

WHAT'S CHANGED IN PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE LAST 30 YEARS?

Public health has made huge strides in keeping the nation safe and healthy over the last three decades—but health departments still need more resources

THE 1988 IOM REPORT



In 1988, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a report, *The Future of Public Health*, that raised grave concern about the public health system's ability to effectively meet the needs of society.



The report called for a variety of changes, including defining the mission of the public health service system and improving the technical, political, managerial, and programmatic skills of public health practitioners.

THE EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In the 30 years since IOM issued the report, the public health system has evolved and improved



The field has identified public health services that should be available in every jurisdiction and has benchmarked them through a system of public health accreditation.



New areas of focus like emergency preparedness have matured and become systematic.



HIV has become a chronic disease for many, rather than a death sentence.



Local public health professionals are recognized as community experts on how to keep the public healthy and safe.



Local health officials regularly communicate health concerns to policymakers at all levels.

LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENTS TODAY



Local health departments are facing new and ever-changing challenges



Emerging infectious diseases like Ebola and the Zika virus



The **reemergence of eradicated infectious diseases** like measles due to vaccine hesitancy



Opioid addiction and associated infectious diseases



Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease



Antibiotic resistance

In light of these challenges, local health departments need additional resources to protect the health of the nation.



NACCHO is the voice of the nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe. Learn more at <http://www.naccho.org>.

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