

California TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

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

California's Public Health

With 61 public health departments in 58 California counties and 3 municipalities, California has one of the best public health systems in the nation. Yet, existing structures are not adequate for the types of resources needed to improve health.

The complex issues related to lifestyle, environment, and emerging infectious diseases require comprehensive solutions and a public health system prepared to address the range of factors that most influence community health.

The leading causes of death for Californians are preventable health problems caused by tobacco use, poor diet and lack of exercise, alcohol, infectious agents, and pollutants. Obesity alone currently costs California \$14.2 billion a year in direct medical costs and lost productivity.

Today's public health system must be based on strong health departments working collaboratively with communities to confront the changing social and environmental sources of preventable illnesses.

For more information

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What is Turning Point in California?

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. In California, Turning Point has a formal linkage with the Partnership for the Public's Health, a statewide initiative funded by The California Endowment and administered by the Public Health Institute. The Partnership for the Public's Health is a five-year initiative that supports collaborative planning for community health improvement among 14 public health departments and 37 community collaborative groups in California.

How is the Partnership for the Public's Health improving health?

- Supporting the development of effective and responsive public health systems
- Mobilizing and developing effective public health leadership in communities through partnerships between local health departments and community organizations to support sustainable community health improvement initiatives
- Increasing cross-cultural understanding among local partners in order to address disparities in health
- Addressing the complex health priorities identified by communities working in partnership with their local health departments
- Promoting policies that improve public health capacity in California to work more effectively with communities

How can the Partnership for the Public's Health help you address these concerns?

- Identify and address policies that are barriers to improved health for California and its communities
- Facilitate partnerships to develop innovative solutions to public health problems and emerging issues
- Communicate reliable health information to the public and policy makers

Support

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Partnership
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