

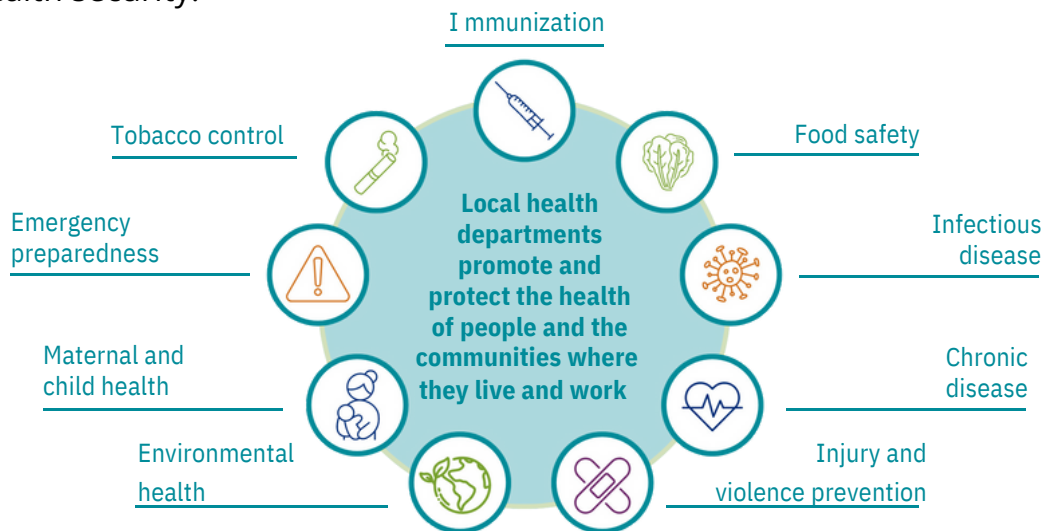
Public Health is Local

A Common-Sense Investment to Achieve National Health Security and Prosperity

Federal Investments in Local Health Departments Keep Our Nation Safe

Local public health departments serve as the backbone of community safety. They are prepared 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to emergencies like floods, train derailments, disease outbreaks, or winter storms. Local health departments coordinate closely with law enforcement, emergency management, and health care providers to protect lives and local economies. They know how to quickly respond and deploy resources during public health emergencies due to focused preparedness planning, training, and exercises.

Moreover, they work each day to make their region healthier and more resilient before a crisis, by providing essential services like screening and treatment for both chronic and infectious diseases; maternal and child health services; environmental health services; epidemiology and data collection, analysis, and monitoring; routine immunizations; primary prevention care; food safety activities; and emergency preparedness and response. As local leaders, they work to address the unique challenges facing their community to improve quality of life and ensure economic productivity, while helping to achieve national health priorities. Federal investments in local public health are a needed investment to protect national health security.



Federal Investments in Local Health Departments Save Lives, Reduce Costs, and Keep People Working

Local health departments protect the health of entire populations with a focus on preventing the leading causes of illness or injury, reducing needless suffering, and lowering future health care costs. Local health departments are uniquely positioned to address the needs of their communities, leveraging close partnerships and data gathered through Community Needs Health Assessments. The frontline services they provide protect families,

reduce emergency room visits, and help individuals remain healthy and productive. By addressing the underlying causes of disease, public health reduces long-term health care costs and strengthens the overall physical and economic health of the nation. The work they do each day in communities across the country improves people's lives and makes the United States a stronger, more resilient nation. By investing in public health, policymakers support local efforts to save lives and ensure a physically and economically healthy community.

Chronic diseases are a major driver of the nation's \$4.5 trillion annual healthcare expenditure. They not only increase healthcare costs but also impact economic growth. According to the American Heart Association, conditions like heart disease and stroke cost more than \$100 billion in lost job productivity annually. However, public health activities focused on prevention and early intervention can block or minimize the impact and cost of these diseases in the future.

Federal Investments in Local Public Health Save Lives

While local health department budgets are a mix of local, state, grant, or fee-based funding, federal investments—particularly from the CDC—are critical to supporting local public health. Approximately 80% of CDC's budget goes out the door to support the work being done by local and state health departments. These funds are critical to the nation's public health capacity and promote chronic disease prevention, and they make up an important portion of local health department budgets.

Local health departments use federal dollars to serve families, protect schools, and prevent costly emergencies in their communities. They support practical solutions that ensure every community—rural, urban, and frontier—has the tools to stay healthy and respond. Federal dollars help local health leaders do what they do best, protect communities through prevention and early intervention with targeted, efficient solutions. Federal investments in local health departments from CDC, ASPR, SAMHSA, and HRSA are critical and fiscally responsible as the nation's life expectancy rates work to recover from recent declines and health care costs rise.

By investing in public health at all levels, policymakers can build on past successes, ensure the system's continued effectiveness, and create a healthier, more resilient future for all Americans.

About NACCHO The National Association of County and City Health Officials is the voice of the over 3,300 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.

For more information, please contact:
Victoria Van de Vate
Director, Government Affairs
202-783-5550
vvandevate@naccho.org