

# United States Public Health 101

*[Individuals and organizations may customize and use the following slides for their own informational and educational purposes]*

Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

November 2013



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

# Key Questions We'll Discuss

- ❑ **What is public health? Why is it important?**
- ❑ **What are the 3 core functions and 10 essential services, and how do they impact the public's health?**
- ❑ **How is public health structured in the United States to deliver these core functions and services?**
- ❑ **What are the responsibilities at the federal, state, and local levels? For tribes and territories?**
- ❑ **What other groups are important?**

# Learning Objectives

*At the end of this session, you will be able to*

- ❑ Describe the roles and responsibilities of public health
- ❑ Describe the 3 core functions and 10 essential services of public health
- ❑ Describe the unique roles and responsibilities of public health at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels

# Public Health: An Overview



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

# Health is...



...a dynamic state of complete **physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being** and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.\*

and...



Public health is “What we as a society do **collectively to assure the conditions** in which people can be healthy.”\*\*

## **Vision:**

**Healthy People in Healthy Communities**

## **Mission:**

- ☐ Promote Physical and Mental Health**
- ☐ Prevent Disease, Injury, and Disability**



# Public Health

- ❑ Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease
- ❑ Protects against environmental hazards
- ❑ Prevents injuries
- ❑ Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors
- ❑ Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery
- ❑ Assures the quality and accessibility of health services



# Recent Health Threats/Events in US

- ❑ Hurricane Sandy in 2012 (NJ and NY)
- ❑ Salmonella in peanut butter in 2011
- ❑ H1N1 epidemic in 2009
- ❑ Hurricane Katrina in 2005 (New Orleans, LA & Mississippi)
- ❑ 9/11 attacks on the US in 2001 (New York City)



These events required responses from more than one geographical area and more than one agency, increasing collaboration and cooperation.

# Hurricane Katrina, 2005

- ❑ Second-strongest hurricane ever recorded in the US
- ❑ Devastated Louisiana and Mississippi (Gulf Coast)
- ❑ Storm surge of 20 feet
- ❑ Greatest number of deaths were in New Orleans; 80% of the city was flooded
- ❑ About \$75 billion in physical damages
- ❑ Economic impact in Louisiana and Mississippi >\$110 billion
- ❑ Costliest hurricane in US history
- ❑ Affected about 90,000 square miles



NASA Photo

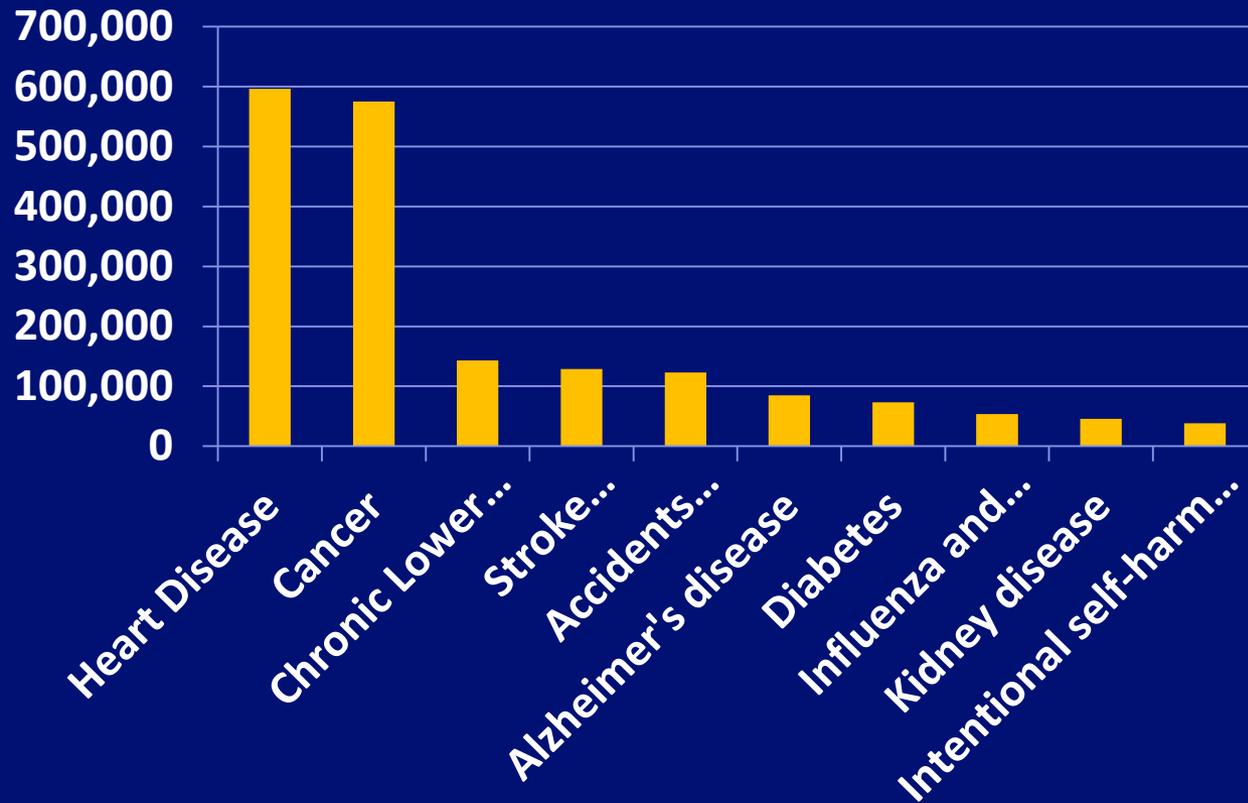
# 9/11 Attack, 2001

- ❑ On September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists associated with al-Qaeda launched four coordinated attacks on the US.
- ❑ They hijacked four airplanes. Two crashed into the World Trade Center (NY) and one into the Pentagon (Washington, DC).
- ❑ The fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania after passengers tried to overcome the hijackers. It had targeted the US Capital.
- ❑ More than 3,000 people were killed during these attacks.



