Assuring the Public’s Health in the 21st Century

ASTHO-NACCHO 2003 Joint Conference
September 10, 2003
Jo Ivey Boufford, M.D.
The Committee’s Vision

Healthy People in Healthy Communities
Causes of Premature Mortality

- Behavioral Factors: 50%
- Inadequate Access to Medical Care: 10%
- Genetic Factors: 20%
- Environmental Factors: 20%

The Core Function Project: U.S. Public Health Service, 1993
Public Health Expenditures As a Percentage of Health Expenditures

Public Health Expenditures: 1%

Total Health Expenditures: 99%

The Core Function Project: U.S. Public Health Service, 1993
## Actual Causes of Premature Death in the United States in 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Estimated Deaths</th>
<th>% of total Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet/activity patterns</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbial agents</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxic agents</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual behavior</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicles</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illicit use of drugs</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: McGinnis & Foege, JAMA 1993
TARGET OF INTERVENTION

SOCIETY AND INSTITUTIONS

COMMUNITY

INDIVIDUALS

INDIVIDUAL ILLNESS

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Clinical Care

Health Promotion/Prevention

Public Advocacy

Intersectoral Working: Jobs/Housing/Education

HEALTH
The Essential Public Health Services

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
3. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. Research for new insights and innovative solution to health problems

Source: Public Health Function Steering Committee
The Public Health System

Community  
Health care delivery system

Governmental Public Health Infrastructure  
Assuring the Conditions for Population Health

Academics  
Employers & Business

The Media
The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century

To Assure a Strong Public Health Infrastructure:

Recommendations # 7,8,9,10,13,15
The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century

To Assure the Quality of Public Health Services:

Recommendations # 1, 5, 12
The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century

• To Strengthen Public Health Practice and Education

  Recommendations # 4, 6, 16, 17
The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century

To Enhance the Role of the Health Care Delivery System in Promoting Population Health

Recommendations # 18, 19, 20, 21
Key Messages

We need:

• A health policy that assures adequate and sustained investment in the important determinants of health

• A strong governmental public health infrastructure

• A public health system that reflects public understanding that health is everyone’s business.