NACCHO Press Kit

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For more information about NACCHO, please contact Laura Hanen, Chief, Government and Public Affairs, at lhanen@naccho.org.

To schedule an interview with an expert on local health departments and public health, please contact Jacqueline Bond, Burness, at jbond@burness.com.

For additional resources, visit NACCHO’s Press Room at www.naccho.org/press.

To read more about NACCHO’s advocacy efforts, visit www.naccho.org/advocacy.
How do local health departments protect the public's health?

Local health departments make it easier for people to be healthy and safe. They collaborate with community and private-sector partners to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe. Local health departments are a critical part of every community's first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies, and acts of terrorism. They educate the public and combat the rising cost of healthcare due to ailments like diabetes and heart disease. These government agencies report to a mayor, city council, county board of health, or county commission.

What is NACCHO?

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the approximately 2,800 local health departments including city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal agencies across the country. NACCHO resources help local health department leaders to develop public health policies, programs, and services to ensure that people in their communities are protected from disease and disaster.

NACCHO’s nearly 40 advisory groups, comprising experts from the field, provide on-the-ground perspectives on public health practice issues in the areas of community health, environmental health, emergency preparedness, and public health infrastructure and systems.

**FAST FACT:** NACCHO is the national non-profit association representing the approximately 2,800 local health departments in the United States, including city, county, metro, district, and tribal agencies.

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**NACCHO Provides Expertise in Public Health Programs**

NACCHO provides leadership, up-to-date information, subject matter expertise, stories from the field, spokespeople, and other resources on the issues listed below.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH**

Chronic and infectious disease prevention; maternal, child, and adolescent health; injury prevention; disability; tobacco control; and building healthier communities

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Clean air and water; food safety and defense; public health effects of climate change; lead poisoning prevention; environmental public health tracking; and land use planning

**PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS**

Health information technology; public health law; accreditation and quality improvement; workforce; and public health capacity-building

**PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS**

Planning and readiness for natural disasters; pandemics; terrorist attacks; and infectious disease outbreaks

Search for local health departments by zip code at www.naccho.org/widget
National Leader in Public Health Policy

NACCHO has more than 100 policy statements on an array of important public health topics. Position statements are developed by local health officials, peer reviewed, and approved by NACCHO’s board of directors. NACCHO and local health departments use these policy statements to educate key stakeholders and urge action by federal officials, state public health officials, elected officials at all levels, partner organizations, the media, and the public.

Authoritative Source for Local Health Department Data

Every two years, NACCHO conducts a national survey of all local health departments. The National Profile of Local Health Departments (Profile) study is the only national source of critical information on local health department infrastructure and public health practices at the local level. Profile offers a wealth of data about local health department activities that address community-based public health issues, such as the following:

- Governance
- Financing
- Workforce
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Chronic Disease and Environmental Health
- Quality Improvement
- Health Information Technology

Since 2008, NACCHO has also been a source of firsthand data from local health departments about budget cuts and job losses. During this time, more than 50,000 state and local jobs have been lost. This represents nearly 15 percent of the total state and local health department workforce.

Vision

Health, equity, and security for all people in their communities

Mission

The mission of NACCHO is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments.

History

NACCHO’s founding dates back to the 1960s, with the formation of the National Association of County Health Officials (NACHO), an independent affiliate of the National Association of Counties. As the federal, state, and local public health systems continued to expand, NACHO combined with the U.S. Conference of Local Health Officers, an organization affiliated with the United States Conference of Mayors, to form the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in 1994.
Local health department leaders and NACCHO staff are in the news and on Capitol Hill all the time, talking about public health priorities at the local level and commenting on issues including funding for public health, local health departments, emergency preparedness, disease outbreaks, chronic disease prevention, health reform, and food safety. Here are a few highlights from recent press releases, advocacy, Congressional testimony, and media coverage.

**New Content**

**NACCHO Highlights Need for Federal Funding to Keep the Public Safe**

As local health departments work to protect the public every day, NACCHO works to educate policymakers and the media about the role of federal programs in supporting agencies at the local level to improve health and keep people safe. NACCHO works with our nation’s 2,800 local health departments to quantify the importance of the federal investment and how cuts to these vital programs affect the health and safety of people in their communities.