*Photo by Michael Foran*

# Top 10 Causes of Death in the US



Source: *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 61, No. 6, October 10, 2012.

## What does medicine do?

Saves lives one at a time



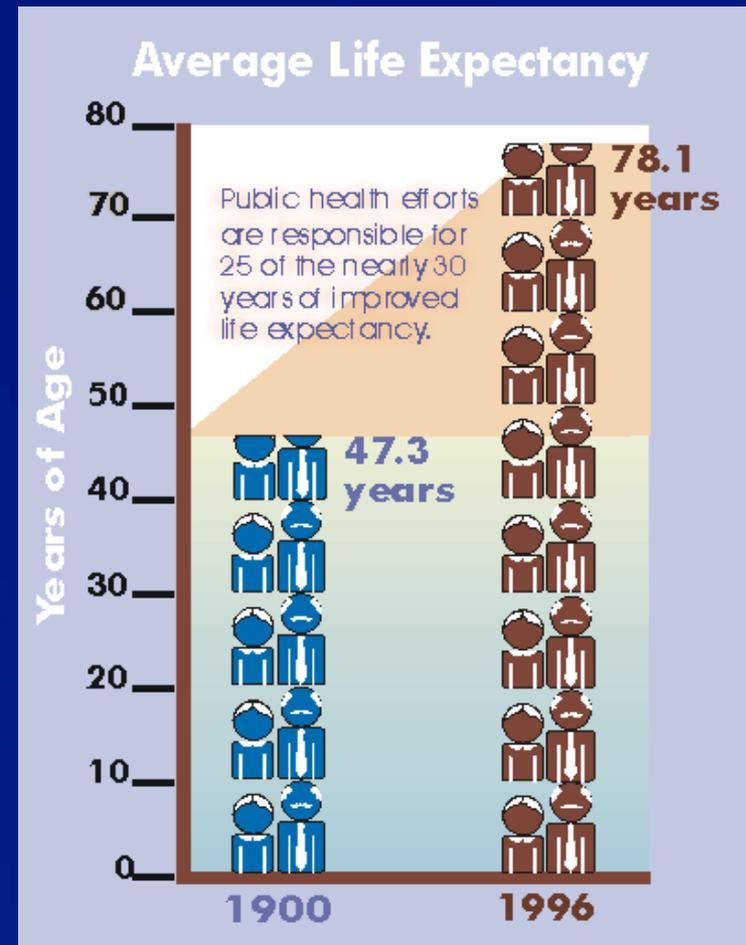
## What does public health do?

Saves lives millions at a time



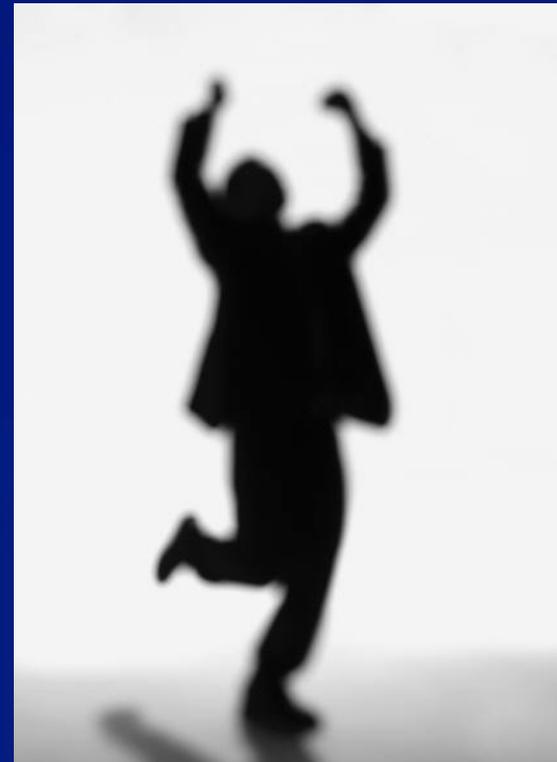
# Average Life Expectancy

*Thanks to  
public health  
for the extra 25  
years of life!*



# Ten Great US Public Health Achievements (1900–1999)

- ❑ Vaccinations
- ❑ Safer workplace
- ❑ Safer and healthier food
- ❑ Motor vehicle safety
- ❑ Control of infectious diseases
- ❑ Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
- ❑ Family planning
- ❑ Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard
- ❑ Healthier mothers and babies
- ❑ Fluoridation of drinking water



# How Has Public Health Extended Life Expectancy?

The foundation for public health lies within the 3 core functions defined by the IOM:

- ❑ Assessment
- ❑ Policy Development
- ❑ Assurance

Public health is guided by the Ten Essential Public Health Services and is applied to every facet of public health (national → state → local and tribes and territories)

Source of core functions: Institute of Medicine. *The Future of Public Health*. 1988.

Source of [Ten Essential Public Health Services](#): [Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee](#), 1994

# Essential Public Health Services

- ❑ **Developed by the Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee (1994)**
  - Included reps from national organizations and federal agencies
  - Charge: To provide a description and definition of public health
  - Developed the “Public Health in America” statement

