

Oregon's Governmental Public Health System

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Office of the State Public Health Director

What is public health?

- Social services (e.g., housing, employment, financial support)
- Epidemiology
- Policy development
- Behavioral health
- Research
- Restaurant inspections
- Outbreak investigations
- Social work
- Social marketing communications
- Clinical practice/primary care



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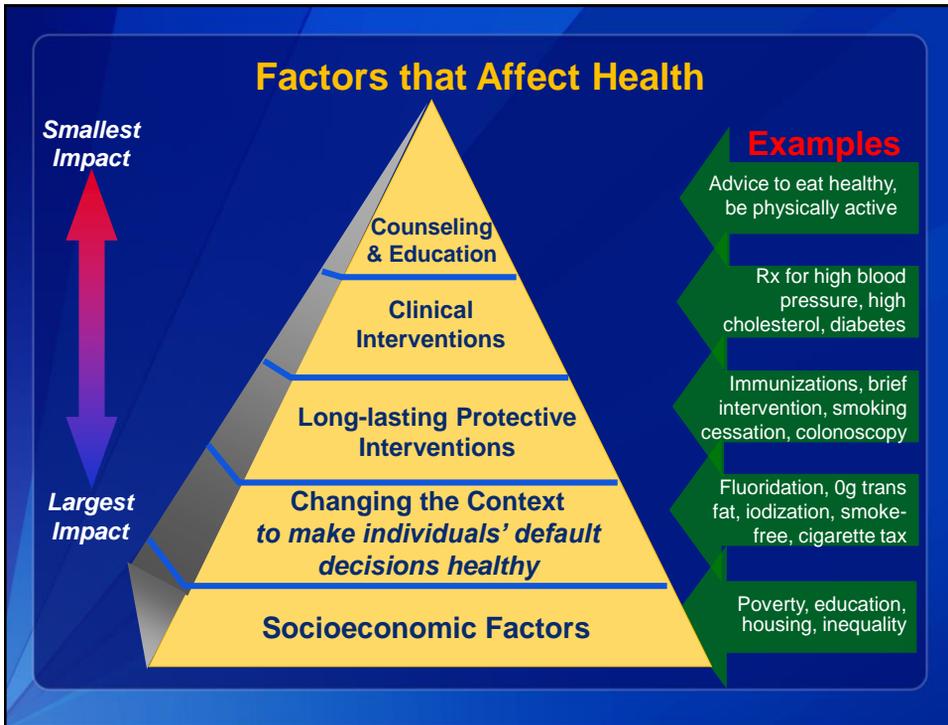
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What does the public health system do?



VITAL RECORDS
Orders Hotline
888-896-4988
Online Orders
www.vitalchek.com

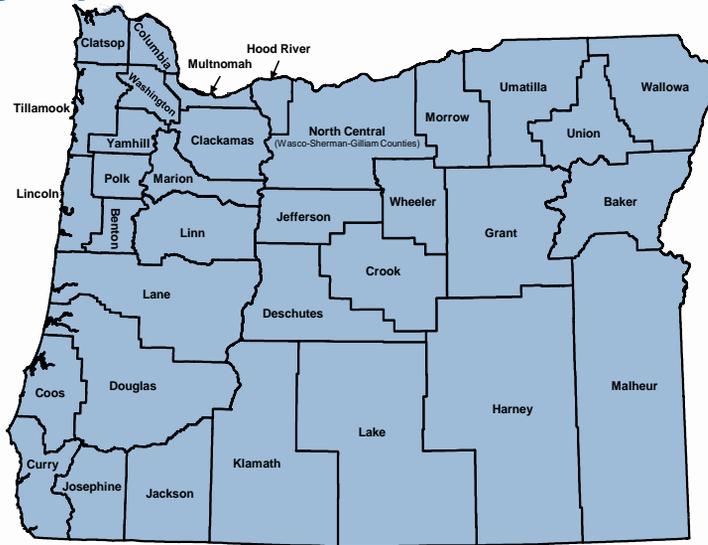




Structure of Oregon's public health system

- Oregon has a decentralized public health system: administrative, ownership and authority for public health lies with local public health departments.
- County Boards of Commission act as the Local Board of Health unless the county establishes a separate Board.

