connect Cholera with dirty water.

1858 – The Great Stink. The Thames dries up leaving the stinking mud to foul the city. Parliament decide to solve this problem by building sewers.

1866- Joseph Bazalgette finishes the sewers in London.

1875 – 2nd Public Health Act. Councils MUST set up Health Boards and improve sanitation

1889- Booth shows that 1/3 of the population of London were living below the poverty line

1899- shows that 1/3 of the population of York were living below the poverty line

In the Beginning

Many people lived in cramped conditions with little access to good sanitation. Back to Back housing was common and the government attitude was '**Laissez-Faire**' (let it be) which meant they did nothing about it. It was believed that the poor were poor because they did not work hard enough.

Why did things begin to change?

Slowly people's attitudes began to change. People like Joseph Chamberlain who was the Mayor of Birmingham started to think that the poor needed help. He created a much cleaner city before the 1875 Public Health act came into force.

The fact that Working class men got the vote in 1867 also saw a big shift in the views of Laissez-Faire because the politicians now had to appeal to more of the people, not just the ratepayers (taxpayers).



Factors in improving Public Health

Government, Individual Genius, Religion (both Booth and Rowntree were Quakers), Communication

Opposition to Public Health

People thought it would make the poor lazy as they wouldn't have to work their way out of the slums.

They were worried about the cost
Very little of the poor conditions affected the ratepayers lives so they didn't want to change anything
It was considered the poor's own fault if they were poor.