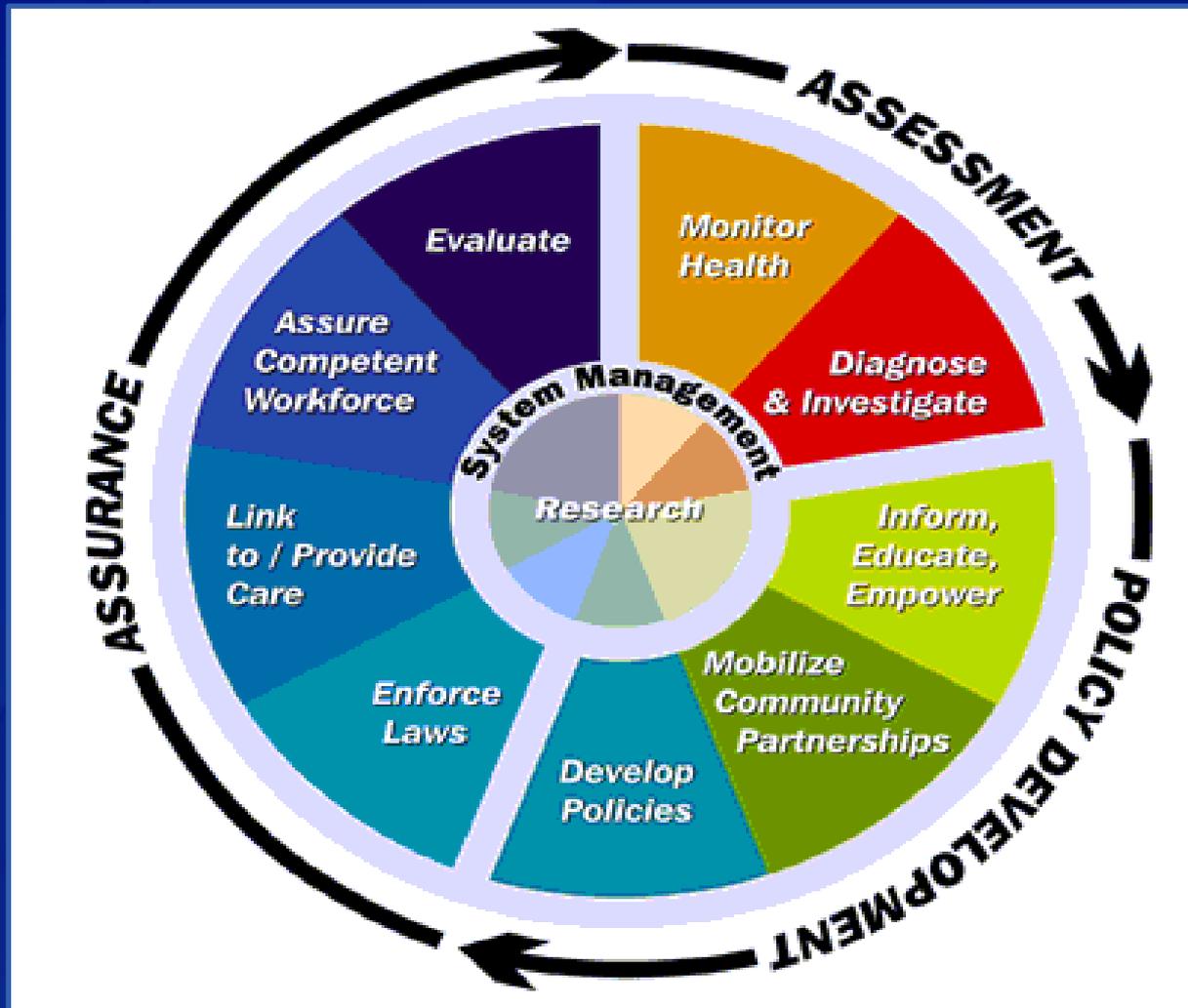


# Essential Services of Public Health

- ❑ Monitor health status
- ❑ Diagnose and investigate
- ❑ Inform, educate, and empower
- ❑ Mobilize community partnerships
- ❑ Develop policies and plans
- ❑ Enforce laws and regulations
- ❑ Link people to needed services/assure care
- ❑ Assure a competent workforce
- ❑ Evaluate health services
- ❑ Research



# Public Health Core Functions and 10 Essential Services



# The Essential Public Health Services



Identifying and sharing best practices; participation in research

Community health assessment; registries

Investigate infectious water-, food-, and vector-borne disease outbreaks

Health education and health promotion

Partnerships with private sector, civic groups, NGOs, faith community, etc.

Strategic planning; community health improvement planning

Enforcement, review of laws

Access to care, link with primary care

Public health workforce and leadership

Evaluation and continuous quality improvement

# Structure of Public Health in the United States

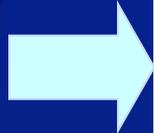


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

# Framework for Improving the Performance of Public Health

Health Department  
+  
PH System  
+  
Community Partners  
+  
Workforce

**Builds**



**Operational Capacity**  
(Infrastructure)

**Impacts**



**Every Community Program and Public Health Activity**

(Chronic Disease, Inf. Disease, EH)

