

# CDC Priorities, OPHSS, and the Surveillance Strategy

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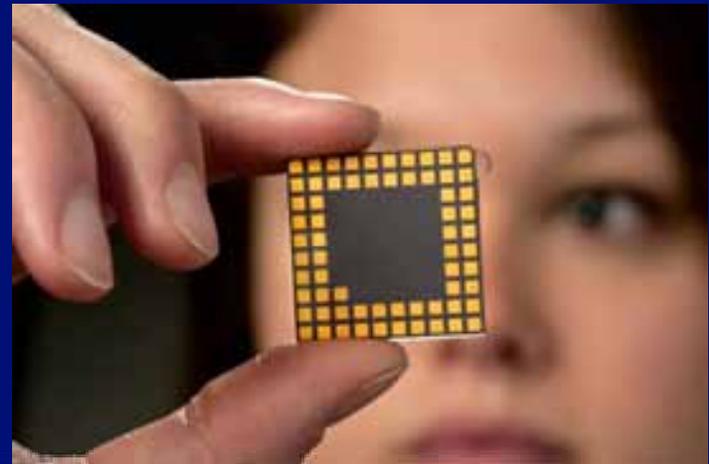
Public Health Informatics Conference  
April 29, 2014

Office of Public Health Scientific Services  
Office of the Director



**The world of health information  
is transitioning...**

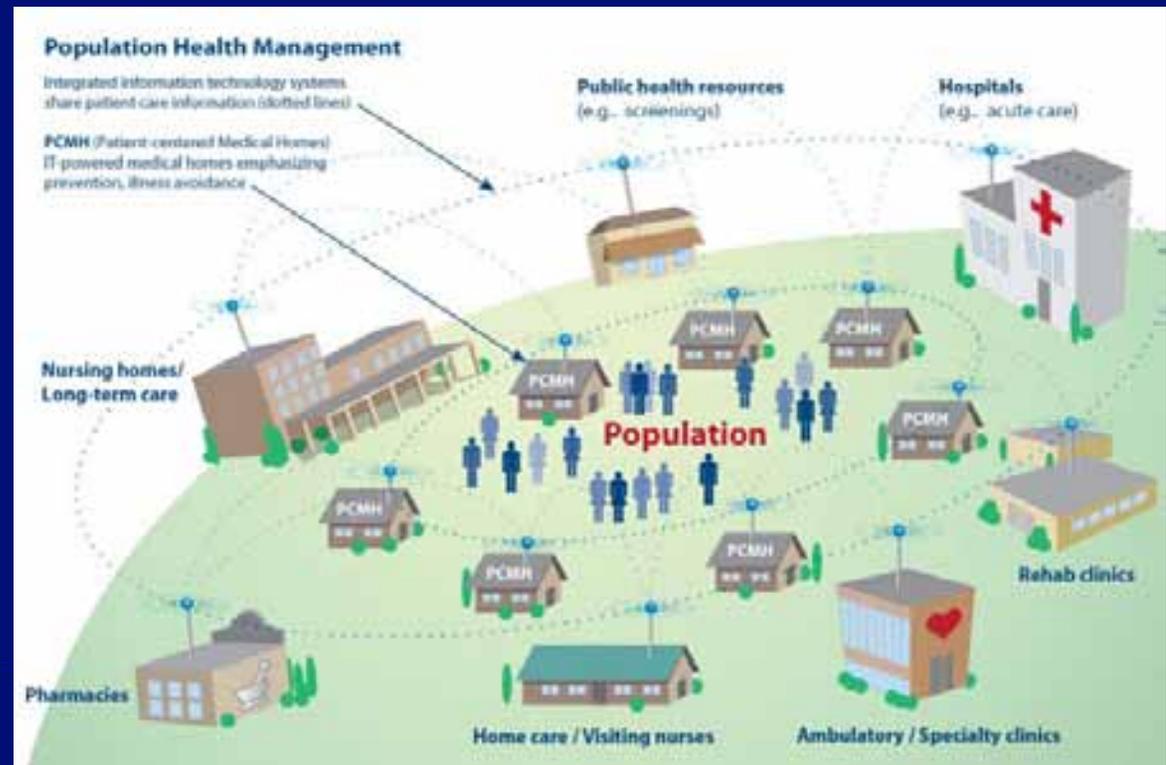
**...from slower, labor intensive organism identification  
to rapid, automated whole genome characterization**



