



Introduction to Local Public Health

House of Representatives
Health Policy Committee

February 10, 2011

What is Public Health?

Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention.





P.A. 368 – Public Health Code

Chapter 333; Section 2433: A Local Health Department shall continually and diligently endeavor to:

- Prevent disease;
- Prolong life;
- Promote public health through organized programs;
- Prevention and control:
 - Environmental health hazards
 - Diseases
 - Health problems of particularly vulnerable populations



What We Do: **Essential Local Public Health Services**

- **Immunizations**
- Tuberculosis control
- Emergency management
- **Public/private water supply**
- Prenatal care
- Family planning
- **STD control**
- HIV/AIDS: reporting, counseling, notification
- **Public/Private on-site wastewater**
- Nutrition services
- Health education
- **Hearing and vision**
- Care of individuals w/ serious communicable disease/infection
- Public swimming pool inspections
- **Food safety**
- Campground inspections
- Pregnancy tests
- **Infectious/communicable disease control**



How we do it:

- Monitor health status to identify and solve issues.
- Diagnose and investigate health issues.
- Inform, educate, empower people about health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships to solve issues.
- Develop policies and plans that improve health efforts.
- Enforce laws and regulations to protect health.
- Link people to needed personal health services.
- Assure competent public health workforce.
- Evaluate personal and population-based health services.
- Research for innovative solutions to health issues.



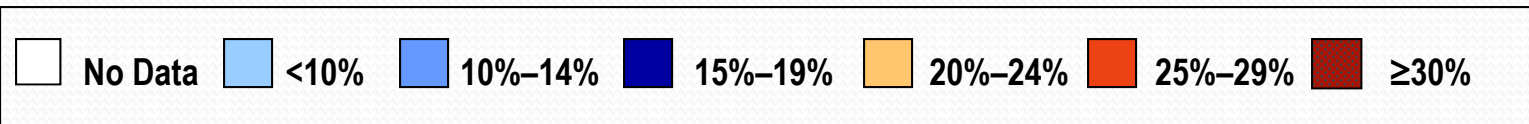
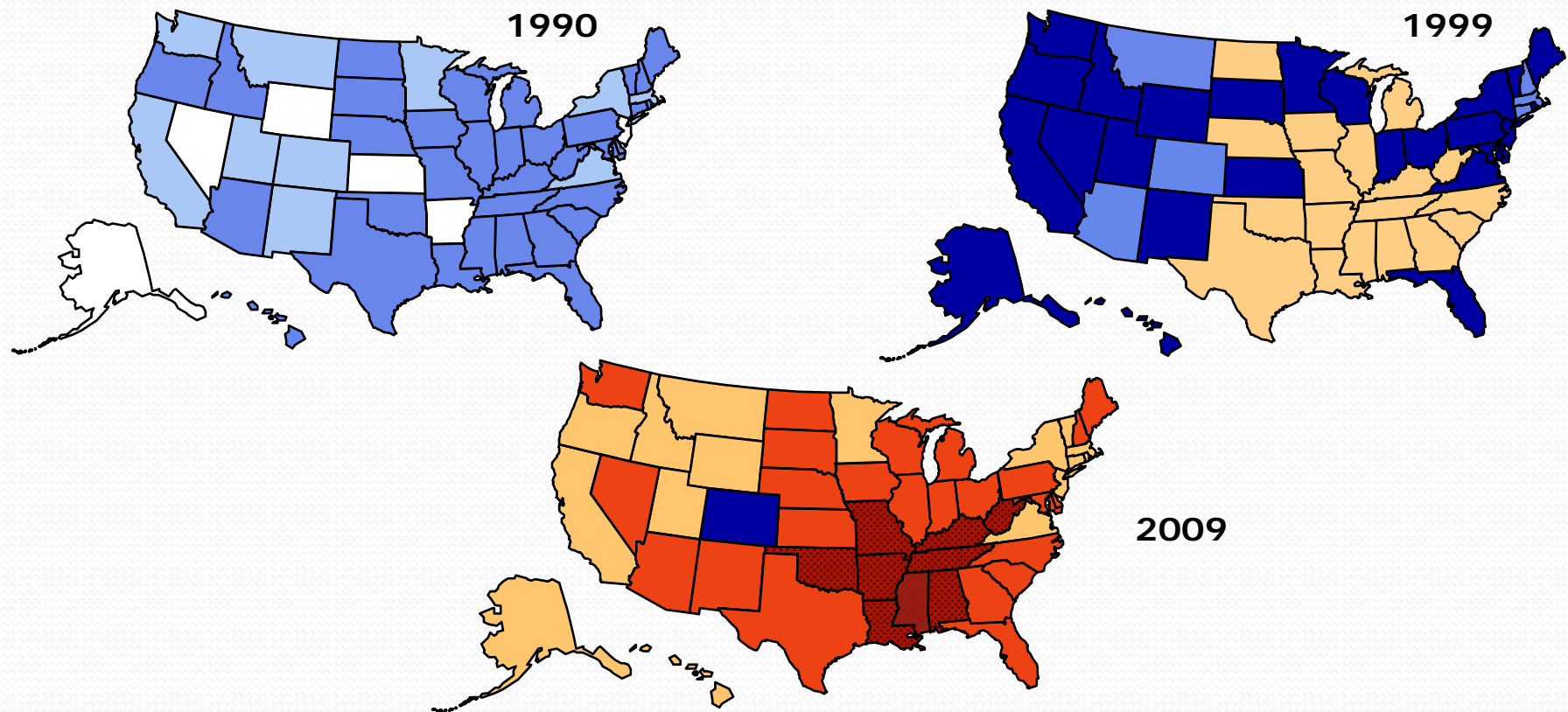
Network of Protection

