

07-10

## STATEMENT OF POLICY

### Mosquito Control

#### Policy

Building on its work with the Mosquito Control Collaborative<sup>1</sup> to disseminate the recommendations for addressing local needs in developing, maintaining, and funding sustainable mosquito control programs as well as research new ideas that help support the recommendations, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO):

- Supports the need for successful coordinated mosquito management programs at the local level, through the provision of additional funds; and research to create, integrate, and coordinate local mosquito control plans with existing district and state plans.<sup>2</sup>
- Urges Congress to enact, fully fund, and maintain funding for mosquito control policies and legislations.

NACCHO supports federal, state, and local funding for local health departments and mosquito control agencies to provide technical assistance, education and research to:

- Improve their capability to predict and avoid new vector borne diseases;
- Support emergency management of mosquito-borne disease outbreaks;<sup>3</sup>
- Address consumers' behavior and practices relating to mosquitoes;
- Advocate for policies that address climate change, which contributes to the global change in distribution and increase of mosquito transmitted diseases;<sup>4</sup>
- Support integrated mosquito management programs designed to benefit or cause minimal harm to people, domestic animals, wildlife and the environment;<sup>5</sup> and
- Support the development of policies that address social injustices which contribute to the disproportionate burden of vector borne or collateral disease on vulnerable populations.

NACCHO also will continue to work with partners such as public works, mosquito control districts, and other agencies to further enhance the effectiveness of mosquito and vector control activities.

#### Justification

Mosquito-borne diseases affect millions of people worldwide each year. In the United States, some species of mosquitoes have transmitted diseases such as encephalitis, West Nile virus (WNV), dengue fever, and malaria to humans, and a variety of diseases to wildlife and domestic animals. The increasing prevalence and changing distribution of these diseases can be partially contributed to climate change and increasing immigration and global travel.<sup>6, 7</sup> To combat mosquitoes and the public health hazards they present, many states and localities have established mosquito control programs. These programs can include gathering surveillance data for medical and environmental networks to detect possible outbreaks and managing prevention, public education, and vector control.<sup>8</sup>



WNV, a mosquito transmitted disease, has become an endemic health problem that has spread throughout the United States and will continue to afflict citizens on a yearly basis. There is need to provide funding for mosquito control policies and legislations to enhance the development of integrated mosquito management programs throughout the U.S. and aid in the overall protection of public health.

## **References**

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4. NACCHO. (2010). *Local Health Department Role in Addressing Climate Change*. Adopted by the NACCHO Board of Directors, July 2007, Updated November 2010.
5. Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association. (2012). *Integrated Mosquito Management*. Retrieved on April 24, 2012.
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8. U.S Environmental Protection Agency. (2007). *Pesticides: Mosquito Control*. Retrieved on April 13, 2012 from <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/>.

## **Record of Action**

*Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors*

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