

New Hampshire TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

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

New Hampshire's Public Health

New Hampshire consistently rates as one of the healthiest states in the country when measured by such factors as child health, health care access, and health care quality.

Statewide average statistics, however, mask disparities in the health and quality of life of some of New Hampshire residents.

New Hampshire has a very fragmented local public health system. The 234 appointed health officers, often employed as building inspectors and with no training in health, represent the health department in most New Hampshire towns.

By default, police, fire, school nurses and nonprofit health and human service providers fulfill roles more typically assigned to local public health officials.

There is a lack of cohesive disease control and surveillance at the local level, a failure to identify and maximize statewide assets related to public health, and a shortage of public health resources coming into the state.

For more information

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What is New Hampshire 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. In New Hampshire, the Turning Point partnership consists of the New Hampshire Public Health Network. The Network originated as four regional community collaboratives and two city health departments working to make a more effective and responsive local public health system. Building on these successes the Public Health Network has continued to expand and will be made up of 10 regional collaboratives by spring 2003, representing 60% of New Hampshire residents.

How is New Hampshire Turning Point improving public health?

The New Hampshire Public Health Network has created effective community collaboratives to maximize limited resources to improve public health. Together, the Network collaboratives are:

- Assessing local needs and identifying local public health system gaps for which regional stakeholders are working with state partners to provide disease monitoring, technical assistance, training in bioterrorism response, and installing unique regional models tailored to local needs
- Mobilizing public health leaders and existing resources at the community level to develop coordinated responses to community and regional public health needs
- Developing strategic linkages with businesses, schools, hospitals, human service providers and faith communities to assess and plan for improvement of overall health status
- Sharing resources to create economies of scale, reduce potential for redundancy, and improve overall public health system effectiveness

What can New Hampshire Turning Point help you do?

- Create a New Hampshire Public Health Resource Team as a link between elected officials and the providers and collaborative partnerships in local communities
- Increase direct contact with constituents regarding priority public health issues in their communities
- Identify barriers to community health, including lack of health care coverage and services, poverty, attitudes and belief systems, and environmental factors
- Strengthen regional partnerships that share in planning, building, and maintaining healthy communities.

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.

