

# Louisiana

# TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

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

## Louisiana's Public Health

Louisiana's public health system suffers from a lack of adequate funding and resources—creating an environment in which it is difficult to set new health policies— and a lack of effective cooperation among organizations that provide health care.

For a decade, Louisiana has consistently ranked among the lowest 10 states for poor health among its residents. Louisiana also has some of the highest levels in the US of unemployment, uninsured workers, and people with chronic diseases.

Organizations and individuals invested in the public's health in Louisiana must coordinate efforts to maximize resources and create innovative systems of delivery to improve the health of those who live in our state.

### For more information

Joe Kimbrell or Michele Jean-Pierre

Louisiana Public Health Institute  
1600 Canal Suite 501  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
504-539-9481  
mjeanpierre@lphi.org  
jkimbrell@lphi.org

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## What is Louisiana Turning Point?

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. The Louisiana Turning Point Partnership, formed in 1998, helps communities make beneficial partnerships with local sectors to address their public health needs. It is housed at the Louisiana Public Health Institute.

## How is Louisiana Turning Point improving public health?

- Creating the Community Capacity Enhancement Center to help communities gain the knowledge and skills necessary to influence public health policy and successfully develop and sustain local health initiatives
- Convening organizations engaged in improving the public's health in forums called the Access to Care Congress, which has allowed for comprehensive problem-solving among local organizations to ensure access to care in the state
- Improving effective policy development in Louisiana by creating the Louisiana Public Health Policy Institute and by facilitating a conference to help communities across the state learn about affecting the development of local and state public health policy
- Conducting the first comprehensive assessment of Louisiana's public health environment, culminating in the Louisiana Public Health Improvement Plan of June 2000
- Providing training and technical support for 29 community health Delta Parishes on effective leadership and successful grant administration

## What can Louisiana Turning Point help you do?

- Expand access to health care for the uninsured and under-insured in Louisiana communities
- Increase community leadership development and mobilization for improving local public health systems

## 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](http://www.turningpointprogram.org).