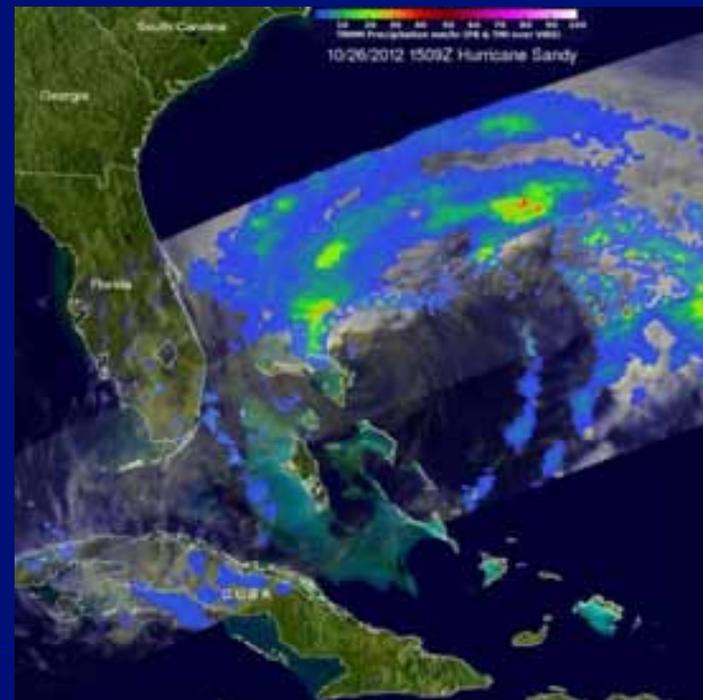
**..from periodic health measurement to real time,  
integrated electronic data**



# ...from a focus on individual health care to population health management



...from professional interpretation to informed consumers



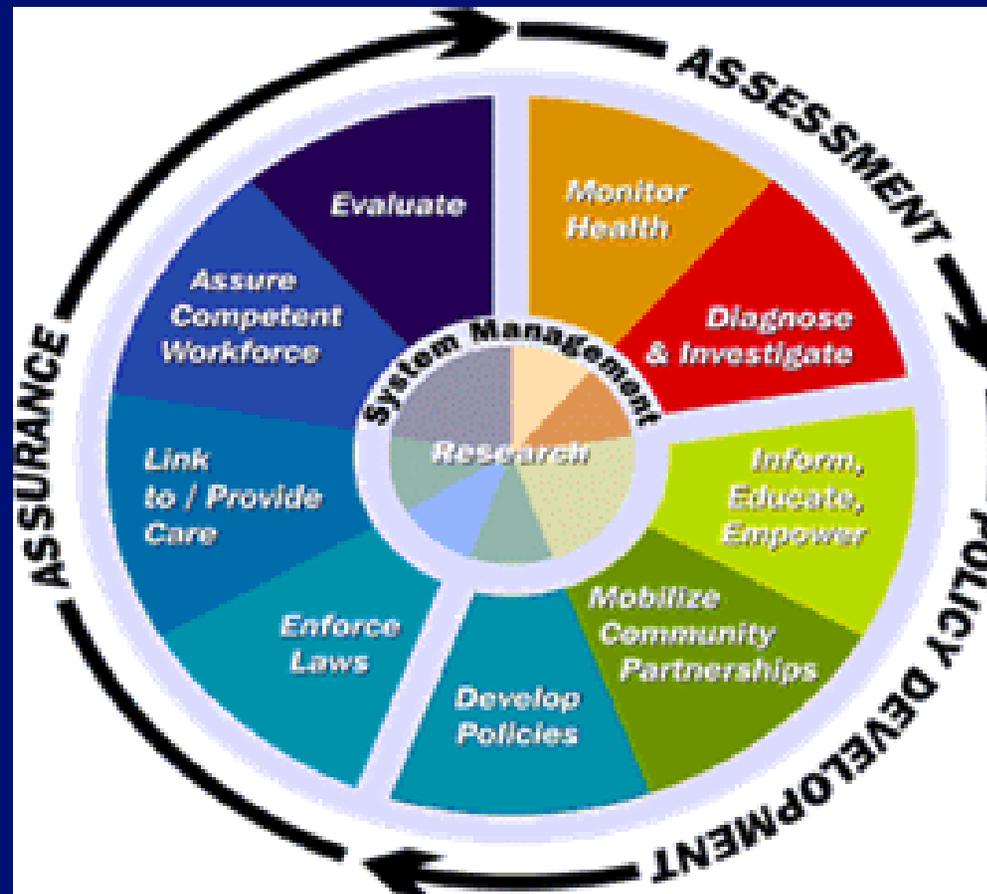
# ...from individual, small data to distributed, big data analytics