Local health departments are greatly concerned with proposed cuts that erode public health and medical preparedness nationwide. NACCHO has expressed concern that the Obama Administration proposes to cut discretionary funding for immunizations at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the midst of a measles outbreak unprecedented in recent years. Local health departments monitor, prevent, and control diseases to reduce health risks through vaccine awareness and immunization programs. The President’s FY2016 budget proposal cuts funding to the CDC’s immunization program by $50 million. The program supports the purchase of vaccines, as well as immunization operations at the local, state, and national levels. To read NACCHO’s statement about the proposed cuts, visit the [NACCHO Press Room](#).

NACCHO continues to call for support of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program at CDC and the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) administered by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, which was cut by more than $100 million in FY2014. A majority of local health departments rely solely on federal funding for emergency preparedness activities. NACCHO appreciates efforts by the Administration and Congress to provide emergency funding for Ebola last year. However, sustained funding to support local preparedness and response capacity is needed to make sure every community is ready for any disaster it faces.

For more information about NACCHO advocacy, visit [www.naccho.org/advocacy/](http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/).
Big Cities Health Coalition Plans Full Agenda for 2015

In January, the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC), a project of NACCHO, held a retreat in San Antonio, TX to lay out a 2015 action agenda. The Coalition, now with 27 members, is a forum for the leaders of America’s largest metropolitan health departments to exchange strategies and jointly address issues to promote and protect the health and safety of the 46 million people they serve. Key policy priorities include continuing to raise the profile of governmental public health and the importance of sustained, sufficient funding so that local health departments can prepare and respond to challenges in their communities; addressing workforce challenges; and developing an urban research agenda. In late April, BCHC will host a congressional briefing, *Short Term Fixes, Longer Term Consequences: How Viruses, Vaccines, and Dollars Impact Emergency Preparedness in America’s Big Cities*, which will highlight the activities and challenges undertaken by four member cities in response to the Ebola and measles outbreaks over the last six months. Learn more at [www.bigcitieshealth.org](http://www.bigcitieshealth.org).

NACCHO Supports Local Health Departments in Preparedness and Response to Ebola

Since July 2014, NACCHO has been monitoring the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and working with local health departments, CDC, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and other national partners to help coordinate national preparedness and response efforts. Local health departments play a leading role in response to potential Ebola cases, and NACCHO’s partnership with the CDC and other national organizations ensures that the concerns of local health departments are incorporated into plans for the national response to Ebola. To address member needs and connect local health departments with regularly updated CDC guidance, NACCHO provided ongoing technical assistance and facilitated multiple conference calls for local health departments with the CDC during the height of the Ebola concern in late 2014. NACCHO continues to support local health departments to prevent the risk of future Ebola cases and other global and domestic infectious disease threats, such as the 2015 measles outbreak. Learn more about the local health department response to Ebola and NACCHO’s role at [http://nacchopreparedness.org/?page_id=3313](http://nacchopreparedness.org/?page_id=3313).

NACCHO Funds 43 Innovative Community Projects through MRC Challenge Award

NACCHO, in partnership with the Division of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCVMRC), selected 43 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units to receive 2014-2015 NACCHO MRC Challenge Awards. Beginning in spring 2015, the Challenge Awards will fund projects that benefit local communities in one of four focus areas: Disaster Risk Reduction, Chronic Disease Prevention, Partners for Empowered Communities, and Mental and Emotional Wellbeing. The Challenge Award aims to focus innovation in areas that align with national health initiatives that have a significant impact at the local level. MRC award recipients will track their progress on NACCHO’s MRC website. Learn more at: [http://www.mrcnaccho.org/](http://www.mrcnaccho.org/).
NACCHO Develops Radiation Preparedness Trainings for Local Health Departments

NACCHO, with support from the CDC, is engaged in a national effort to support local health departments in radiation preparedness training. Radiation use has increased in the 21st century, and a radiological emergency could displace millions of people and overwhelm public health, emergency response, and health care systems. To bolster local planning and response efforts, NACCHO has designed tabletop exercises that ask participants to navigate a situation in which the public would be fleeing from the site of a radiological incident and seeking shelter in neighboring communities. Players are then responsible for determining how to establish long-term shelters and immediate decontamination procedures with little warning, how to initiate screening and tracking plans, how to handle radioactive material, and how to manage media requests and respond to social media. NACCHO hosted one exercise in DuPage County, IL, in March and will host another in Cobb County, GA, in spring 2015. These exercises ask a number of stakeholders, including state and local public health, police, fire, emergency response, the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security, to work together and strengthen relationships. NACCHO plans to use the exercises to develop a template that local health departments can use as a resource to advance their own preparedness efforts.

