



Public Health Priorities for the 131st General Assembly

Local Health Districts (LHDs) are responsible for preventing illness, promoting wellness, and protecting against the spread of disease in your community. The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) is committed to providing leadership and advocacy to assist LHDs in fulfilling these responsibilities. The following areas are critical to this mission:

Adequate Resources for Local Public Health

- Implement “consolidated contract” and/or “block grant” concept to maximize efficiency of funds flowing through Ohio Department of Health to local health departments.
- Allow multi-county health districts to self fund through a multi-county levy.

Public Health Preparedness & Disease Protection

- Fund Preparedness, Readiness, Surveillance and Epidemiology capacity at the local level.
- Fund West Nile virus and other vector borne disease monitoring at the state level.
- Promote all efforts to improve statewide immunization rates.

Core Public Health Services

- Support expanded Medicaid coverage, including continued coverage for pregnant women and women who become pregnant.
- Promote revolving fund for homeowner financial assistance sewage system repairs, replacements and sanitary sewage connection, funded by ODH fees.
- Actively pursue efforts to stem prescription drug abuse.
- Implement tobacco use cessation and reduction programs in the local communities.
- Advocate for tobacco tax increases/equalization of tax on other tobacco products (OTP) to support LHD programs.



Funding for Public Health*
PRIORITY: Increase state funding for Local Health Departments



Chronic Disease+
PRIORITY: Decrease chronic disease through access to quality healthcare



Adult Smokers#
PRIORITY: Increase tobacco cessation & reduce sales to minors



Drug Deaths per 100,000 population#
PRIORITY: Expand education for drug & alcohol abuse



Child Immunizations#
PRIORITY: Increase immunizations in children age 0-2yrs



Adult Obesity#
PRIORITY: Reduce obesity through Public Health education programs



Infant Mortality#
PRIORITY: Continue to review reasons for infant fatalities

*U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012 (Ohio \$14.16 per Capita; national average is \$19.54)
+Milken Institute State Chronic Disease Index (cancer, diabetes, heart disease, pulmonary conditions, stroke)
#United Health Foundation America's Health Rankings, 2014 (based on 2012 data)