## **What are the opportunities in emerging data trends for Public Health?**

- **Decreased manual reporting from traditional data sources to more automated data use and analyses from novel sources**
- **Improved interoperability among jurisdictions and data systems for electronic data**
- **More novel partnerships / collaborations**
- **A revolution in analytics, visualization and communication on public health data and information**

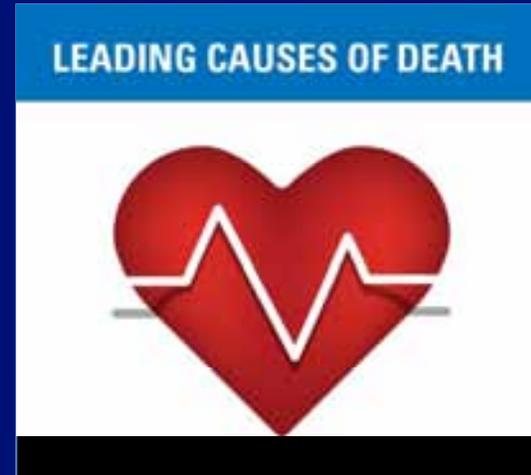
Timely, high quality, actionable data is central to fulfilling the 10 essential functions of public health



**What are CDC's priorities?**

# CDC strategic directions

Improve health security at home and around the world



Better prevent the leading causes of illness, injury, disability, and death



Strengthen public health/health care collaboration

# The number of CDC embedded field staff has been growing steadily

Domestic CDC Embedded Field Staff \*

Total = 646†

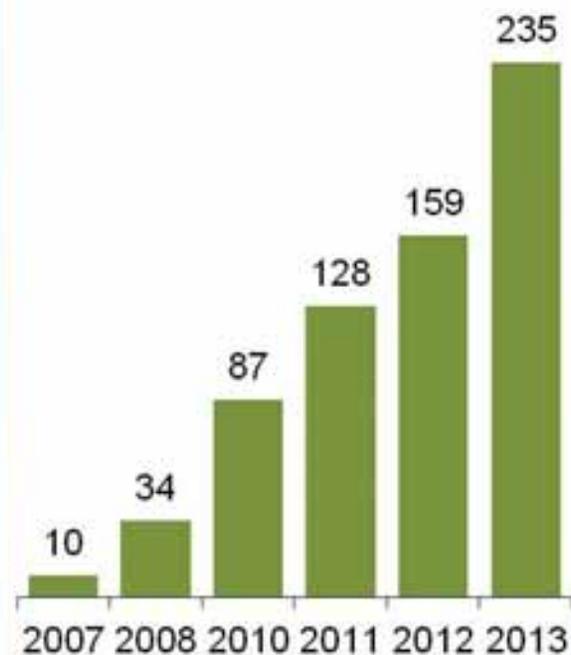


\* Embedded in state, tribal, local and territorial public health agencies. Does not include staff in CDC/ATSDR remote field stations or regional offices. US Territories with no embedded field staff not included. Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Marshall Islands, and American Samoa.

