In this first part of the **Scholar Practitioner Project (SPP)**, you will analyze an area of critical need for leadership within public health. This should be an issue with significant disparities between population groups in need of evidence-based interventions to address the issue. The public health issue you choose should consider specific group(s), for example, addressing racial disparity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Topic areas where public health issues arise could include bioterrorism, famine/obesity, infectious disease, emergency preparedness, opioid addiction, health communication, public health infrastructure, global warming, genomics, preventative care, and mental health, to name a few.

As a future leader in public health, developing your skills for effectively assessing current literature and evaluating problems is critical; one of the goals of the SPP is to help you develop such skills, specifically writing a literature review and a problem statement.

Provide a clear and focused statement that is the result of a review of research findings and current practice and that contains a description of the problem along with evidence that provides a justification that the problem is meaningful to the discipline.

Therefore, a problem statement needs:

1. A logical argument for the need to address an identified gap in the research literature that has relevance to the discipline and area of practice. Keep in mind that a gap in the research is not, in and of itself, a reason to conduct research. Make sure to clarify the problem that caused you to search the literature in the first place. The situation being experienced is described within the problem statement.
2. Preliminary evidence that provides justification that this problem is meaningful to the discipline or professional field. Provide several key citations that support the relevance and currency of the problem. These references need not all be from peer-reviewed journals but should be from reputable sources, such as national agency databases or scholarly books, and should ideally be from the past 5 years.
3. A focus on the discipline (program of study). The problem must be framed within the discipline.

ASSIGNMENT MUST INCLUDE:

* Describe the public health issue, providing an in-depth overview.
* Analyze effective and ineffective leadership in addressing this issue, providing examples from the literature.
* Discover a leadership need to address the public health issue presented in the research; this can be an area that is missing, underrepresented, ineffective, or controversial that warrants further exploration.
* Write a problem statement that addresses the leadership need.
* Explain how your problem statement incorporates implications for positive social change.
* Support your statements/arguments with evidence: seven or more scholarly references that are less than 5 years old.