

Public Health for County Commissioners: What you need to know

CCI New Commissioner Orientation 2017

Lisa VanRaemdonck

On behalf of Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

Who am I and What do I have to say?

- Former Executive Director of CALPHO
- Current Executive Director of the University of Colorado-Denver, School of Public Affairs Institute
- Trained in public health
- Adjunct professor teaching Foundations of Public Health at the Colorado School of Public Health

- A healthy community is a vibrant, employed, safe, stable community.
- You are the front line of defense for your community's health.
- You have BIG decisions to make but you have ways to get the information and support you need.

Today's Talk

- Background on public health
- Top 5 things you need to know about public health
- Discuss public health scenarios

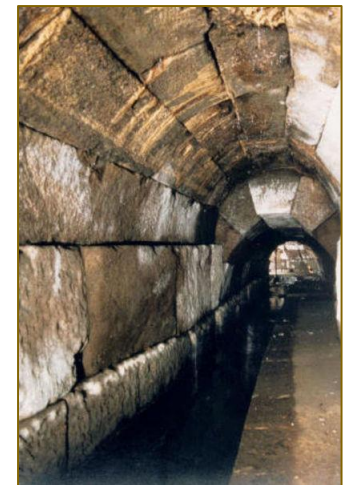
Expertise in the Room

Definition of Public Health

- Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health.
CEA Winslow, 1940
- The mission of Public Health is to...”fulfill society’s interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy.”
Institute of Medicine, 1988
- Healthy People in Healthy Communities.
Public Health in America, 1994

Where did public health come from?

- Clean water and moving sewage (500 BC – 500 AD)
 - Sewers and water systems
- Finding community sources of disease (500 – 1500 AD)
 - Cholera, Black plague, etc
- Preventing injury and disease (1700 – 1990)
 - Immunizations, automobile safety
food inspections



Where did public health come from?

- Protecting our environment (1960)
 - Clean air, clean water, untainted food, control animal diseases
- Preparing for and responding to emergencies (2001)
 - Natural disasters, man-made disasters, terrorism
- Supporting health as a smart choice (present)
 - Safe playgrounds, walkable streets, food availability