† Reflects data as of December 31, 2013, and vacancy information (for vacant positions from report have a non-specified location)

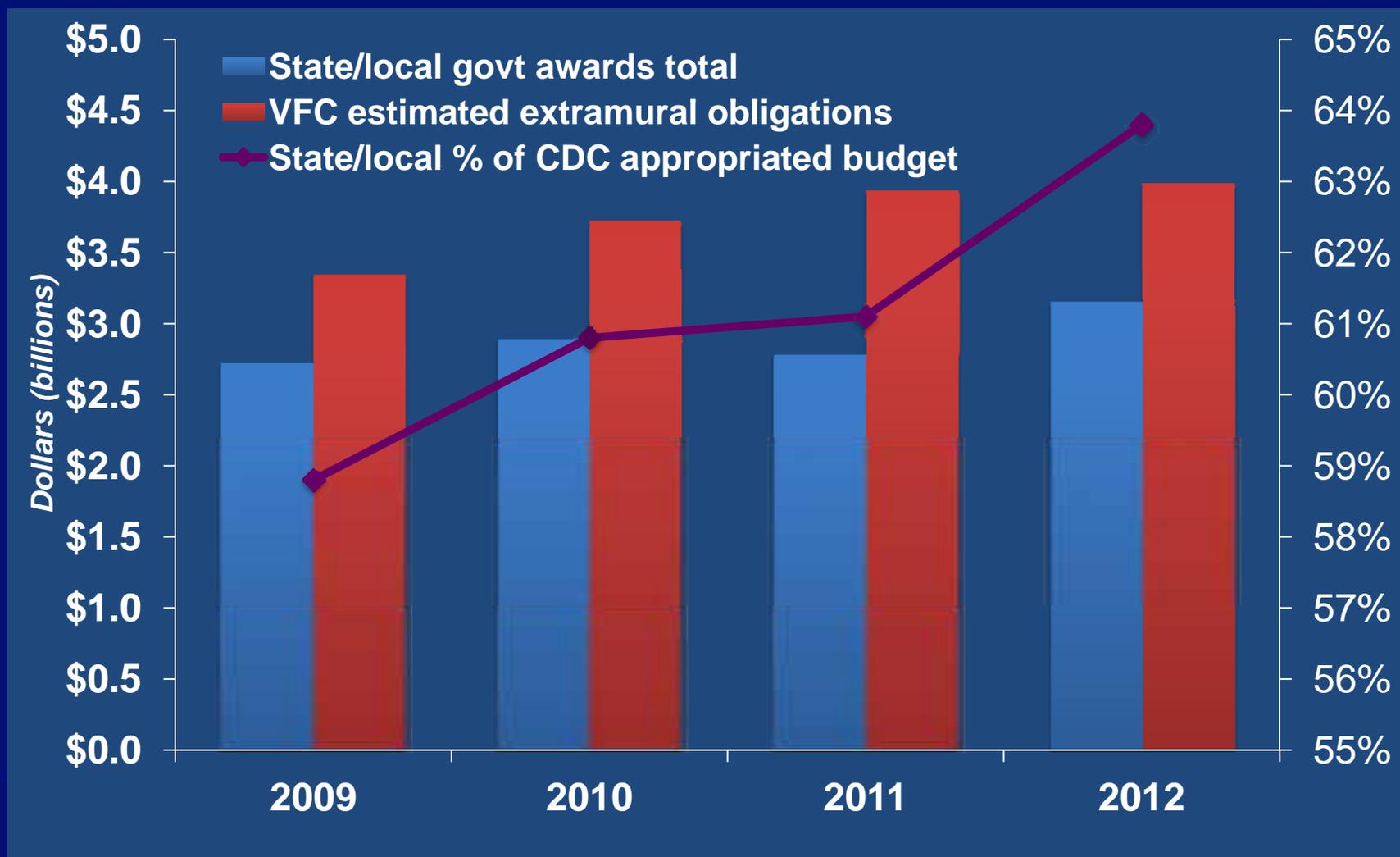
Last Updated: January 2014

Number of Public Health Associates, 2007–2013‡