**Which leads to**



**Better Health Outcomes**  
**Reduced Disparities**  
**Better Preparedness**

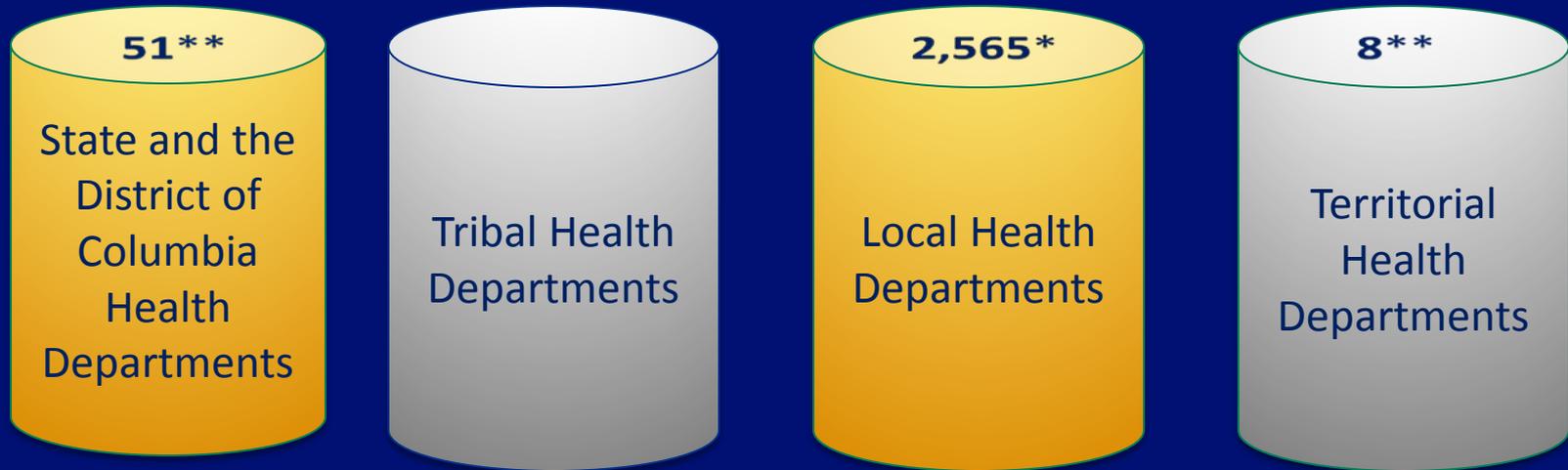
Investments here

Pay big dividends here

# Governmental Public Health

## State and Local Health Departments

Retain the primary responsibility for health under the US Constitution



\* Number based on 2010 National Profile of Local Health Departments (NACCHO, 2011)

\*\* Numbers cited from *ASTHO, Profile of State Public Health, Volume Two, 2011*

# Federal Public Health Roles and Responsibilities



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

# Federal Public Health Responsibilities

- ❑ Ensure all levels of government have the capabilities to provide essential public health services
- ❑ Act when health threats may span more than one state, a region, or the entire nation
- ❑ Act where the solutions may be beyond the jurisdiction of individual states
- ❑ Act to assist the states when they lack the expertise or resources to effectively respond in a public health emergency (e.g., a disaster, bioterrorism, or an emerging disease)
- ❑ Facilitate the formulation of public health goals (in collaboration with state and local governments and other relevant stakeholders)

# Other Roles of Federal Public Health

**Federal government plays a crucial role in**

- ❑ **Providing leadership, through regulatory powers, in setting health**
  - **Goals**
  - **Policies**
  - **Standards**
- ❑ **Contributing operational and financial resources**
- ❑ **Financing research and higher education**
- ❑ **Supporting the development of scientific and technological tools needed to improve the effectiveness of public health infrastructure at all levels**

# State Health Departments

## Roles and Responsibilities



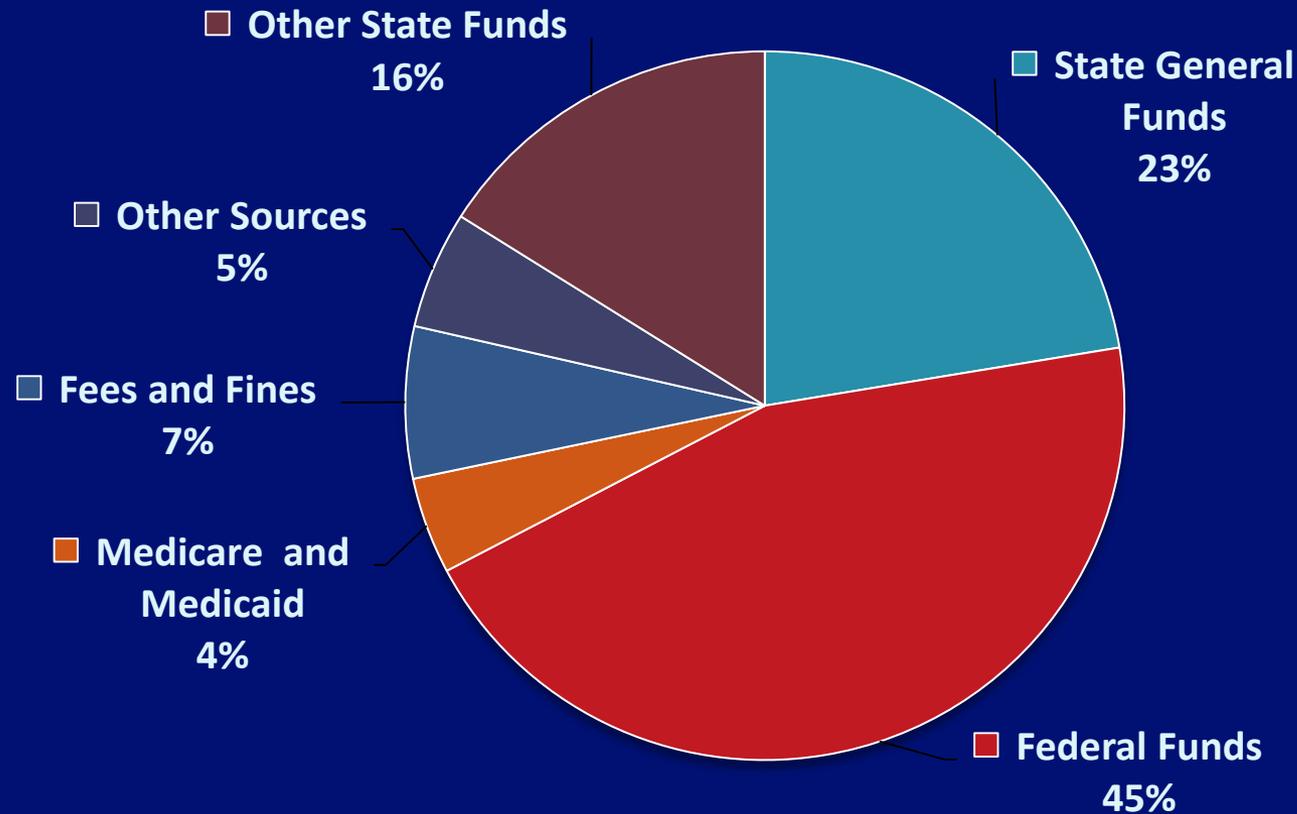
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

## State Roles

- ❑ Screening for diseases and conditions
- ❑ Treatment for diseases
- ❑ Technical assistance and training
- ❑ State laboratory services
- ❑ Epidemiology and surveillance

