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.
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.

**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 would affect the health and safety of people in their communities.

Local health departments are greatly concerned with new and proposed cuts that erode public health and medical preparedness nationwide. In FY2014, Congress enacted a cut to the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) of more than $100 million. In FY2015, President Obama has proposed a cut of more than $40 million to the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program (PHEP). With the President’s proposal, PHEP grants will have been cut more than 35 percent and HPP by 47 percent since FY2007. More than 55 percent of local health departments rely solely on federal funding for emergency preparedness activities.

NACCHO is also concerned about the impact on the public’s health if the President’s proposed a cut for the Section 317 Immunization Program in FY2015, to $561 million is not reversed. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 477 cases of measles have been confirmed this year, the highest number of cases since the elimination of measles was documented in the U.S. in 2000. Section 317 provides vital support for programs that help prevent infectious disease and helps health departments build the infrastructure necessary to vaccinate the public and conduct public education campaigns.

For more information about NACCHO advocacy, visit: [www.naccho.org/advocacy/](http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/).
NACCHO Releases 2014 Forces of Change Survey
In June, NACCHO released the 2014 Forces of Change survey which contains new findings on the forces that affect change in our nation’s local health departments. Economic forces, health reform, and health department accreditation are among the greatest contributors to change. Many local health departments continue to experience budget cuts and job losses. Most local health departments are increasingly billing public and private third-party payers for clinical services. Some have played a role in helping community members enroll in health insurance programs. More have been formally pursuing accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. View survey findings presented in five issue briefs at: www.naccho.org/topics/research/forcesofchange.

NACCHO Kicks Off Big Cities Health Coalition with Capitol Hill Briefing on e-Cigarettes
On May 1, the Big Cities Health Coalition, a project of NACCHO, hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill in association with Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) on the topic of e-cigarettes. The Coalition 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, or approximately one in seven Americans. Learn more at: www.bigcitieshealth.org.

NACCHO Develops Two Research Briefs on Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health
Staying Resilient in Hard Times: Local Collaboration for Women, Children, Youth, and Families presents findings from the 2012 NACCHO Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health survey, describes the landscape of existing and potential clinical and non-clinical partners, and offers insight into local health department collaboration. Staying Resilient in Hard Times: Local Programs and Services for Women, Children, Youth, and Families presents a wide array of local health department maternal, child, and adolescent health programs and services and describes their overlap with the healthcare services covered as essential benefits under the Affordable Care Act. Learn more at: http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/mcah/.

NACCHO Project Bolsters Legal Preparedness for Radiological Emergencies
NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are jointly leading a project to assess state and local laws, regulations, and response and recovery protocols for radiation incidents. In phase one of the project, NACCHO created a multidisciplinary workgroup to review research findings, identify legislative and regulatory gaps in radiation legal preparedness, and create new strategies to address the gaps. Phase two, which began in late 2013, is focused on the legal and policy issues related to educational facilities during a radiological event. Learn more at: www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/Radiationprep/index.cfm.
**NACCHO Develops Cancer Prevention Resource Suite**

Comprehensive Cancer Control is a set of collaborative strategies to leverage community resources for cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment. Common activities include strategies to reduce cancer risk, promote healthy lifestyles, ensure access to screenings/diagnostic technologies, and improve the quality of cancer treatment and support services to enhance survivorship. NACCHO’s new *Local Comprehensive Cancer Control and Prevention Resource Suite* provides an interactive framework for local health departments to improve stakeholder partnerships to prevent cancer and provide access to quality cancer treatment services. The resource suite provides information about building cancer coalitions, and offers 9 local health department success stories around preventing cancer in their communities. View NACCHO’s Resource Suite at [www.lhdcancer.org/](http://www.lhdcancer.org/). Learn more at: [www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/Cancer/index.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/Cancer/index.cfm).

**NACCHO Receives FDA Award for Strengthening the Local Health Department Role in Retail Food Safety**

On June 6, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration awarded NACCHO its FDA Group Recognition Award for NACCHO’s partnership with the FDA on a nationwide peer mentorship program to provide local health departments with an opportunity to learn and share experiences, tools, and resources related to the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. The mentorship program matches local health departments seeking assistance with seasoned local health departments to advance their efforts to meet such standards and build sustained capacity within the local health department. Currently, 18 local health departments participate in the program. Learn more at: [www.naccho.org/topics/environmental/foodsafety/retail/index.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/topics/environmental/foodsafety/retail/index.cfm).

**NACCHO Supports Local Health Departments’ Accreditation Preparation**

In June, 13 governmental public health departments joined the growing ranks of those accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Currently, 44 local, state, territorial and tribal health departments are now recognized by PHAB as high-performing health departments. More than 100 local health departments have formally expressed interest in working towards full accreditation status. NACCHO continues to provide resources, tools, assistance, and connection to local health departments committed to improving public health in their local communities. Learn more at: [www.naccho.org/accreditation](http://www.naccho.org/accreditation).
NACCHO Releases Findings from 2013 Profile Survey
In January, NACCHO released the 2013 National Profile of Local Health Departments which provides a comprehensive look at local health department governance, funding, workforce, and activities. It includes surveys related to emergency preparedness, quality improvement, accreditation, policymaking, and information technology. Since 2005, screenings for non-communicable diseases or conditions has decreased in all areas. In 2013, 30 percent of local health departments had completed three prerequisites for PHAB accreditation, compared to 20 percent in 2010. In addition to the full report, the Profile offers state-specific reports and research briefs on cross-jurisdictional sharing among local health departments and local health department accreditation. View the Profile materials at: www.nacchoprofilestudy.org.

NACCHO Helps Local Health Departments Improve Inclusive Emergency Planning
NACCHO developed a technical assistance program to review local health department emergency plans or policies in order to increase inclusion and engagement of people with disabilities in the planning, implementation, and the evaluation of public health programs, products, and services. NACCHO also developed a tip sheet to help local health departments to better serve their entire jurisdiction before, during, and after an emergency. Learn more at: eweb.naccho.org/prd/?na551PDF.

NACCHO Helps Launch New Pandemic Response Program
NACCHO, in collaboration with the CDC and other partners, is working on Flu on Call™, to establish a national network of telephone triage lines to use during a severe pandemic. Flu on Call™ reduces surge on medical facilities, provides an alternative to face-to-face provider encounters, and improves access to antiviral prescriptions for people who are sick. NACCHO’s role ensures that Flu on Call™ supports local health departments, who are on the front lines of emergency response to severe pandemics. Learn more at: www.preparednesssummit.org/countermeasures.

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.
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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.
BIOGRAPHY
Swannie Jett, President-Elect

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.
BIOGRAPHY
Claude-Alix Jacob, Vice President

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.