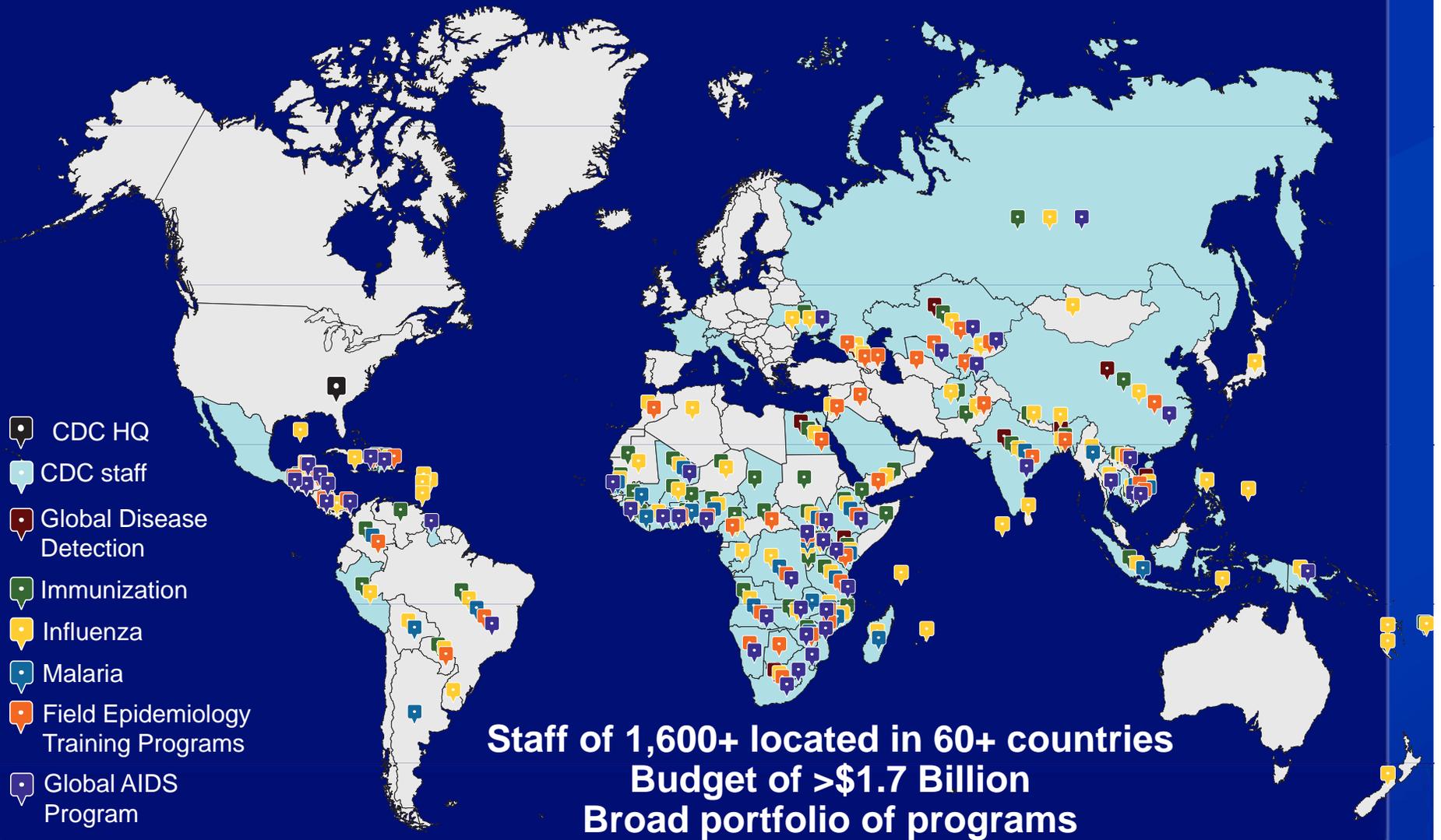
‡No funding available in 2009

## CDC's funding to state and local governments is increasing



Source: Tracking Accountability on Government Grants System. <http://taggs.hhs.gov>.

