



CREATING A **HEALTHIER** LA COUNTY

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Presentation to:
Los Angeles County Commission on Women
February 13, 2012



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

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What is Public Health?

“...public health is what we, as a society,
do collectively to **assure the
conditions** for people to be **healthy**.”

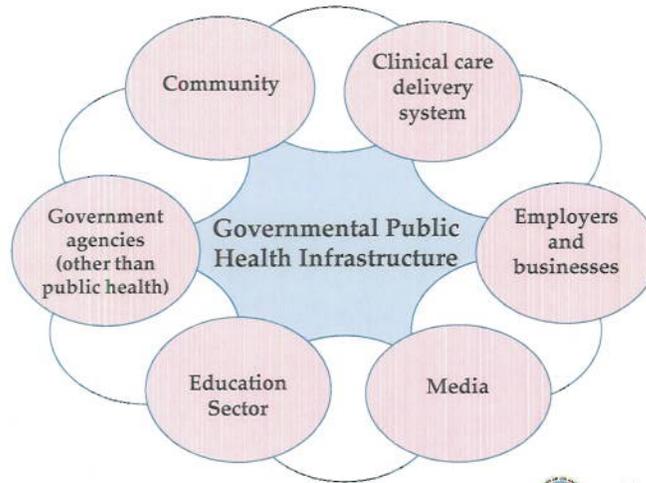
- *The Future of Public Health*
IOM 1988
- *The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century*
IOM 2003



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Who Has a Role in Public Health?



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Our Mission
*To protect health, prevent disease,
and promote the health and well-being
of all persons in Los Angeles County*



Department of Public Health Quick Facts

Annual budget: **\$850 million**

Number of programs: **39**

Number of health centers: **14**

Number of staff: More than **4,000**

Year founded: **1903**, when Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance for the provision of a county health department. In **2006**, DPH separated from DHS to become a freestanding department.



Department of Public Health Quick Facts

Area served: **4,060** square miles (88 incorporated cities and 2 islands, and unincorporated areas)

Number of persons served: **9.8 million** residents (more than 41 States)

Populations served:

- **48%** Latino, **28%** White, **14%** Asian/Pacific Islander, **9%** African American, **1%** American Indian
- Over **100** different languages spoken
- **15.3%** living in poverty



Department of Public Health Creating a Healthier LA County

DPH protects and improves
community health through:

- Disease and injury prevention and control
- Health promotion
- Health protection

*Focus on population and
communities, not just individuals*



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Creating a Healthier LA County Disease and Injury Prevention and Control

HIV/AIDS Prevention
Sexually Transmitted Disease Control
Acute Communicable Disease Control
Tuberculosis Control
Injury and Violence Prevention
Public Health Laboratory
Substance Abuse Prevention
Immunizations



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Creating a Healthier LA County Disease and Injury Prevention and Control

Selected DPH activities:

- Treats people with **TB** and **STDs**
- Provides **immunizations**
- Controls **animals, rodents, and insects** that may cause disease
- Provides **laboratory services** to identify disease and health hazards
- Provides **substance abuse treatment** directly and through contracts with community providers



Creating a Healthier LA County Disease and Injury Prevention and Control



DPH's Division of HIV/STD Programs offers free home test kits for women.



DPH's Division of HIV/STD Programs encourages people to get tested for HIV through its many community-based partner organizations.



MLK Center for Public Health is the newest of DPH's 14 health centers, offering immunizations, TB and STD treatment, and health promotion activities for the community.



Creating a Healthier LA County Health Promotion

PLACE
MaternalChild
AdolescentHealth
TobaccoControl
Nutrition
Women'sHealth
OralHealth
PhysicalActivity



Creating a Healthier LA County Health Promotion

Selected DPH activities:

- Makes **home visits** to coordinate the care of high-risk pregnant women
- Conducts **heart disease risk assessments** for women
- Promotes policy change to support **healthy, safe, and active** environments
- Promotes policy and environmental change to reduce **smoking** and **obesity**



Creating a Healthier LA County Health Promotion

**CHOOSE
HEALTH LA!**

DPH's *Project Renew* works with community partners to improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and reduce obesity.

**It's *quitting*
time L.A.!**

DPH's *Project Trust* offers resources such as free nicotine patches to help LA residents quit smoking.



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Creating a Healthier LA County Health Protection

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
Environmental Health
Health Facilities Inspection
Emergency Preparedness and Response
Toxics Epidemiology



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Creating a Healthier LA County Health Protection

Selected DPH activities:

- Inspects and grades **restaurants, markets, and food trucks** to prevent food-related illness
- Monitors **ocean water** and **swimming pools** to ensure safe swim areas
- Helps residents prepare for natural or human-caused **emergencies** and **disasters**
- Inspects and licenses **hospitals** and **nursing homes**



Creating a Healthier LA County Health Protection



DPH's Environmental Health program inspects food facilities, housing, and water to reduce environmental health risks.



DPH's Emergency Preparedness and Response Program helps LA residents prepare for emergencies and disasters.



How does Public Health help me, my family and my community?



Let's look at
a day in the life
of Public Health ...



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Morning

- Brush teeth → Safe water
- Eat breakfast → Pasteurized Milk
- Have snack at a coffee shop → Inspected
- Drive to work → Seat belts, air bags



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Afternoon

- Go to beach → Ocean water monitored
- Pick up birth certificate for passport → Vital records
- Shop at the mall → Laws ban smoking in public places
- Have a chest x-ray → Safe equipment



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Evening

- Prepare a healthy dinner → Obesity education
- Children bike ride after dinner → Wear helmets
- Visit grandmother in nursing home → Inspected, licensed



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Public Health's Top 10 Accomplishments During the 20th Century

Today, Americans live about **30 years longer** than in 1900 mostly due to Public Health efforts

- Developing vaccinations
- Ensuring safer workplaces
- Controlling infectious diseases
- Decreasing deaths from heart disease/stroke
- Ensuring safer and healthier foods
- Increasing family planning options
- Adding fluoride to drinking water
- Recognizing tobacco use is harmful
- Developing motor-vehicle safety policies
- Improving health for mothers and babies



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Keep up with the latest news from the Department of Public Health

Website: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



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