Abstract
Society has been committed to provide articulated and integrated answers regarding issues such as population health conditions, natural resources conservation and sustainable economic growth. This essay focuses on analyzing three basic aspects of environmental health determination as a focal subject in order to face these challenges. First, the definition of environment as a determinant of health is clarified. Second, different approaches concerning environmental health are presented. Finally, some concepts are proposed which may guide and enrich both the discussion and practice of public health in environmental health and quality of life determination. Additionally, the main contributions of the Environmental Health Public Policy in Bogotá (Política Pública de Salud Ambiental) as a first step towards the social determination of health in Colombia are discussed.

Keywords
Environmental health, public health, quality of life, health policies.