

What is digital public health and the role of digitization, digitalization and digital transformation?

Study implications:

- Public health researchers and practitioners need to clearly understand the meaning of digital public health in order to help it develop.
- Currently, there appears to be no agreement on the meaning of digital public health. More work is required to explain the role of digital technologies in public health.


What is this study about?

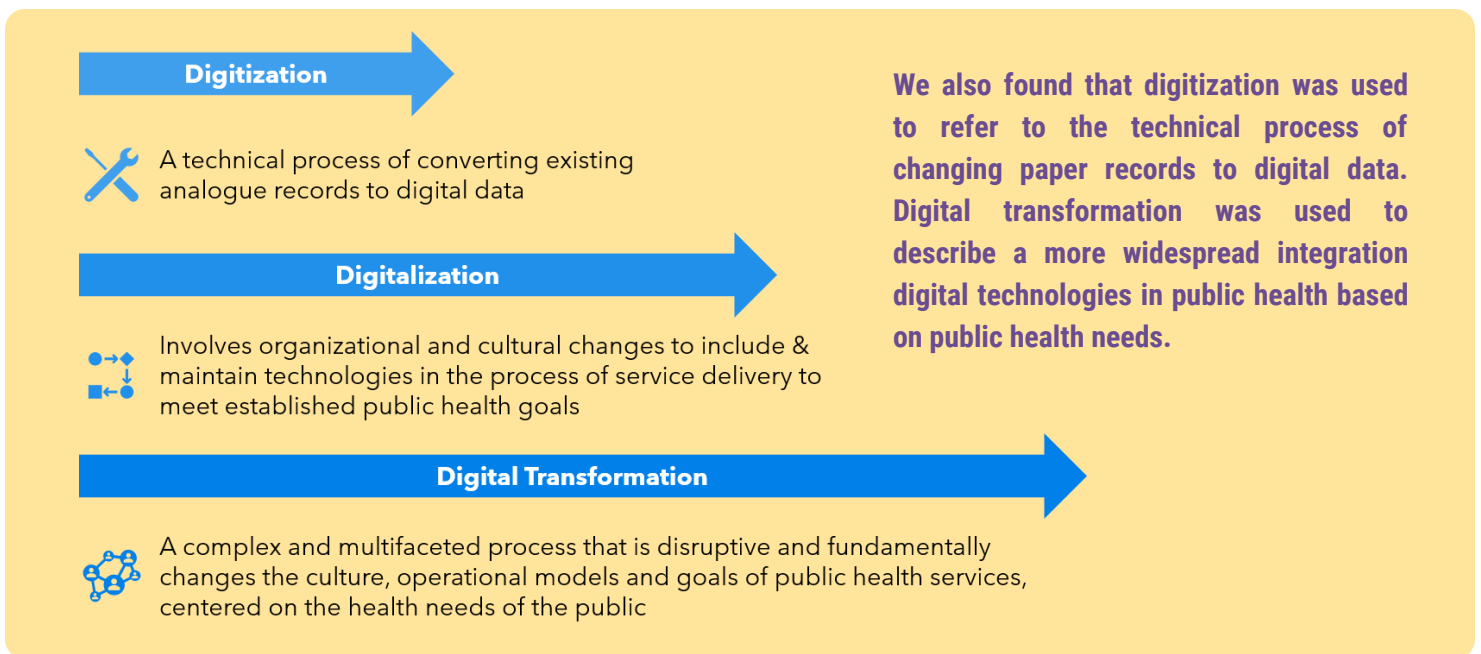
Digital public health has emerged as a growing field of interest around the world. Digital technologies are being used more frequently in public health. Yet, it is not clear what “digital public health” means to researchers, practitioners and decision makers.

What did we do?

We searched websites like OVID Medline, Embase, Google Scholar and other government agency websites. We selected research articles and government articles published between January 2000 and June 2020. Then, we studied articles that described digital public health. We also studied 11 articles that described digital public health, including the role of digitization, digitalization and digital transformation in public health.

What did we find?

 We found two clear meanings of digital public health. The first definition suggested that digital public health was “a re-imagining of public health, using new ways of working, blending established public health wisdom with new digital concepts and tools”. The second definition described digital public health as an asset to achieve established public health goals.



Summarized from article: Iyamu I, Xu AX, Gómez-Ramírez O, et al. Defining digital public health and the role of digitization, digitalization and digital transformation: A scoping review. *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*. 17/08/2021:30399 (forthcoming/in press)