# State Health Agency Funding by Source (n=48)



Source: ASTHO: Profile of State Public Health, Volume Two, 2011

# Local Health Departments

## Roles and Responsibilities

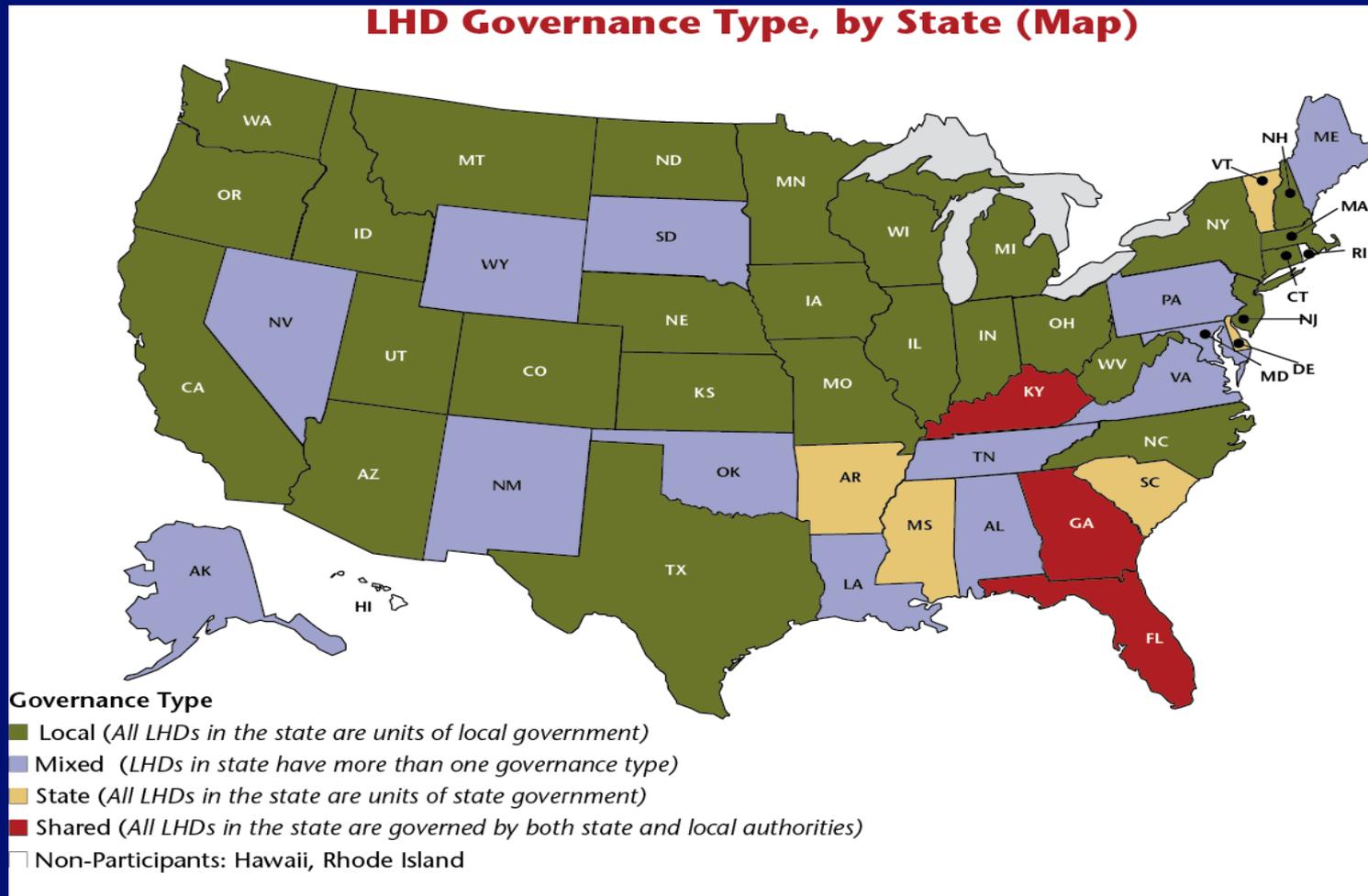


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

# State and Local Health Department Governance Classification System

- ❑ Local/Decentralized—Local health departments are units led by local governments, which make most fiscal decisions.
- ❑ Mixed—Some local health departments are led by state government, and some are led by local government. No one arrangement predominates in the state.
- ❑ State/Centralized—All local health departments are units of state government, which makes most fiscal decisions.
- ❑ Shared—All local health departments are governed by both state and local authorities.

# National Profile of Local Health Departments



Source: 2010 National Profile of Local Health Departments—NACCHO

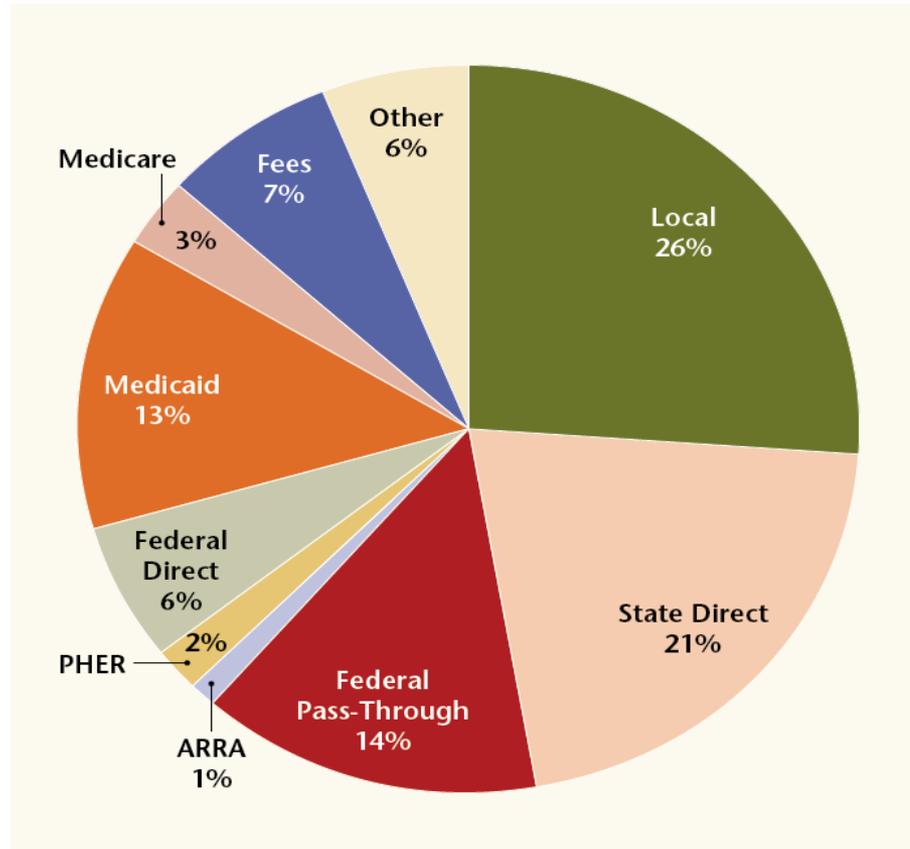
# National Profile of Local Health Departments

