Ecological Model of Health

- Multiple determinants of health
- Involves population and environment
- Linkages and relationships among determinants are emphasized
- Multiple strategies by multiple sectors needed to achieve desired outcomes
A guide to thinking about the determinants of population health

Living and working conditions may include:
- Psychosocial factors
- Employment status and occupational factors
- Socioeconomic status (income, education, occupation)
- The natural and built environments
- Public health services
- Health care services
Approach and rationale

- Health = public good
- Government has fundamental, statutory duty to assure the health of the public, **but**
- Government cannot do it alone
- Need for intersectoral engagement in partnership with government.
- Health = social goal of many sectors and communities
An intersectoral public health system is needed.

In 1988 report, public health refers to the organized efforts of society, both government and others, to assure the population’s health.

The 2002 report elaborates on the efforts of the other potential public health system actors.
**Areas of action and change**

- Adopt a population-level approach, including multiple determinants of health
- Strengthen the governmental public health infrastructure
- Build partnerships
- Develop systems of accountability
- Base policy & practice on evidence
- Enhance communication
Infrastructure

Recommendations to the federal, state and local government public health agencies

(6) Recognize communication as a critical core competency of public health practice, and implement steps to enhance communication activities and technologies.

(11) Renew efforts by federal and state governments to experiment with clustering or consolidation of categorical grants for the purpose of increasing local flexibility to address priority health concerns, and enhance the efficient use of limited resources.
Community Recommendations to government and others

(16) Local health departments should support community-led efforts to promote and protect health and eliminate health disparities.

(17) Government and private funders of community health initiatives should focus on long-lasting change by supporting ongoing community engagement and leadership, and the institutionalization of effective programs.
Community: the Essential Partner

- Re-engineer infrastructure for community work
- Re-tool workforce for community work
- Build partnerships
- Collaborative planning, action, evaluation
- Share power
- Base policy and practice on evidence
- Develop advocacy
(22) The corporate community and public health agencies should engage in joint efforts to strengthen health promotion, and disease and injury prevention programs for employees and their communities, including developing communication and information linkages, enhancing the research base, and recognizing business leadership in employee and community health.
(29) Increase funding for HRSA programs that support public health students, the Public Health Training Center, and the National and Regional Leadership Institutes that train public health and community leaders.

(33) NIH should increase the portion of its budget allocated to population- and community-based prevention research.
Intersectoral Collaboration

What do PH practitioners need in order to work at the intersection of:

- Built environment and health
- Work and health
- Housing and health
- Media and health
- Public interest law and health
- Tax structure and health
- Corporate business and health

What does it take to get other sectors to partner in public health work?