# CDC staff throughout the world



As of January 2014

# **The Office of Public Health Scientific Services**

## **Office of Public Health Scientific Services (OPHSS)**

- **The primary focus for OPHSS is about putting data and information into the hands of public health decision makers at the right time, right place to take action**
  
- **Values**
  - Science
  - Customer Service
  - Innovative yet practical
  
- **OPHSS Office of the Director and Two Centers**
  - National Center for Health Statistics
  - Center for Surveillance Epidemiology and Laboratory Services



## Office of Public Health Scientific Services

### National Center for Health Statistics

Division of Vital Statistics

Division of Health Care Statistics

Division of Health Interview Statistics

Division of Health and Nutrition  
Examination Surveys

### Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services

Division of Epidemiology, Analysis, and  
Library Services

Division of Health Informatics  
and Surveillance

Division of Scientific Education and  
Professional Development

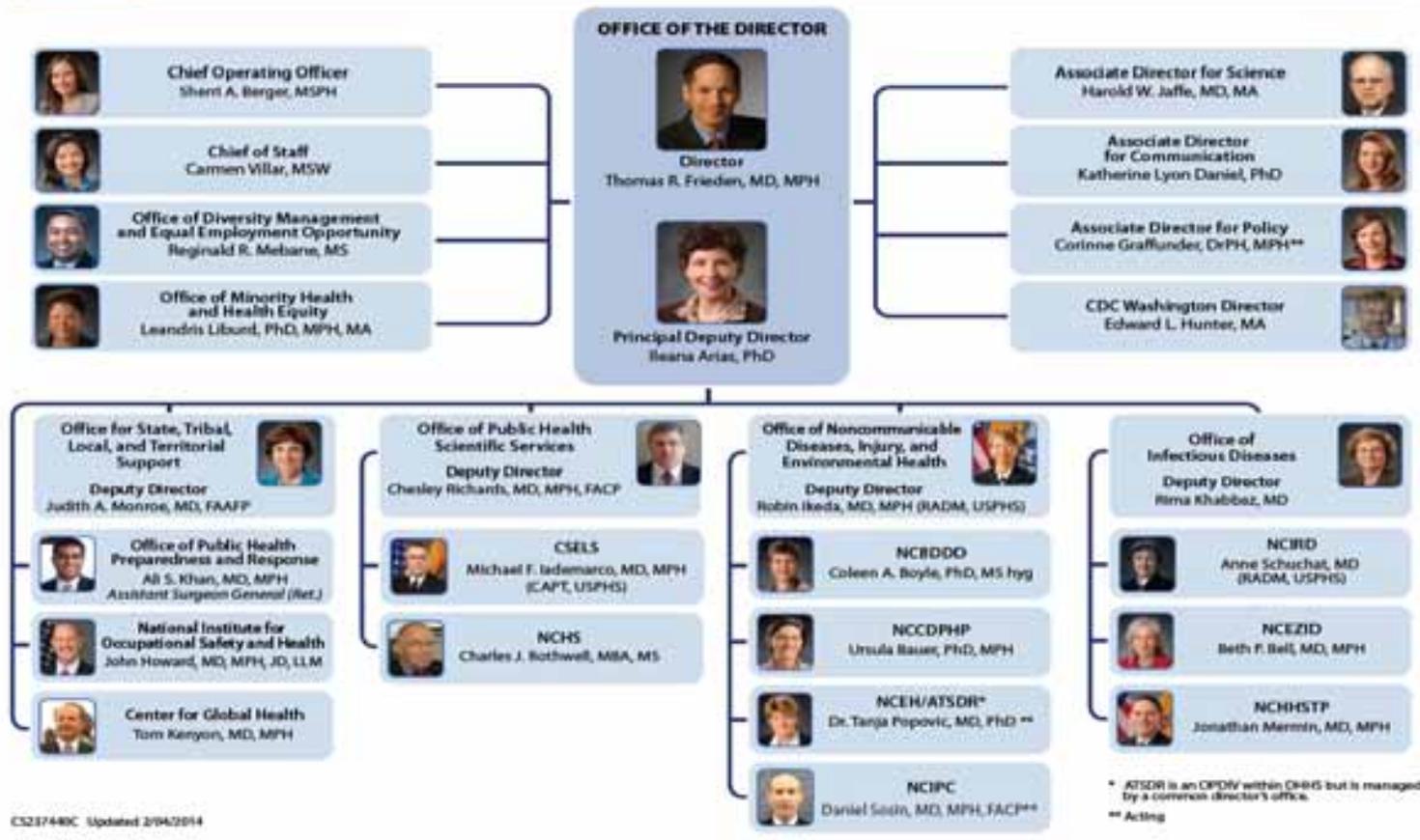
Division of Laboratory Programs,  
Standards, and Services