## Percentage of LHDs Providing the 10 Most Frequent Activities and Services Available Through LHDs Directly

Rank	Activity or Service	Percentage of LHDs
1	Adult Immunization Provision	92%
2	Communicable/Infectious Disease Surveillance	92%
3	Child Immunization Provision	92%
4	Tuberculosis Screening	85%
5	Food Service Establishment Inspection	78%
6	Environmental Health Surveillance	77%
7	Food Safety Education	76%
8	Tuberculosis Treatment	75%
9	Schools/Daycare Center Inspection	74%
10	Population-Based Nutrition Services	71%
<i>n ranged from 2,057 to 2,091</i>		

# National Profile of Local Health Departments

## Percentage of Total Annual LHD Revenues, by Revenue Source



n ranged from 1,427 to 1,480

Note: Due to rounding, percentages do not add to 100%.

# Local Boards of Health

## Roles and Responsibilities



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

# A Local Board of Health

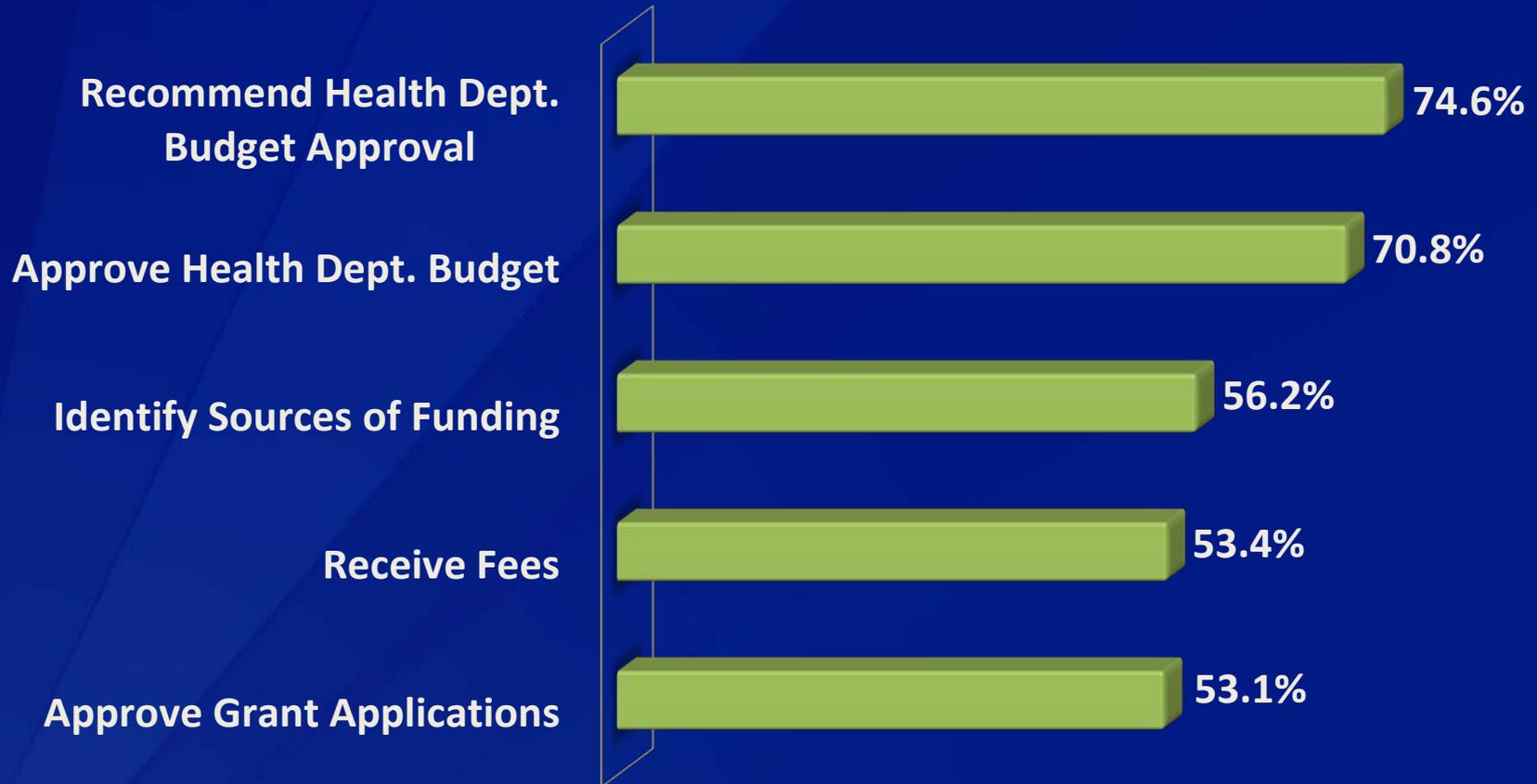
- ❑ Is a legally designated body whose role is to protect and promote the health of its community
  
