

# Your Role as the Local Public Health Authority

You have the obligation to provide vision, leadership, and policy to make your community a safe and healthier place to live.

## Local Government's Role in Promoting and Protecting the Public's Health

### Public Health is Public Safety

- Understanding your role as the local public health authority helps you carry out the public service commitment to your community.
- You have a legal responsibility to protect and promote the health of your community.
- Local governments have a long history of promoting and protecting their citizens' health.
- Local governments meet community needs.
- Public Health is a critical county resource.

### Statutes

**431.410** Boards of Health for Counties. The governing body of each county shall constitute a board of health ex-officio for each county of the state and may appoint a public health advisory board to advise the governing body on matters of public health.

**431.415** Powers and duties of local health boards; rules, fee schedules.

**431.416** Local public health authority or health district: duties. The local public health authority or health district shall

1. Administer and enforce the rules of the local public health authority or the health district and public health laws and rules of the Oregon Health Authority.
2. Assure activities necessary for the preservation of the health or prevention of disease in the area under its jurisdiction.

Public Health is an essential service guaranteed to all residents by Oregon State Law.

*The success or failure of any government in the final analysis must be measured by the well-being of its citizens. Nothing can be more important to a state than its public health of its people.*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

## Required Public Health Activities under 431.416

Epidemiology and control of preventable diseases and disorders

Parent and child health services, including family planning clinics as described in ORS 435.205

Collection and reporting of health statistics

Health information and referral services

Environmental health services



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# The Role of Your Local Public Health Authority

## Health Promotion & Protection

**Acting on the knowledge about their community, local public health improves the citizens' health by focusing on promoting and protecting healthy behaviors and environments.** They collaborate with community partners to educate citizens on how to prevent disease and injury, and they work to ensure safe food, water, streets and buildings. As experts on prevention and our area's health issues and priorities, local public health plays an important role in health care transformation.

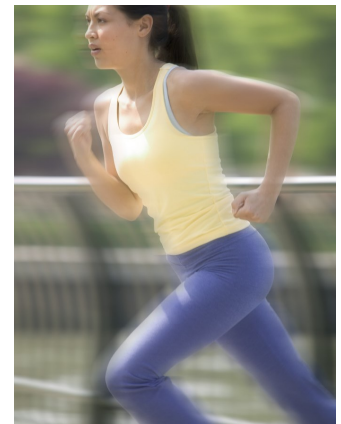
## Local Public Health Activities & Services

1. Track and investigate health problems and hazards in the community
2. Link people to health services
3. Safe water
4. Restaurants serve safe food
5. Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies
6. Provide population based evaluation, research and community assessments—Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plans
7. Develop, apply, and enforce policies, laws, and regulations that improve health and ensure safety
8. Lead efforts to mobilize communities around important health issues

## What Keeps Our Citizens Healthy?

Most people aren't aware that since 1900, the average life expectancy of Americans has risen from 45 to nearly 77 years, a 32 year increase. Public health, through efforts such as sanitation, immunization, and education, is responsible for at least 25 of those years. (CDC, MMWR, April 1999)

**Half of all deaths are caused by tobacco use, improper diet, lack of physical activity, and alcohol and drug abuse.** These preventable behaviors reduce our citizens' health, wellness, and life spans, and they also overburden our healthcare providers. By focusing on health promotion and prevention, the local public health authority strives to maintain our community's quality of life and to keep our citizens healthy in the most affordable, effective and efficient way possible.



Local public health promotes active lifestyles and healthy eating.



## What Determines Health?

70% Behaviors & Environment

20% Biology

10% Health Care

