

Arizona

TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

A strong public health system is crucial for protecting and improving the health of Americans.

Arizona's Public Health

Arizona's population has almost doubled in the last 20 years, but the public health workforce has not kept pace. Arizona has only 48 public health workers for every 100,000 residents; nationally the rate is 158 per 100,000. Only 2.3% of health care expenditures in Arizona are spent on public health.

Arizonans' life expectancy is 71 years (55 for Arizona Native Americans), compared to the national average of 76 years. The leading causes of death in Arizona are largely preventable through access to care, education, and changes in behavior.

An estimated 18.4% of Arizonans lack health insurance, compared to 14.5% nationally.

An Arizona public health success story is that fewer Arizonans use tobacco than the national average (18.6% compared to 23.2% nationally). Disease prevention and health promotion programs can improve the public's health, but they happen through broad planning, public involvement, and a strong public health system.

For more information

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What is the Arizona Turning Point Project?

The national Turning Point Initiative aims to transform and strengthen the public health system in the United States by making it more community based and collaborative. Turning Point in Arizona works collaboratively with communities and key partners to improve the public's health and promote sound public health policies. The project addresses public health workforce development needs, information dissemination, disparities in health status, and public health advocacy and seeks to make the public health system in Arizona more effective and responsive to community concerns and issues.

How is the Arizona Turning Point Project improving public health?

- Provide workforce development for frontline public health workers through training and technical assistance in an "Academy Without Walls" to strengthen the public health workforce
- Increase direct access to public health information through the creation of Public Health Information Centers in public libraries, local health departments, and tribal service centers, providing access to public health information and building working relationships between libraries and local health departments
- Assess local county and tribal public health workforce competencies in partnership with the Arizona Local Health Officers' Association by implementing *The Public Health Competency Handbook*, an assessment and evaluation tool for local health departments to improve public health competency of individuals and organizations
- Provide skill building and knowledge to local communities about how to advocate for their own health needs and encourage community participation in statewide public health planning

What can Arizona Turning Point help you do?

- Address public health policies and priorities identified by a planning group of more than 100 individuals representing state and local community partners
- Access opportunities to engage in community dialogue about promoting, protecting, and preserving the public's health
- Provide up-to-date information about emerging public health issues and link individuals, communities, and organizations to public health experts

Support

The Turning Point Initiative is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The National Program Office is located at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. Contact the National Program Office at 206-616-8410 or visit www.turningpointprogram.org.