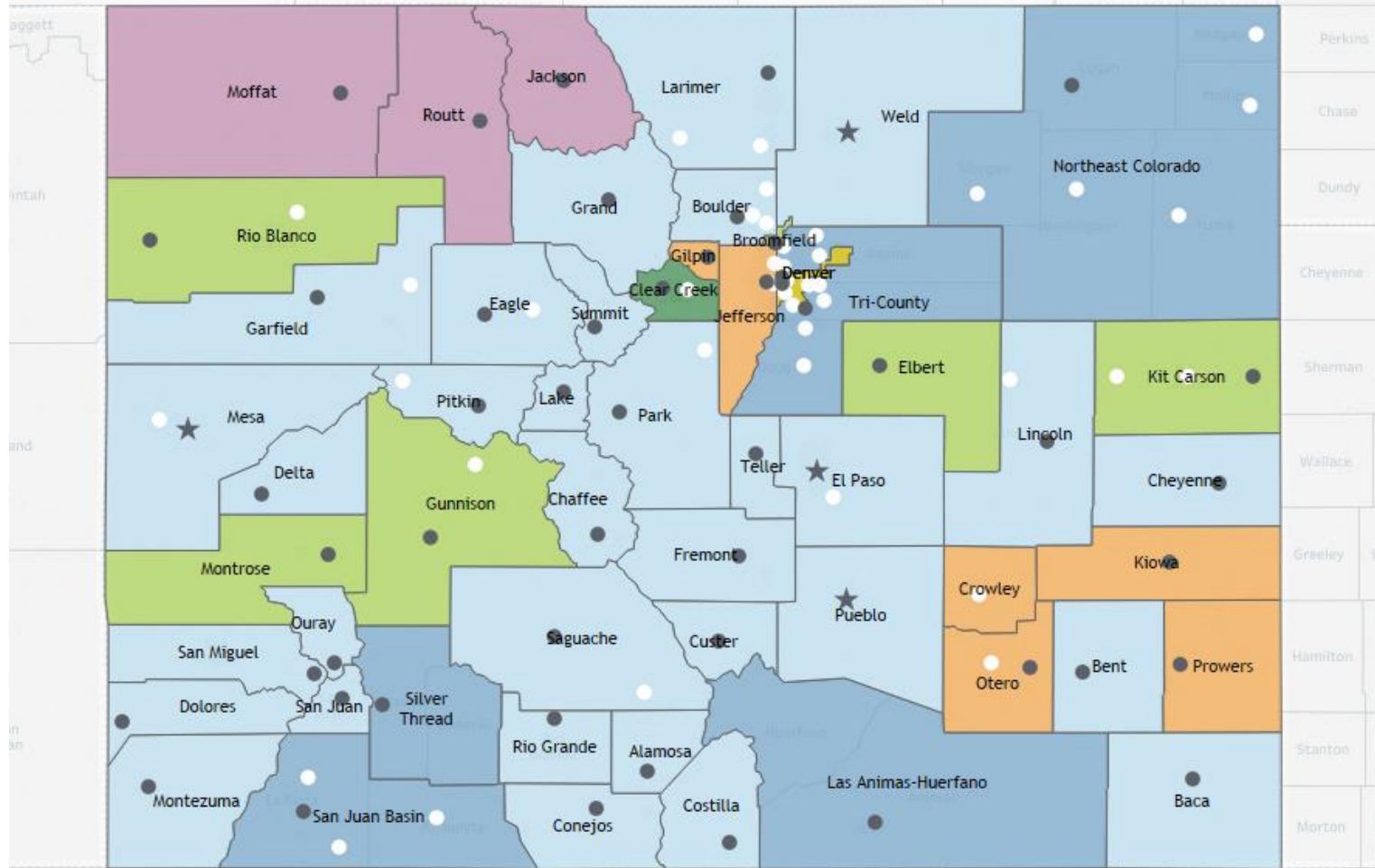


The Nature of Public Health

- A balance of individual rights and the public good/public rights

PUBLIC HEALTH IN COLORADO

Colorado Local Public Health Agencies

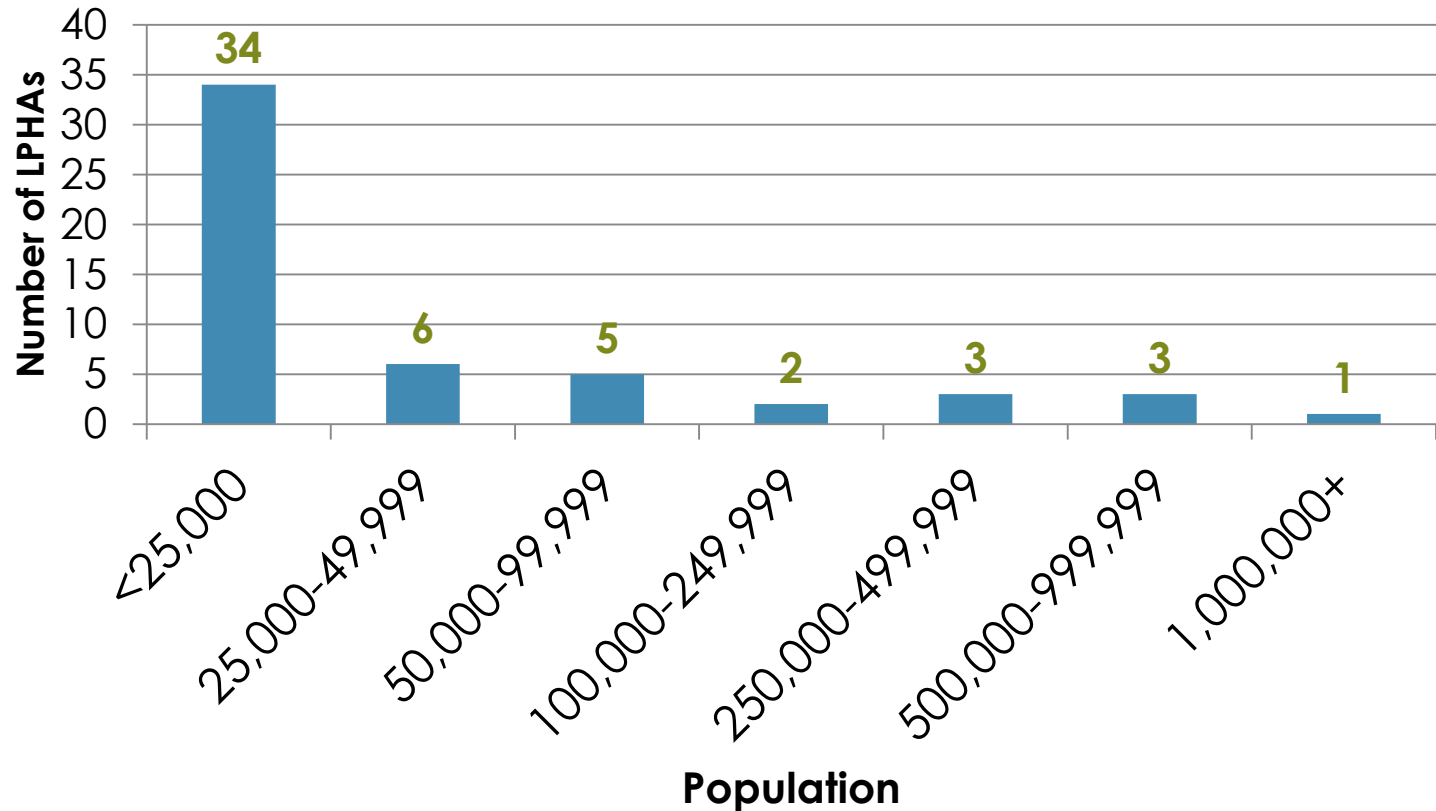


- Single County Local Public Health Agency
- District Local Public Health Agency
- Contractual arrangement with another county to provide services
- Health and Human Services with separate Public Health Director
- Health and Human Services directed by Human Services Director
- Majority of public health services delegated to non-profit
- Two Coordinating Local Public Health Agencies

- Physical
- Satellite
- ★ PHAB Accredited

PHAB = National Public Health Accreditation Board
www.phaboard.org

Number of Colorado LPHAs by Population



Core Public Health Services and Most Common Examples

Assessment, Planning and Communication

Vital Records and Statistics

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation & Control

- Epidemiology & Surveillance; Adult and Childhood Immunizations; Tb Screening and Treatment

Prevention and Population Health Promotion

- Nutrition Promotion and WIC Services; Tobacco Use Prevention; Unintended Pregnancy Prevention