- ❑ Most
  - Provide oversight to the public health agency
  - Foster activities such as community health assessment, assurance, and policy development

# Top 10 Responsibilities Boards Have Authority To Perform

	Functions Performed	Percentage of LHDs
1.	Review public health regulations	93.5%
2.	Recommend public health policies	88.7%
3.	Recommend community public health priorities	88.5%
4.	Recommend health department priorities	87.7%
5.	Propose public health regulations	86.8%
6.	Collaborate with health department for strategic plan	86.6%
7.	Collaborate with health department to establish priorities	85.6%
8.	Ensure that a community health assessment is completed	83.3%
9.	Revise public health regulations	82.5%
10.	Establish community public health priorities	82.3%

Source: National Association of Local Boards of Health. [www.academyhealth.org/files/2012/monday/branco.pdf](http://www.academyhealth.org/files/2012/monday/branco.pdf)

# Top Fiscal Responsibilities



Source: National Association of Local Boards of Health. [www.academyhealth.org/files/2012/monday/branco.pdf](http://www.academyhealth.org/files/2012/monday/branco.pdf)

# Public Health in the US Insular Areas (Territories and Freely Associated States)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

# What are the US Insular Areas?

## □ The 5 US territories

- Puerto Rico
- Guam
- US Virgin Islands
- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## □ The 3 Freely Associated States (sovereign nations in a Compact of Free Association with the US)

- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Republic of Palau



# Public Health Challenges in the US Insular Areas

- ❑ **Geography**
- ❑ **Culture**
- ❑ **Economy**
- ❑ **Education**
- ❑ **Morbidity and mortality**

# How can federal public health address the unique challenges of the Insular Areas?

- ❑ Work with Insular Area public health leadership to better tailor our assistance to meet their needs
- ❑ Work within and between agencies to better coordinate public health support
- ❑ Place more federal personnel in the region

# How can federal public health address the unique challenges of the Insular Areas? (continued)

- ❑ Explore and pilot more initiatives that are better suited to small, limited resource jurisdictions
  - Program integration and coordination
  - Regional collaboration
  - Peer-to-peer sharing of best/promising practices
  - Grants and program management capacity

# Public Health in American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

# Tribal Public Health

- ❑ **Tribal Health Department**—a corporation or organization operated under the jurisdiction of a federally recognized tribe, or association of federally recognized tribes, and is funded by the tribe(s) and/or contract service(s) from the Indian Health Service (IHS).
- ❑ **Tribal Health Organizations**—include Tribal Health Departments, Indian Health Service Units, Area Indian Health Boards and Urban Indian Health Centers (a much broader group, and relates to a variety of entities that might provide health services in a tribal setting).

# Nongovernmental Organizations

## Roles and Responsibilities



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

***“...The determinants of health are beyond the capacity of any one practitioner or discipline to manage....We must collaborate to survive, as disciplines and as professionals attempting to help our communities and each other.”***

**—Institute of Medicine, 1999**

***“It is logical to expect that there is strength in numbers and that partnerships can mobilize material and human resources and be more effective at achieving desired goals than individuals working alone.”***

***– Karen Glanz, Health Behavior and Health Education, 2002***

## **A Well-Functioning Public Health System Has**

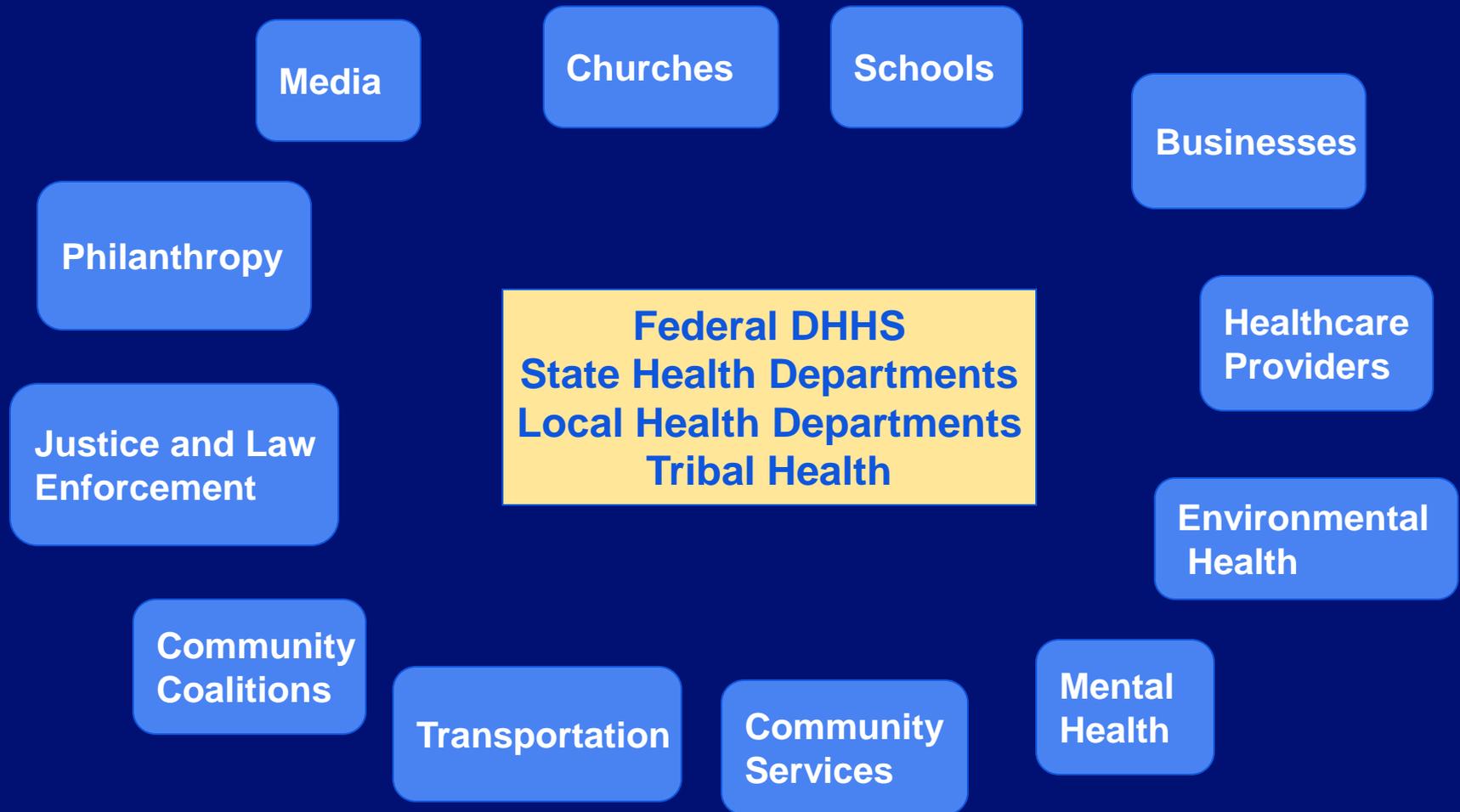
- ❑ Strong partnerships where partners recognize they are part of the public health system**
- ❑ Effective channels of communication**
- ❑ System-wide health objectives**
- ❑ Resource sharing**
- ❑ Leadership by governmental public health agency**
- ❑ Feedback loops among state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal partners**

