

Local Public Health

Understanding the Importance of
Public Health

Julie Eckstein, MBA

St Charles County, MO
Department of Community Health
and the Environment

What is Public Health?

“The activities that ensure conditions in which people can be healthy. These activities include community wide efforts to identify, prevent, and combat threats to the health of the public. “

- *Institute of Medicine Definition of Public Health*

When you have seen one health department, you've seen one health department!

- 2,532 LHD's in US
- 70% of local health departments have a local board of health
- 96% employ RN's
- 60% provide maternal and child health home visits
- Various models of governance and organization state by state:

MO – 115 LHDs

Ohio – 124

Massachusetts – 329

Kansas – 101

Alaska and Idaho - 7

Nevada - 4

New Hampshire 4

New Mexico - 6

Types of Services

Ten Programs and Services Provided Directly and Most Frequently by LHDs

Rank	Program or Service	Percentage of LHDs
1	Communicable/Infectious Disease Surveillance	91%
2	Adult Immunization Provision	90%
3	Child Immunization Provision	90%
4	Tuberculosis Screening	83%
5	Environmental Health Surveillance	78%
6	Food Service Establishments Inspection	78%
7	Tuberculosis Treatment	76%
8	Food Safety Education	72%
9	Population-Based Nutrition Services	69%
10	Schools/Daycare Center Inspection	69%

n ranged from 1,949 to 1,975

Source: 2013 National Profile of Local Health Departments

Only 50% provide chronic disease programs

Public Health Per Capita Spending in the State of Missouri:

- **2012 State Public Health Budgets:** Missouri ranked **50th** out of **51** (which includes the District of Columbia) (higher means worse) regarding per capita spending. Missouri spent only **\$6.08** per capita (per resident) and the national median is **\$27.40**.
- **2011 State Public Health Budgets:** Missouri ranked **50th** out of **51** (which includes the District of Columbia) (higher means worse) regarding per capita spending. Missouri spends only **\$5.90** per capita (per resident) and the national median is **\$30.09**.

Source: "Investing in America's Health: A State-by-State Look at Public Health Funding and Key Health Facts", and "Preventing Epidemics, Protecting People" Trust for America's Health (www.healthyamericans.org) November 2013.

Public Health in St Charles County, MO – population 380,000



Public Health: Vital Records, Comm. Disease, STD, Immuniz., WIC, Health Ed., Emergency Preparedness

Environmental Health and Protection:

Food establishment and Child Care Inspections, Recycling Centers, Vector Control

Humane Services: Pet Adoption Center and Animal Control

Our Budget and Funding Sources

Revenue

Public Health	937,206.00
Preparedness & CRI	312,975.00
Environmental	650,972.00
Humane	531,100.00
Subtotal	\$2,432,253.00
General	2,011,473.00
Total Revenue	\$4,443,726.00

Expenses

Public Health	1,903,362.00
Preparedness & CRI	328,873.00
Environmental	1,005,849.00
Humane	1,205,642.00
Total Expenses	\$4,443,726.00

Department Revenue %

Grants/Contracts	18.82%
Fees	35.58%
Donations	0.34%
General Revenue	45.27%

What we could do with additional resources.....

- Front end of the ACO continuum – We are poised to be a partner with healthcare delivery organizations who are building Accountable Care Organizations in preparation for the shift from volume to value in our payment models.
- Population Health Management, case management, health education, improving health literacy, reduction in health disparities, preventive screenings and services.
- More robust Community Health Coalitions that convene all sectors of the community to address data driven community issues using best practice interventions. Issues range from access to health services to school health and truancy issues to root cause of chronic diseases.
- More rapidly and comprehensively reduce and prevent the spread of communicable disease.

Need for Federal and State Funding

- Much of the funding for local health departments goes through state health departments as the primary grantee. In order for these funds to help local communities, states need to pass an appropriate amount of the funds through to local health departments and other entities on the ground level that have experience building partnerships and addressing local health priorities.
- In FY2014, Congress provided increased funding for programs to address chronic disease such as diabetes and heart disease. My national association, NACCHO, is working with CDC to ensure that a substantial amount of the new funding is available to address local priorities in improving health and preventing disease. I would appreciate your involvement, as staff to our members of Congress, to also weigh in with agency leaders about these programs.

Prevention and Public Health Fund

- The Prevention and Public Health Fund is the first ever dedicated federal investment in programs that prevent disease at the community level.
- The Fund supports activities that we know make people healthier and reduce health care costs, like combating smoking and promoting physical activity.
- Funding that supports public health and disease prevention should be maintained.
- The Fund gets resources directly into communities without going through the state bureaucracy.
- **Thank you to Congress for allocating the Fund through the regular appropriations process in FY2014** so that the Fund is used for its intended purpose of addressing disease prevention. The Administration used nearly half of the allocation in FY2013 to pay for implementation of the Affordable Care Act. **It is important that Congress allocate the Fund again in FY2015.**

Investing in your local community's health

- Investing in chronic disease prevention is critical as chronic diseases are the leading causes of death and disability and very costly to treat.
- Local health departments work with a wide range of community partners to create conditions and policies that help people make healthy choices, such as avoiding tobacco use, becoming more physically active, and eating healthier foods. All these proactive measures contribute to the prevention of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.
- Investments by local partnerships and coalitions have large ROI due to best practice interventions and wise stewardship. A little goes a long way!
- CDC has a new vehicle in FY2014 for getting resources to communities for addressing chronic diseases – the Community Prevention Grants (\$80 million). This funding should continue.
- State health departments received large increases in FY2014 for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Diabetes Prevention. Congress directed CDC to “ensure that some portion of the increase in funding is sub-granted to the local level.” It is critical that this funding reach the local level where programs are implemented and communities impacted.

Thanks for your time and interest in HEALTH.

"When HEALTH is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot manifest itself, strength cannot be exerted, wealth becomes useless, reason becomes powerless."

Greek Physician and Philosopher, Herophilus, 300 BC

"...our businesses do not have a healthy workforce, our schools don't have healthy students ready to learn, we all have more costly medical expenditures... It's all about HEALTH!" Eckstein, 2005

Public Health. Better Health, Better Missouri!