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Environmental Health

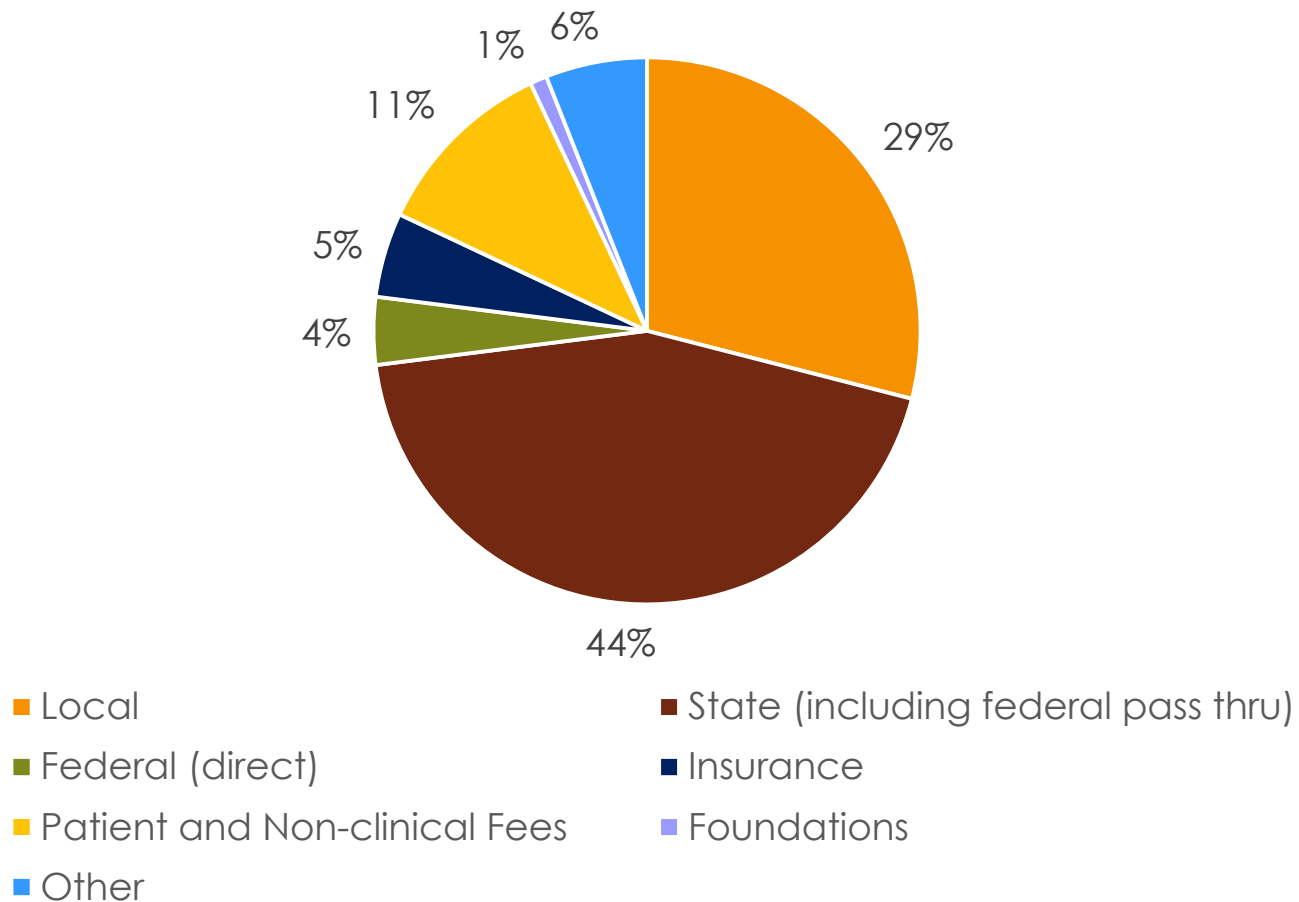
- Retail Food Establishment Inspections; Septic System Inspection; Public Health Nuisance Abatement; School/Childcare Inspection

