

# PROTECT



## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS PROTECT COMMUNITY HEALTH & ECONOMIC VITALITY THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### We:

- Uphold policies we know improve our community's health
- Continuously assess needs and improve capacity to promote better health

### Example:

- North Carolina's smoke-free restaurants and bars law is both effective and popular. This policy change is contributing to a 21 percent decrease in emergency room visits for heart attacks, improving air quality by 89 percent in those venues, and earning high approval ratings in a recent poll.

# PREVENT



## PUBLIC HEALTH WORKS EVERY DAY TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES BY PREVENTING ILLNESS & IMPROVING HEALTH

### What do local health departments do for your community?

- Keep Food and Physical Environments Safe
- Help Prevent the Occurrence and Spread of Disease
- Prepare for and Respond to Disasters and Emergencies

### Example:

- North Carolina's State Fair drew national attention last year after an E coli outbreak resulted in 27 cases, spanning 7 counties, resulting in 5 hospitalized in serious condition and 4 on dialysis. The investigation took boots on the ground... health departments who participated in the investigation, monitored local hospitals and doctors' offices, informed the public, and helped to contain the incident.

# PROMOTE



## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS PROMOTE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### We:

- Assure a healthcare safety net and champion proven practices to foster better health for everyone
- Know prevention works and access to health services cuts costs for everyone

### Example:

- In 2010, North Carolina's infant mortality rate declined sharply to the lowest level in state history. The current rate represents an 11.4 percent drop in the state's infant mortality rate. The trend underscores the impact of public health programs aimed at improving birth outcomes and maternal and child health.



## IS NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHY?

### Not so much...

- We are doing pretty well for a Southern State
- But there are communities in NC that are among the most unhealthy places to live

## State Health Rankings

Southeastern State	Overall National Health Ranking	National Rank Children Living in Poverty	National Rank Lack of Health Insurance	National Rank Public Health Funding	National Rank Annual Unemployment Rate
Virginia	20	4	20	31	8
North Carolina	32	47 *	38 **	42 ***	43 ****
Florida	33	32	48	35	46
Georgia	37	40	46	38	38
Tennessee	39	36	29	22	35
West Virginia	41	25	21	4	28
Kentucky	43	40	31	23	42
South Carolina	45	44	41	29	45
Alabama	46	39	32	10	31
Mississippi	50	50	44	28	41

## COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

County	Health Outcome Ranking	Health Factor Ranking	Adult Obesity	High School Graduation Rate	Some College	Unemployment Rate	Children in Poverty	Uninsured
Wake	1	2	26%	84%	77%	8.4%	15%	14%
Orange	2	1	23%	86%	77%	6.5%	17%	14%
Forsyth	25	21	26%	82%	62%	9.9%	24%	17%
Davidson	50	62	29%	80%	49%	12.5%	26%	19%
Currituck	51	17	33%	80%	56%	6.8%	18%	18%
Stokes	75	60	28%	85%	46%	10.8%	22%	17%
Robeson	99	100	41%	80%	38%	12.6%	46%	25%
Columbus	100	91	34%	83%	52%	12.7%	41%	20%

## WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH DOING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO IMPROVE HEALTH?

- Transforming communities through Community Transformation Grants - natural neutral conveners
- Excellent collaboration with Division of Public Health
- Immunizations - school requirements
- Comprehensive smoke free public places - Durham and Orange - thanks to HB 2

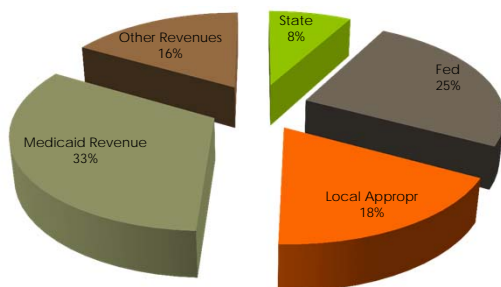
## WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH DOING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO IMPROVE HEALTH?

- Direct Provision of health services to high risk populations which saves the state dollars
  - Over half of the local health departments provide primary care and dental care along with the mandated, PH programs of MH, CH
- Accreditation to raise the bar and standardize local health department work
- Community conveners for collaborative approach health-CHA driving local planning

## LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGES

- Funding - Silos still limit a nimble response
  - Example: Health Departments are an important safety net provider for NC Medicaid patients, but Medicaid reimbursement for services provided through LHDs represents 1% of the state Medicaid budget
- Data challenges
- Achieving policy change at the state and local level
- Personal Health Changes
- Shifting sands at the federal level with Affordable Care Act, Medicaid Expansion

## Local Health Department Revenues by Source FY '10



## Local Public Health Challenges

- NC has a Health Department in every county which works well for providing necessary health promotion, prevention and protection, but also allows for local initiatives which works well
- Infrastructure needs improvement
  - Information Technology
  - Flexible funding for local initiatives (only General Aid to County allows flexibility - all other state/federal initiatives are restricted)



## OPPORTUNITIES

### Thank You!!!

- \$4.8 million for local health departments in this year's budget
  - Dependent on Medicaid achieving budget goals, so a short time frame to spend, but excellent opportunities outlined by the legislation

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Support an increase in food and lodging inspection fees
- Restore State support for Accreditation Program for local health departments
- Oppose any bill or amendment that weakens the smoke-free restaurant and bars law
- Support the recommendation to raise state tax on tobacco to the national average
- Support funding for evidence-based tobacco prevention and cessation programs through the tobacco master settlement dollars