A core CDC responsibility is to help state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments prepare for emerging health threats. We provide public health agencies with tools, staff, and training. We support state and local actions to promote health and protect people from health threats in their communities. CDC makes sure that state and local public health departments get what they need to improve performance, share resources, and identify and respond to challenges in the public health system quickly.

Key Accomplishments

- Facilitated government-to-government consultation among tribes by convening a Tribal Advisory Committee and by fostering partnerships between the U.S. government and tribes.
- Helped state and local public health departments provide vaccines, reduce leading causes of death, reduce inequalities in the delivery of healthcare, and respond to disease outbreaks.
- Decreased early baby deliveries by parental choice in Oklahoma by 66% and also decreased clinic wait times in Alabama by 60%. Improved North Carolina’s responsiveness to requests for birth and death statistics by 97%, streamlined the contract process in Texas, and helped South Carolina improve its payment system. These results were made possible by CDC’s National Public Health Improvement Initiative.
- Established national public health accreditation standards and helped foster the next generation of public health leaders by offering entry-level, hands-on public health job experience through the Public Health Associate Program.

Stronger Public Health Departments Key to America’s Health Security

America’s health security depends on a strong public health system made up of effective public health departments in every state, tribe, territory, and city. With many states facing budget challenges, public health departments face many hurdles. That’s why CDC’s support to public health departments is critical to keep America safe from health threats.

For example, CDC provides nearly $4 billion in support to state and local public health departments to provide vaccinations against childhood diseases and more than $3 billion to fight health threats in their communities. America saves about $10 in societal costs for every $1 invested in vaccines. CDC funds programs that are proven to detect diseases early and link people to treatment.

A specific example is CDC’s National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII), which helped public health departments become more effective and make better decisions about how to best protect their communities. Public health departments enrolled in the program track and improve their performance and services, prepare for public health accreditation, and more. With NPHII, public health departments can evaluate themselves and find out what they are doing right and what they could do better. NPHII funds are a real investment in improving America’s health security—one public health department at a time.

22,000
Nearly 22,000 CDC partners subscribe to CDC’s “Did You Know?” content, and more than 170 partners use CDC’s content for their own websites.

134
There were 134 graduates of the 2013 Public Health Associate Program who are now equipped to help improve public health across the U.S.

$2/3
About two-thirds of CDC’s funding, including Vaccines for Children resources, support state and local health departments.