

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

Oregon's Public Health

Assessments of Oregon's public health system in 2000 and 2002 showed substantial gaps, particularly in the prevention of infectious disease. Despite new funding for bioterrorism responsiveness, gaps exist in public health services. Other vital public health functions needed by the public still remain, but without adequate resources.

Oregon's public health system provides important services and protections in the public's interest. Coalitions, networks, and clinics have demonstrated that they can come together in partnership with state and other agencies to share information.

Safeguarding the public's health by using information to make informed decisions in times of limited resources has never been more important. Tobacco use was identified as the leading cause of preventable deaths in Oregon and a voter-approved initiative provided funding over the past five years that led to a dramatic decrease in tobacco use by adults and teenagers. Obesity and cancer are the next leading causes of preventable Oregon deaths. Investments in public health can prevent these deaths.

For more information

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Oregon

TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

What is Oregon 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. Turning Point in Oregon facilitated the creation of the Oregon Public Health Improvement Plan, which identified priority areas needing public health attention. Turning Point now enables the state to take important action steps on recommendations from the plan that will improve the health of Oregonians.

How is Oregon Turning Point improving public health?

- Supporting collaborative partnerships at local and state levels that include hospitals, physicians, nonprofit agencies, county governments, businesses, schools, faith communities, and environmental health organizations
- Modifying outdated and fragmented laws that protect the public's health
- Developing standards for local and state public health systems to ensure adequate public health services to all Oregonians
- Convening health-related organizations to identify health policy changes necessary to meet public health demands in Oregon for the future health and safety of Oregonians

What can Turning Point help you do?

- Mobilize community partnerships to develop new policies and innovative strategies to address high-priority health needs
- Work with public safety agencies and community coalitions to develop plans for bioterrorism events and other emergency conditions
- Showcase effective partnerships that deliver quality public health and preventive services based on assessment and specific needs identified by local communities
- Ensure an effective, well-prepared public health workforce to promote and protect the health of Oregonians
- Provide important data and information to members of Congress

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.

