



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Idaho Public Health Districts

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March 2016

Community Health Assessments Play Central Role in Public Health Success

Local Public Health’s delivery and promotion of vaccines, tobacco cessation, maternal nutrition and limiting the spread of disease has undoubtedly lead to healthier people in healthier communities. While Idaho Health Districts continue to prioritize these health issues, we must also prepare to face emerging threats and realities - changes in health care delivery systems, explosion of information technologies, growth in health-related partnerships, the aging population and increased worldwide travel of people and disease. It is important for public health leaders and policy makers to take these new trends into account as they plan and prioritize future approaches to disease prevention and health promotion.

Comprehensive Data Collection and Analysis

Community health assessments are done to anticipate new health trends in individual communities. Local Public Health Districts in Idaho are working in collaboration with partners from their communities to undertake assessments, analyze resulting data and address the population’s specific needs and methodology in which to achieve greater health outcomes. These localized health assessments give districts a greater picture of what people in each county are facing and what factors are contributing to these health challenges. By involving community partners in the process, we can work together across county lines to share data, resources, and success stories.

Community Health Assessments work to:

- Identify what issues are relevant and important to people and what they see as strengths and weaknesses in their community health system.
- Direct public and private resources toward activities and interventions that address critical and timely public health needs.
- Maximize transparency to improve community engagement and accountability.

Evidence-based Strategies

The 2013 Community Health Assessment, driven by Health Districts 1 and 2, revealed the significant need for diabetes education and mental health treatment and resources. The results have since influenced the improvement plans and efforts going forward. For example, Health District 1 has hired an additional Diabetes Educator to coordinate a new Diabetes Prevention Program and provide clinical services for people seeking help to manage their diabetes. Both Districts played an integral part in opening the newest Behavioral Health Crisis Center in Coeur d’Alene.



Governor Otter and community leaders at the Crisis Center Ribbon Cutting

Regular Community Health Assessments are the foundation for improving and promoting the health of community members. The systematic collection of data and analysis not only gives public health districts a better picture of factors affecting their community’s health, but also keeps the districts accountable to fulfilling its duty of assurance and health improvement.

HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT (1)	PUBLIC HEALTH - IDAHO NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT (2)	SOUTHWEST DISTRICT HEALTH (3)	CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH (4)	SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (5)	SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (6)	EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (7)
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