NACCHO Stories from the Field

NACCHO’s new Stories from the Field website is a platform for sharing local health department successes, innovations, and challenges. The website provides a means for local health departments to share their experiences and demonstrate their value. Local health departments are encouraged to submit their stories on a variety of topics including environmental health, infectious disease, injury prevention, and preparedness. NACCHO uses Stories from the Field to support advocacy, peer learning, and collaboration with state and federal partners. View the story database at: www.nacchostories.org.

NACCHO Names New Executive Director

LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH became NACCHO’s new Executive Director in February 2015. He brings experience as a fellow at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration, a CDC representative for South America, a Senate-confirmed state public health director in Illinois, a county health director in New York State, and a professor at a prestigious higher education institution. He replaces Robert Pestronk, MPH, who served for seven years and has retired. For more information about the announcement, visit the NACCHO Press Room.
NACCHO Board of Directors
2014-2015

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District Director
Three Rivers Health District
Owenton, KY

Immediate Past President
Terry Allan, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Parma, OH

President-Elect
Swannie Jett, DrPH, MSc
Executive Director
Seminole County Health Department
Sanford, FL

Vice President
Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH
Chief Public Health Officer
Cambridge Public Health Department
Cambridge, MA

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(Term ends: June 2015)

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West Palm Beach, FL

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Florida Department of Health – Leon County
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Health Officer
Santa Clara County Public Health Department
San Jose, CA

Bob England, MD, MPH
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Maricopa County Department of Health
Phoenix, AZ

Winifred M. Holland, MPH, MA, LMHC
Health Officer
Florida Department of Health – Clay County
Green Cove Springs, FL

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(Term ends: June 2016)

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Farmington Valley Health Department
Canton, CT

PHS Region 2
Kevin Sumner, MPH
Health Officer/Director
Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission
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PHS Region 3

PHS Region 4
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Tribal Health Representative
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Mohegan Tribal Health
Uncasville, CT

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PHS Region 7
Pramod Dwivedi, DrPH
Health Director
Linn County Public Health Department
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PHS Region 8
Doug Linkhart, MPA
Manager
Denver Environmental Health Department
Denver, CO

PHS Region 9
Joseph P. Iser, MD, DrPH, Msc
Chief Health Officer
Southern Nevada Health District
Las Vegas, NV

PHS Region 10
Lloyd Lee (Torney) Smith, MS
Administrator
Spokane Regional Health District
Spokane, WA

Ex Officio Representatives
Brian Bowden
Associate Legislative Director for Health
National Association of Counties
Washington, DC

Crystal D. Swann
Asst. Executive Director, Health and Human Services
United States Conference of Mayors
Washington, DC
BIOGRAPHY
LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Executive Director

As Executive Director for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in Washington, D.C. since February 2015, Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck represents our nation’s local health departments and their staff who protect and promote health, prevent disease, and seek to establish the social foundations for wellness in nearly every community across the United States. Dr. Hasbrouck is a graduate of the University of California-Berkeley’s School of Public Health, UCLA School of Medicine (Charles R. Drew-UCLA Program), and the New York-Presbyterian Hospital’s Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Prior to joining NACCHO, Dr. Hasbrouck was the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, where he managed an agency with 1,100 staff, 200 programs, and an annual budget of more than $600M. He collaborated with nearly 100 local health departments to protect the health and improve the lives of the state’s 13 million residents. Among Hasbrouck’s achievements as director, he developed a five-year strategy, implemented various aspects of the Affordable Care Act, applied for voluntary national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, and built successful partnerships to pass a state cigarette tax increase. Hasbrouck also led the development of statewide blueprints for health workforce expansion and population health-healthcare integration, two key initiatives of the Governor’s Office for Health Innovation and Transformation.

Prior to his appointment as the “Top Doc” for Illinois, Hasbrouck was Public Health Director of Ulster County, and the only county official in New York State to simultaneously lead both the public health and mental health departments. Before that, he spent 11 years with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the nation’s premier public health agency, where his impressive record of service included co-authoring the first Surgeon General’s Report on Youth Violence (2001) and the active engagement in two of the largest global health initiatives in history: polio eradication with the World Health Organization and the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), where he served in a diplomatic assignment as the CDC Director in Guyana, South America.