# A cross cutting role as Deputy Director for Public Health Scientific Services, including Surveillance



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office of the Director

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## National Center for Health Statistics: My opinion

- **Challenges**

- Maintaining “gold” standard status while adapting to societal trends impacting surveys (ie, technology, participation, confidentiality/linkages)
- Costs of surveys and health examinations
- Timeliness and relevance of data

- **Opportunities**

- New approaches
- New tools
- Synergy and consolidation with other CDC and agency/departmental efforts

# **CDC Surveillance Strategy**

An agency initiative to improve our part of surveillance activities

## **What's are the challenges with CDCs surveillance efforts?**

- **CDC operates, funds or works with > 100 surveillance systems**
- **Silos often function, but at a cost**
  - interconnections, interdependencies and efficiencies not realized
  - local/state health departments with a plethora of systems and requirements
- **HI Policy issues**
  - EHR/Meaningful use
- **Slow adoption of technology advances**
- **Interoperability**
- **Insufficient workforce with the right skills in right places**
- **Have not learned from previous failures, or successes**

## CDC Director's Charge: Surveillance Strategy

- The Strategy should lay out a plan to address 4 key issues:
  - Improve availability and timeliness of surveillance data to CDC programs, STLT agencies, and other stakeholders (public data)
  - Advance effective use of emerging information technology including electronic health records, mobile technologies, and cloud computing
  - Identify and amend or retire ineffective or unnecessarily redundant CDC surveillance systems
  - Maximize the effectiveness of available agency resources devoted to surveillance and the performance and coordination of our surveillance systems.

## **FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations**

- ***CDC Director to provide report by July 2014 that outlines***
  - *Opportunities for consolidating the various data collection systems in CDC including:*
    - *opportunities and costs*
    - *advantages and barriers*
    - *projected timeline to such a consolidated data reporting system, along with recommendations for adoption*
  - *Full consideration of a single Web-based data collection information technology platform*
- ***The CDC Surveillance Strategy will, in part, respond to the Congressional request***

## Surveillance Strategy Development Process

- Review of previous reports from ASTHO, CSTE, PHII, others
- Internal Surveillance Strategy Workgroup
- External input from key stakeholders including ASTHO, CSTE, NACCHO, APHA, APHL and a variety of informatics partners
- Input, review, discussion with Dr. Frieden and senior agency leaders

## **CDC Surveillance Strategy**

**Goal 1: Enhance the accountability, resource use, workforce and innovation for surveillance at CDC and in support of STLT agencies**

**Goal 2: Accelerate the utilization of emerging tools and approaches to improve the availability, quality, and timeliness of surveillance data**

**Goal 3: Through cross-cutting agency initiatives, improve surveillance by addressing data availability, system usability, redundancies, and incorporation of new information technologies in major systems or activities**

## **Goal 1: Enhance the accountability, resource use, workforce and innovation**

- **CDC Surveillance Leadership Board**
- **Surveillance and Informatics Workforce Plan**
- **CDC Health Information Innovation Consortium**

**Goal 2: Accelerate the utilization of emerging tools and approaches to improve the availability, quality, and timeliness of surveillance data**

- **Enhance HIT policy engagements**
- **Vendor Forum**
- **Innovative informatics project funding**

## **Goal 3. Improve surveillance through cross-cutting initiatives**

- **Modernize National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System**
- **BioSense Enhancement Initiative**
- **Accelerate Electronic Laboratory Reporting**
- **Accelerate Electronic Mortality Reporting**

## Success on the surveillance strategy will...

- **At CDC, improve**
  - CDC leaders engagement on cross cutting surveillance issues
  - national policy effectiveness
  - new informatics and technology adoption
  - strategic relationships with vendors
  - cross-cutting platforms or data streams, especially healthcare
- **For STLT agencies,**
  - reduce the burden on STLT health agencies
  - increase the range of data and tools for local public health decision makers
- **Set the stage for strengthening, consolidating and improving our surveillance activities and systems**



# CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

