



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



# OVERVIEW OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

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# Local Public Health in Iowa

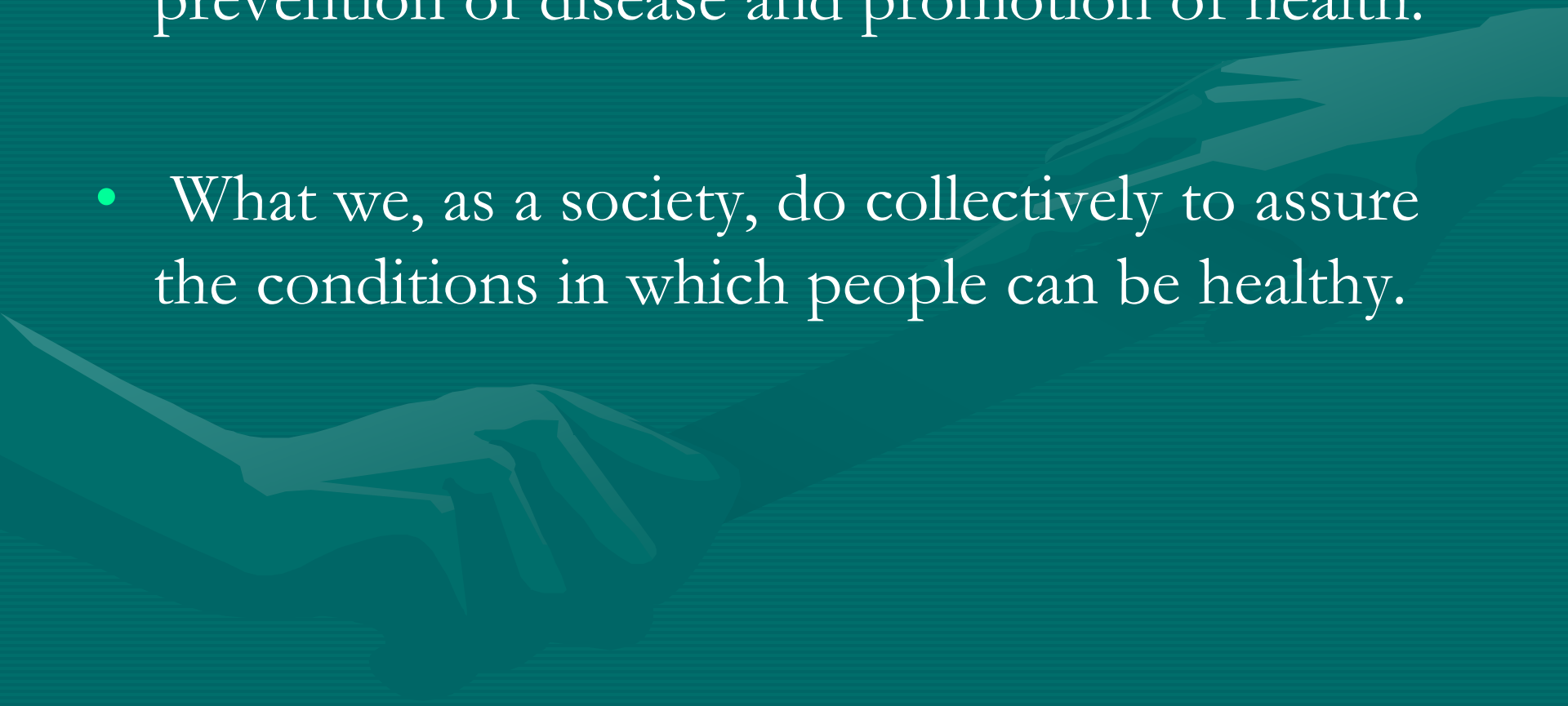
- Local public health in all 99 counties

- 98 county boards of health
- 2 city boards of health (Council Bluffs, Ottumwa)
- 1 district board (Siouxland)

## Iowa Demographics

- 63 counties with a population <20,000
- 27 counties with a population of 20,000 – 50,000
- 3 counties with a population of 50,000 – 100,000
- 6 counties with a population >100,000

# Definition of Public Health

- Organized community effort aimed at the prevention of disease and promotion of health.
  - What we, as a society, do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.
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- A faint, stylized illustration of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or partnership, is visible in the background of the slide. The hands are rendered in a light teal color, matching the overall theme of the presentation.


# CORE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS

- ASSESSMENT – knowing what needs to be done
- POLICY DEVELOPMENT – being part of the solution
- ASSURANCE – doing what needs to be done or making sure it happens

# 10 Essential Public Health Services

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

# Local Board of Health Composition & Responsibility

- Consists of 5 or 7 members
  - One member must be a licensed physician
  - Serves 3-year terms
  - Appointed by the county board of supervisors
  - Has jurisdiction over public health matters
  - Accountable for meeting state standards for service delivery and achieving desired outcomes
  - Directly oversees public health staff
  - Provide certain mandated public health services
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# State Codes Governing Local Boards of Health and Local Public Health

- Iowa Code Chapter 137 – Local Boards of Health
- Other Miscellaneous Codes (see last slide for resources to a comprehensive list)
- 641 Iowa Administrative Chapter 77 and 78 – Roles and responsibilities of local boards of health
- 641 Iowa Administrative Code – Public Health



# Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the US

- Immunizations
- Motor Vehicle Safety
- Safer workplace
- Control of Infectious disease
- Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
- Safer and healthier foods
- Healthier mothers and babies
- Family Planning
- Fluoridation of drinking water
- Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard



# Local Public Health Current Issues and Challenges

- Modernization Act of Public Health in Iowa – *What should every Iowan reasonably expect from local and state public health?*
- New Responsibility of Emergency Preparedness Response
- Health Care Reform and Public Health
- Sustainable Funding - to ensure quality in public health services, utilization of evidence-based programs and measurable outcomes and highly trained workforce

# Support Systems for Public Health

- Iowa Counties Public Health Association (ICPHA)
- Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC)
- Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA)
- National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO)
- National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)
- American Public Health Association (APHA)

# How to Engage In Public Health

- Get to know your local public health administrator
  - Get to know your local board of health members
  - Become familiar with specific services and programs of your local health department
  - Learn what is being provided by other entities in your county that are relevant to the outcomes of your community's public health
- Study your county's public health needs assessment and improvement plan
  - Become a champion for public health – communicate with your community about the work of public health and advocate at all levels for sustainable funding of local public health

# Websites of Interest

- Iowa Counties Public Health Association (ICPHA)  
• [www.i-cpha.org](http://www.i-cpha.org)
- Iowa Department of Public Health [www.idph.state.iowa.us](http://www.idph.state.iowa.us)
- Prepare Iowa Learning Management System  
[www.prepareiowa.com](http://www.prepareiowa.com)
- Iowa State Association of Counties [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org)
- National Association of City and County Health Officials  
[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)
- National Association of Local Boards of Health [www.nalboh.org](http://www.nalboh.org)

# Local Boards of Health Toolkit

- Current and crucial resources in the toolkit include:
  - Laws relevant to local public health
  - Functions and essential services that local health departments are responsible for providing
  - Program standards for local and state public health
  - Evaluation tools for local public health
  - Presentations on critical topics and resources featuring state and local public health representatives

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/UMPHTC/education/BOH/](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/UMPHTC/education/BOH/)

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