Oregon public health districts



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Who has public health authority in Oregon?

- Oregon Public Health Division, Public Health Director
- Boards of Health
- Local public health authorities
- Local public health administrators
- State and local health officers

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Oregon Public Health Division authority

- Direct supervision and authority over public health in Oregon (ORS 431.110)
- Ultimately responsible for enforcing public health laws (ORS 431.120, 431.150, 431.155, 431.170, 432.262)
- Enhanced authority during a public health emergency (ORS 431.264, 433,443)
- Distributes funds to local public health authorities (ORS 431.380)

Local public health authority

- Responsible for:
 - On the ground provision of public health services
 - Administering and enforcing state and local public health laws
 - Other activities as defined in the state/local public health authority financial services contract

Public health enforcement authority

- State and local public health have the authority to:
 - Investigate possible violations of the law
 - Issue subpoenas, orders and civil penalties
 - Seek court orders to enforce public health law
 - Require removal or abatement of toxic substances
 - Refer matters for possible criminal prosecution



Foundational capabilities for governmental public health

Leadership and organizational competencies



- Engage in policy development and appropriately use legal services during policy implementation
- Use data-driven decision-making to lead organizational changes
- Ensure a diverse and high quality governmental public health workforce
- Ensure the operational infrastructure necessary to fully implement public health functions, such as information technology and public health informatics

Health equity and cultural responsiveness



- Identify challenges to achieving health equity
- Create accountability and metrics for health equity initiatives
- Build a more diverse public health leadership and workforce
- Be responsive to cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, and literacy level

Community partnership development



- Sustain collaborative relationships with health-related organizations
- Work with partners across sectors to promote health, prevent disease and protect residents
- Share accountability for driving a collective impact for the public's health
- Engage community members to develop community health assessments and health improvement plans

Assessment and epidemiology



- Analyze population health data (e.g. vital records, survey data, reportable disease data) and explain the distribution of disease and death
- Implement the REAL+D law to evaluate differences in health outcomes across population sub-groups
- Produce reports of population health data
- Calculate the return on investment for public health interventions
- Develop community health assessments
- Provide 24/7 access to laboratory services through the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

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Policy and planning



- Engage community members to develop public health policy recommendations
- Inform policies being considered by other agencies that impact health
- Develop and amend regulations that guide the enforcement of public health laws
- Evaluate the impact of public health policies
- Develop and implement health improvement plans

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Communications



- Implement a strategic communications plan
- Transmit and receive two-way communications 24/7
- Deliver proactive health education messages
- Ensure communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Maintain relationships with the media, community organizations and other stakeholders

Emergency preparedness and response



- Develop and exercise preparedness and response plans
- Ensure protections and address functional needs for populations at greater risk in the event of emergencies
- Activate emergency response personnel and communications in the event of a public health crisis
- Issue and enforce emergency health orders
- Receive notification of and respond to events 24/7
- Ensure laboratory capacity to identify biological and chemical threats

Foundational programs for governmental public health

Communicable disease control



- Identify causes of, contributors to and trends in communicable diseases and outbreaks
- Investigate, control and prevent disease outbreaks
- Communicate with the public about health risks
- Publish data and statistics
- Provide technical assistance to health care providers on care for communicable diseases
- Allocate health care resources in the event of a public health emergency or outbreak
- Enforce public health laws

Prevention & health promotion



- Use data to identify health issues and needs
- Convene partners to develop plans to address identified health needs
- Implement evidence-based policies and programs to improve health equity
- Integrate health promotion programs including tobacco control; nutrition; oral health; prenatal, natal and postnatal care and childhood and maternal health; physical activity; and unintentional and intentional injuries

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Environmental health



- Monitor the impact of environmental hazards on health
- Diagnose and investigate environmental health issues
- Educate the community about environmental health issues
- Develop policies to address environmental health issues
- Enforce public health laws and implement regulatory programs to protect the public from environmental health hazards

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Access to clinical preventive services



- Convene stakeholders to assess access to clinical preventive services and identify opportunities to improve
- Assure access to clinical preventive services for everyone in Oregon
- Recommend evidence-based clinical and community interventions
- Ensure access to laboratory services
- Provide data to support health care planning

Questions?

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