

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818967103321
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Titolo	The cult and science of public health : a sociological investigation // Kevin Dew
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Berghahn Books, 2012
ISBN	1-280-49663-0 9786613591869 0-85745-340-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (188 p.)
Disciplina	362.1
Soggetti	Public health - Social aspects Medical policy Health services accessibility Health attitudes
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The Cult and Science of Public Health; Contents; Acknowledgements; INTRODUCTION: Public Health Theories and Theorizing Public Health; CHAPTER 1: Myths, Morality and Modern Public Health; CHAPTER 2: The Politics of Public Health; CHAPTER 3: Health Promotion Settings and Health Hostile Environments; CHAPTER 4: Public Health and Health Professionals; CHAPTER 5: The Political Use of Public Health; CHAPTER 6: Public Health Campaigns; CHAPTER 7: The Cult of Health and its Rituals; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In contemporary manifestations of public health rituals and events, people are being increasingly united around what they hold in common-their material being and humanity. As a cult of humanity, public health provides a moral force in society that replaces 'traditional' religions in times of great diversity or heterogeneity of peoples, activities and desires. This is in contrast to public health's foundation in science, particularly the science of epidemiology. The rigid rules of 'scientific evidence' used to determine the cause of illness and disease can work against the most vulnerable in so

