

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

New York's Public Health

New York's 14,000 public health workers within the state health department and 58 local health departments are at the front lines to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease. They also protect against environmental hazards, promote and encourage healthy life-styles, assure high-quality accessible health services, and respond to community disasters and aid in recovery.

The nearly 19 million people who live in New York State urgently need a public health workforce trained in emerging public health issues including biological, chemical, and radiological emergency preparedness.

New Yorkers include 12% who are not citizen residents and a diverse mix of racial and ethnic groups. Disease prevention and health promotion for New Yorkers requires communicating effectively across cultures and among diverse populations.

Local health departments need resources and training to strengthen their capacities to prepare for public health emergencies among diverse populations throughout the state.

For more information

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New York TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

What is New York 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. New York's Turning Point Initiative is strengthening the capacity of the public health workforce and community health coalitions by increasing public health knowledge, skills and program effectiveness. The timely successes of Turning Point's collaborative partnerships and development of a skilled workforce in New York are substantially improving the state's public health responsiveness to bioterrorism and other emerging public health threats.

How is the New York State Turning Point Initiative strengthening public health?

- Enhancing partnerships with local public health agencies, schools of public health, professional health care and community based organizations to identify and address the training and continuing education needs of the public health workforce and community health coalitions.
- Co-sponsoring the *Third Thursday Breakfast Broadcasts (T2B2)*, a nationally recognized, monthly one-hour satellite broadcast series featuring experts on current public health issues. These broadcasts strengthen skills and provide essential information to communities for addressing emerging public health issues such as emergency preparedness, bioterrorism, and West Nile virus.
- Developing an online course providing training for public health nurses and an orientation course for new local health commissioners and directors.
- Improving knowledge, skills and access to community health data and information needed to assess and address priority health issues in communities.
- Strengthening collaboration between local hospitals and public health agencies that is necessary to assess and address community health issues and to prepare for potential public health emergencies.

How can the New York State Turning Point Initiative help you?

- Identify high priority public health needs and resources in your communities.
- Assess and address the ongoing training needs of New York's public health workforce.
- Provide access to high quality training and material on emerging public health issues such as emergency preparedness and bioterrorism.
- Assure that your public health workers are prepared and relate effectively to important partners such as hospitals and first responders.

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.