# Public Health System

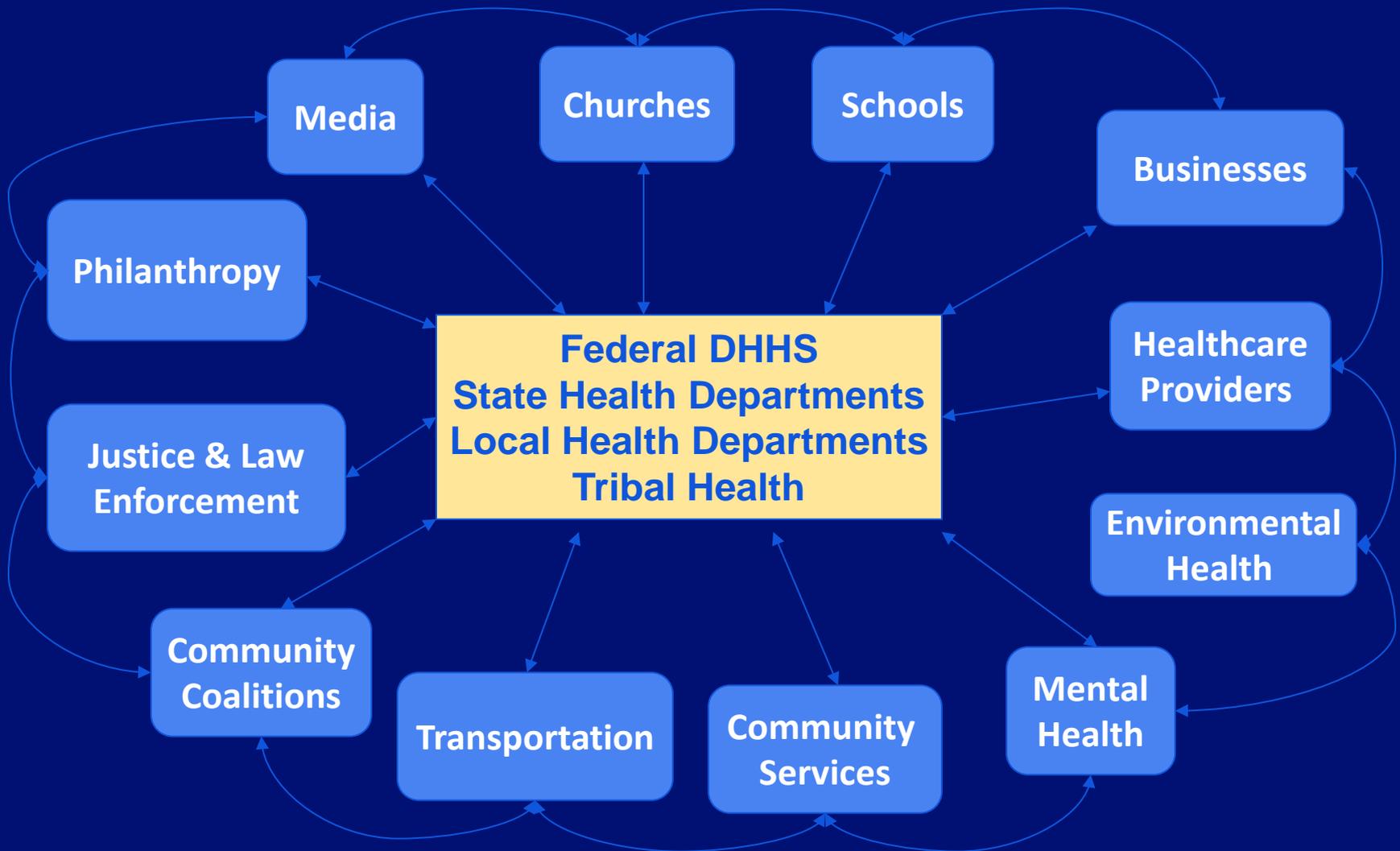


Source: Public Health Practice Program Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Public Health Performance Standards Program, User Guide (first edition), 2002. (Current version available at [www.cdc.gov/nphpsp](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp))

# A system of partnerships that includes, but is not limited to . . .



# Our goal is an integrated system of partnerships



# Questions?

For more information, please contact CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

4770 Buford Highway NE, Mailstop E-70, Atlanta, GA 30341

Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)/TTY: 1-888-232-6348

E-mail: [OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov](mailto:OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov)

Web: <http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth>

The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support