Formerly, Hasbrouck served on faculties of medicine or public health at Emory University, Morehouse College, New York Medical College, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a diplomat with the American Board of Internal Medicine, a former epidemic intelligence service officer at the CDC, and primary care health policy fellow at the Department of Health and Human Services, Heath Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). He has received numerous awards for his governmental and non-governmental work.
BIOGRAPHY
Georgia F. Heise, President

Georgia F. Heise, DrPH, is President of NACCHO. She is also Director of Three Rivers District Health Department serving a population of 50,000 in the rural Kentucky Counties of Carroll, Gallatin, Owen, and Pendleton. Dr. Heise is a Board member and Policy Committee member of the Kentucky Public Health Association and is involved in many initiatives across the Commonwealth. She serves on the Executive Committee for the Kentucky Health Department Association and is the Personnel Committee chairperson, a group that developed and implemented new minimum requirements for Kentucky local health department directors.

Dr. Heise is a Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute Fellow and mentored a Balderson Award winning Public Health Performance Standards project. She is also the Co-Director for the newly established Kentucky Public Health Institute. Dr. Heise is an adjunct instructor for the University of Kentucky’s College of Public Health and a member of its Chapter of Delta Omega, the national honor society for public health.

Dr. Heise is a National Public Health Leadership Institute Fellow, and an active member of the American Public Health Association and the Southern Health Association. She is passionate about advancing public health in the areas of accreditation and policy development. Three Rivers was one of eleven health departments to recently be awarded accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

On a personal note, Dr. Heise loves “boot camp” and has never met a stray animal she couldn’t love and find a home for.
Swannie Jett, DrPH, MSc is President-Elect of NACCHO. He is also the Health Officer for Florida Department of Health in Seminole County. Dr. Swannie Jett has 18+ years of experience in public health. Seminole County Health Department serves a population size of 450,000 including Sanford, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Lake Mary, Longwood, Oviedo, and Winter Springs. In his current role, Dr. Jett is leading initiatives to strengthen the Seminole County Health Department infrastructure by improving funding streams, workforce competencies, and creating partnerships to improve population health outcomes.

Dr. Jett has completed the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute and has completed NACCHO’s Survive and Thrive and the National Public Health Leadership Institute in 2011. Currently, Dr. Jett serves as a Board member for West Jefferson County Community Task Force, National County and City Health Officials, and is the Past President of the National Association of Health Care Executives-Kentucky Chapter.

In addition to Dr. Jett’s community involvement he is a Captain in the Air Force National Guard. Also, Dr. Jett is an adjunct faculty for the University of Phoenix and Spalding University in Louisville, KY. Dr. Jett graduated from Tennessee State University with a BS in Agricultural Statistics and a MS degree from the University of Tennessee in Bio-Systems Engineering. Dr. Jett’s research interest includes environmental justice, global warming, health disparities, and air pollution. Dr. Jett completed his doctorate in Public Health with emphasis in Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health from the University of Kentucky.
Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH, is the Vice President of NACCHO. He is also the Chief Public Health Officer for the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Jacob has 18 years of experience in public health and has overseen operations of the Cambridge Public Health Department since 2007. Serving a population of 106,000 residents and hundreds of businesses, the Cambridge Public Health Department is operated by a regional safety net health care system through a contract with the city.

During Mr. Jacob’s tenure as the city’s Chief Public Health Officer, he has overseen federally funded initiatives for addressing health disparities among men of color and reducing obesity in children and adults. A proponent of cross-jurisdictional sharing of resources, Mr. Jacob and his department lead a regional coalition to strengthen emergency response in 27 communities and participate in regional initiatives around tobacco use, opioid abuse, and childhood lead poisoning.

Mr. Jacob serves on the Board of Directors for the Public Health Foundation and the National Advisory Board of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. He is the past national chair of the Black Caucus of Health Workers of the American Public Health Association. Mr. Jacob received training at the National Public Health Leadership Institute and completed the W.K. Kellogg Fellowship for Emerging Leadership in Public Health. He is passionate about workforce development, accreditation, quality improvement, and health equity. Mr. Jacob received a master of public health from the University of Illinois at the Chicago School of Public Health.