Public Health in the U.S.

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Foundation of Public Health
What is Public Health?

- Public Health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work, and play (APHA).
Public Health

**Vision**
- Healthy people in healthy communities

**Mission**
- Promote physical and mental health
- Prevent disease, injury, and disability
The Commissioned Corps traces its beginnings back to the U.S. Marine Hospital Service protecting against the spread of disease from sailors returning from foreign ports and maintaining the health of immigrants entering the country. Currently, Commissioned Corps officers are involved in health care delivery to underserved and vulnerable populations, disease control and prevention, biomedical research, food and drug regulation, mental health and drug abuse services, and response efforts for natural and man-made disasters as an essential component of the largest public health program in the world.
3 Core Functions of Public Health

- Assessment
- Policy Developments
- Assurance
10 Essential Services of Public Health

- Evaluate
- Monitor Health
- Diagnose & Investigate
- System Management
- Research
- Inform, Educate, Empower
- Mobilize Community Partnerships
- Develop Policies
- Enforce Laws
- Link to/Provide Care
- Assure Competent Workforce

We Protect Lives.
Ten Great U.S. Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century (1900-1999)

- Vaccination
- Motor-vehicle safety
- Safer workplaces
- Control of infectious diseases
- Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
- Safer and healthier foods
- Healthier mothers and babies
- Family planning
- Fluoridation of drinking water
- Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard
Public Health in the U.S.
Public Health Professionals/Disciplines

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Masters of Public Health
- Health Educators
- Social Workers
- Navigators
- Community Health Workers/Promotoras

- Epidemiologists
- Evaluators
- Environmental Health
- Infectious Disease
- Mental Health
- Nutritionists
- IT
Governance Classifications for Public Health Departments

*Governance classification categories were collapsed such that centralized/largely centralized states were compared to decentralized/largely decentralized states in subsequent analyses.

Organizations that Address Public Health

- **Government**
  - Federal, state, local, tribal
- **Healthcare**
  - Continuum of care
- **Educational Institutes**
  - Workforce
- **Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)**
  - Disease management and prevention
- **Corporations and Businesses**
  - Worksite Wellness
- **Non-Profits**
  - Consumer Advocacy groups
Federal and National Public Health Agencies/Organizations

- CDC is the lead premiere public health agency for the U.S.
- American Public Health Association is a national organization that champions the health of all people and communities
- ASTHO is a national non-profit organization representing public health agencies in the U.S.
Public Health System
Recent Public Health Events
Hurricane Katrina

- The largest residential disaster in U.S. history
- 80% of New Orleans was flooded
- At least 986 deaths are attributed to Katrina
- More than 1 million people displaced
- $135 billion in total damages

*Source: Data Center Research, August 2016
http://www.datacenterresearch.org/data-resources/katrina/facts-for-impact/
Zika Virus

- Viral disease transmitted to people by mosquitoes
- Can also be transmitted from mother to fetus and through sexual contact
- Outbreaks are occurring in multiple countries
- Local transmissions have been reported in Florida
- 80 confirmed travel-related cases in Georgia
- No cure; prevention and restricted travel is recommended
Gun Violence

• Leading cause of premature death
• Guns kill approximately 30,000 people and cause 60,000 injuries each year
• APHA and other organizations calling for violence prevention policies
Opioid Epidemic

- More people died from drug overdoses in 2014 than any year on record
- In March 2015 HHS Sec. Burwell announced an initiative to tackle opioid epidemic
- 174 overdoses in 6 Days in Cincinnati (August 2016)
Public Health Department Accreditation
Public Health Department Accreditation

- The measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards.
- The issuance of recognition of achievement of accreditation within a specified time frame by a nationally recognized entity.
- The continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.
- The goal of the voluntary national accreditation program is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments.
- The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is the governing body.
PHAB Accreditation

• As of 8/24/16, 16 state and local health departments, including 1 tribal health department, has achieved accreditation
  – Gwinnett/Newton/Rockdale County Health Departments are included in this number
• Georgia DPH is currently going through the process of being accredited
  – The State Health Improvement Plan is currently available for public comment
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
Sources

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (http://www.cdc.gov/)
- Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (http://www.usphs.gov/)
- Public Health Accreditation Board (http://www.phaboard.org/)
- ASTHO Profile of State Public Health: Vol 3 (2014)
- Data Center Research (http://www.datacenterresearch.org/)
- American Public Health Association (https://www.apha.org/)