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Public Health SYSTEM

Systems Thinking
The Intersectoral PH System

• Assurance of conditions for community health requires coalition building
  – Community
  – Healthcare Delivery System
  – Employers & Business
  – Media
  – Academia
  – Governmental Public Health Infrastructure

• Click here to view a diagram from the IOM’s The Future of the Public’s Health

Notes Available
Public Health As A System

- Public health is not a single product or service provided by one type of professional
- It is a web of relationships between many people and organizations about a wide variety of topics
- This web of relationships serves to assure conditions that result in a healthy public
- The responsibility for assuring the health of the public rests in specific agencies at different levels of government
  - local
  - state
  - federal and
  - international
Public Health Structure

• Four governmental levels
  – Local Health Departments
  – State Health Agency
    • Bureau for Public Health, Health Care Authority
  – Federal Government
    • CDC, HRSA, EPA, ?
  – International Health Agencies
    • WHO, UNICEF, etc
US Local Health Departments (AGPALL)

• 2,864 Local Health Departments in the US
• 73% serve a county or combined city-county area
• 62% serve small jurisdictions (<50,000 popln)
  – But they only account for 10% of the US population
• Most (54%) of the US population is served by the 6% of LHDs serving populations of more than 500,000
  – Largest is almost 10 million
• 12% LHD boundaries overlap with the boundaries of a federally recognized tribal government
• States with “home rule” delegate particular constitutional authority to counties and municipalities
Governance of Public Health in US

LHDs Included in the 2005 National Profile Study by State and Type of Governance
(Numbers Reflect the Number of LHDs that Received the Profile Questionnaire)
Boards of Health in US

- Forty states have **local boards of health**.
- 3,186 local boards identified by the CDC.
  - 45.7% boards of health serve counties,
  - 24.6% serve a town/city, and
  - 29.7% serve other jurisdiction.
- 58% serve populations less than 25,000
- 74% LHD have Local Boards of Health
Governance & District Structures

• State Oversight of Local Health Departments
  – 11 states (24.4%) LHD run by state health dept
  – 10 states (22.2%) decentralized control to locals
  – 24 states (53.5%) shared/mixed control

• 20 states (43.5%) have some district-level admin
  – More in the Southern states (12 of 15)
State Health Agency

- The unit of government housing the State Health Officer
- Federal funding often controls state activity
- US Constitution makes states responsible for the health and safety of their citizens
- The "commerce clause" allows the federal government to regulate interstate business
- National Security is Federal responsibility
# State Health Officer Appointments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appointed by</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Governor</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Board of Health</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Superagency Director</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Cabinet level position:            | 58.8%| 53.2%|

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required degree:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Medical degree (MD or DO)</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- MPH or MPA</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No degree requirement</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MD/DO required for 32.0% of the 25 states where cabinet level position**

Notes Available
State Public Health Responsibilities

State Health Officer
- Directs State PH agency (97.9%)
- Promulgates rules (87.2%)
- Informs Gov & Legis (87.2%)
- Proposes PH budget (85.1%)
- Proposes legislation (85.1%)
- Supervises LHD’s (42.6%)
- Member of State BoH (21.3%)

State Health Agency
- Public Health Authority (97.9%)
- Rural Health (78.7%)
- PH Laboratory (78.7%)
- CSHC needs (76.6%)
- Minority Health (72.3%)
- State Licensure Agency (59.6%)
- Partial Environmental (51.1%)
- PH Pharmacy (34.0%)
- Medical Examiner (21.3%)
- Mental Health & SA (19.1%)
- Professional Licensure (17.0%)
- Partial Medicaid (17.0%)
- Lead Environmental (14.9%)
- State TB Hospital (14.9%)
- Correctional Health (0.0%)

Notes Available
Structure of State Public Health Agencies


Notes Available
# Emerging State PH Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bioterrorism</td>
<td>42 (89.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccine for Children</td>
<td>41 (87.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury Control</td>
<td>41 (87.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast &amp; Cervical Cancer Screening</td>
<td>41 (87.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Disease Epidemiology</td>
<td>40 (85.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco Control &amp; Prevention</td>
<td>39 (83.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>39 (83.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Epidemiology</td>
<td>37 (78.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence Prevention</td>
<td>32 (68.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS regulation &amp; service provision</td>
<td>30 (63.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radon Control</td>
<td>26 (55.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal IRB for Human Subjects Research</td>
<td>21 (44.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role in Title XXI Children’s Health Insurance</td>
<td>13 (27.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes Available
Complex Regulation Of Air & Water In West Virginia

- Air pollution regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Indoor Air Quality regulated by County Boards of Health
- Water pollution is by DEP
- Fish and wildlife are regulated by the Division of Natural Resources
- Drinking water is regulated by the State Bureau for Public Health with funds from EPA
- County Health Departments enforce State sewage laws
# Key Federal Health Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHHS</td>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRSA</td>
<td>Health Resources Services Administration (a unit of DHHS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHRQ</td>
<td>Agency for Health Research and Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>Institute of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes Available
Global Health

- World Health Assembly
- World Health Organization
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- Agreements for standard travel documents regarding vaccination
- Sharing of information about epidemics
- Refugees from disasters
Key Concepts Review

- State Public Health System
- State Public Health Agency
- State Health Officer
- Local Health Officer
- Local Public Health Agency
  - Usually includes the local health department, local board of health, and/or other local governmental entity designed to provide public health services to the jurisdiction.
- Local Public Health System
  - The collection of public, private and voluntary entities, as well as individuals and informal associations, that contribute to the public’s health within a jurisdiction. The State also may provide services, and may comprise a part of the local public health system.