

03-04

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Public Health Ethics

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supports the Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health¹ developed by the Public Health Leadership Society.

NACCHO urges all local health departments to adopt these principles and to consider them consistently and thoughtfully in their work.

Justification

NACCHO recognizes the central mission of public health in the United States — to protect and ensure the health of the public — is inherently moral in nature. The effectiveness of public health institutions depends heavily on the public's trust, and accountability to the public. Public health decisions and actions are informed not only by science, but also by ethical values.

NACCHO recognizes the need for public health practitioners to consider ethical issues and tensions when making decisions.

References

1. Public Health Leadership Society. (2002). Public Health Code of Ethics. Retrieved October 3, 2019 from https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/membersgroups/ethics/ethics_brochure.ashx
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Public Health Ethics Training Materials. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from <https://www.cdc.gov/od/science/integrity/phethics/trainingmaterials.htm>

Record of Action

Proposed by NACCHO Workforce and Leadership Committee

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Updated July 2010

Updated May 2013

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