- **Local**
 - 45 Local Health Departments, serving 83 counties
 - Local Health Departments serve communities 24/7/365
- **Statewide**
 - Michigan Department of Community Health
 - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
 - Michigan Department of Agriculture
- **National**
 - US Department of Health and Human Services
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Food and Drug Administration
- **International**
 - World Health Organization

Obesity Trends* Among U.S. Adults

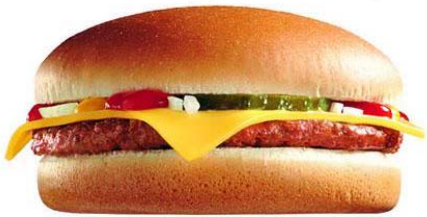
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 1990, 1999, 2009

(*BMI ≥ 30 , or about 30 lbs. overweight for 5'4" person)



SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, CDC

Obesity



Obesity is the 5th leading risk factor for mortality:

- High Blood Pressure (13%)
- Tobacco use (9%)
- High Blood Glucose (6%)
- Physical inactivity (6%)

~ WHO, 2009

Local Health Departments mitigate obesity by:

- Educate the local population
- Promote community education/participation
 - Physicians, schools, employers
- Foster community coalitions/networks
 - Healthy Kids; Healthy Futures, Fitness Council
- Influence policy/legislation
 - School lunches, physical education, 'safe routes'

Economic value to the local community:

- Employees/employers seek safe and healthy places to work and play, which increases productivity, and reduces healthcare costs.

Baby Fat or Childhood Obesity?



American Stroke Association
A Division of American Heart Association

American Heart Association
Learn and Live.

Don't supersize him.

Childhood obesity is a growing epidemic that increases death and disability from heart disease. Requiring minimum standards for physical education, such as 150 minutes per week of physical education for elementary schools and 225 minutes for middle schools, gives children a fighting chance against obesity and heart disease. And, coordinated school health programs will ensure that children have sound minds and healthy bodies. You can prevent supersized children who suffer more health problems and grow into unhealthy, less productive and disabled adults. Don't miss your chance to shape a whole new generation of Americans and stop the nation's No. 1 killer—heart disease.

www.americanheart.org/yourethecure

Heart disease. You're the Cure.



Infant Mortality

Michigan ranks 37th in infant mortality nationally. In 2010, 7.7 babies (out of live 1,000 births) die prematurely in Michigan. ~ MIDashboard, 2011

Local Health Departments mitigate infant mortality by:

- Promotes health of pregnant women and unborn child;
 - Community outreach centers, schools, churches, business
- Dispenses vaccinations to pregnant women and infants;
- Provides home visiting programs for healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes, and healthy babies;
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) programming;
- Smoking cessation programming (for mom and dad);
- Represent a key role in Fetal/Infant Mortality Review Teams with state and other invested partners.

Economic value to the local community:

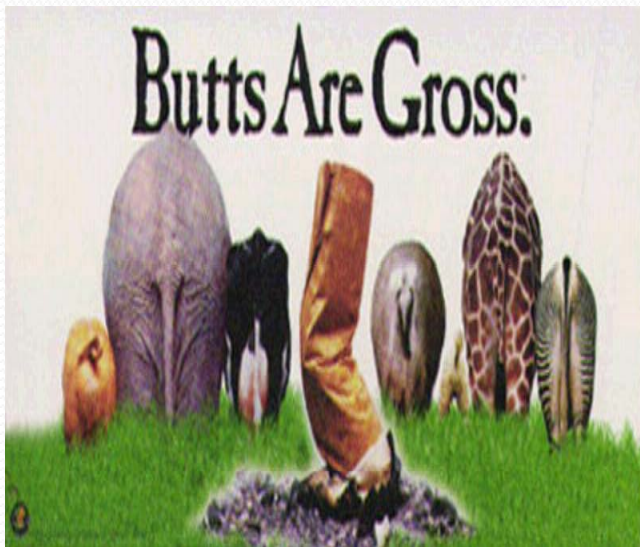
- Increased access to pre-conceptual healthcare or healthcare for pregnant women and infants reduces fatal illnesses/lifestyles, leading to reduced healthcare costs and/or postpartum-mortem care.

Smoking

Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in America – DHHS

Cigarette smoking causes about 1 of every 5 deaths in the United States each year.

- 443,000 deaths annually (including deaths from secondhand smoke)
- 49,400 deaths/year from secondhand smoke exposure ~ CDC, 2011
- 15,000 deaths/year in Michigan from smoking
- 2,500 deaths/year in Michigan from secondhand smoke ~ MDCH, 2011



Local Health Departments mitigate smoking by:

- Community Coalitions/Health Department
 - Tobacco Task Force, schools, business
 - Smoke-free workplace enforcement

Economic value to the local community:

- Employers seek a healthy, productive workforce (lower absenteeism) and reduced healthcare costs.

Food Safety

FIGHT BAC!



Local public health departments protect the community against foodborne illnesses to persons consuming food from licensed food service establishments including:

- plan reviews
- licenses/permits
- inspections
- complaint investigations
- enforcement actions
- reporting

Safe Drinking Water Supply



Michigan enjoys a sophisticated public drinking water system of clean, reliable water. Through community education and regulation, local public health departments assure:

- proper installation, operation and abandonment of water supplies;
- issuance of well permits for water wells;
- inspection of well construction;
- monitoring of water quality;
- monitoring of suspected areas of contamination.

H1N1 2009 Response

- First wave was in April, 2009 (Mexico and southeast California)
- Intercontinental spread by May, 2009
- Declared pandemic in June, 2009 by World Health Organization
- Summer camp spread in July/August, 2009
- Second wave in September, 2009 at universities
- Peaked in October/November, 2009
- Over 1,000,000 vaccinations administered

Goals of Local Health Departments:

- Prevention
- Communication
- Early detection/testing
- Isolate/quarantine
- Treatment
- Minimize economic/social disruption




Public Health is a wise investment:

Public Health and Economic Security

“Poor health is putting the nation’s economic security in jeopardy. Helping people to stay healthy and better manage illnesses are the best ways to drive down health care costs... We need to rethink how we spend our health dollars. Investing in public health tops the list of ways we could start spending smarter.”

~ R. W. Johnson Foundation





“Public health is needed by everyone, all of the time; clinical care is needed by many people, some of the time.”

~ C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General under Ronald Reagan



Questions?