Administration and Governance

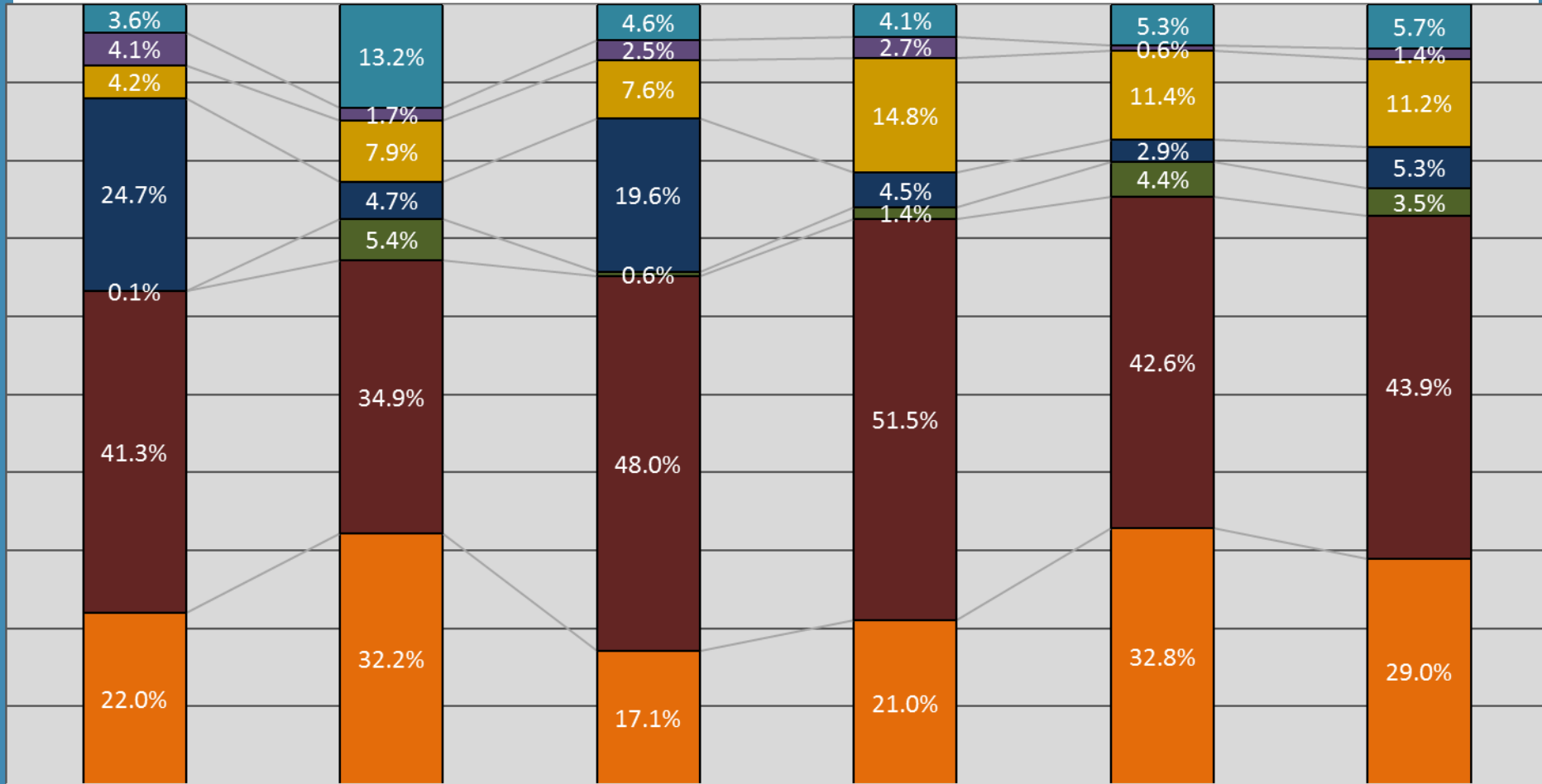
LPHAs in Colorado – Total Funding

More than \$160 Million

Colorado Public Health Funding Combined



Colorado Local Public Health Funding By Jurisdiction Size, 2016



Frontier

Rural

Densely-settled
rural

Semi-urban

Urban

CO Total

Local

Federal (direct)

Patient and Non-clinical Fees

Other

State (including federal pass thru)

Insurance

Foundations

PUBLIC HEALTH VS. MEDICAL CARE

1

Public Health versus Medical Care

- Public Health is not medical care
- Medical care = Treats an individual's sickness
- Public health = Ensures a community's wellness
- We need medical care some of the time.
- We need public health all of the time.

Public Health vs. Medical Care

Medical Practice

Individual Patient →

Exam →

Diagnosis/Assessment →

Treatment Plan →

Treatment →

Fee/payment →

Recall/pt. evaluation →

Public Health

Community

Surveillance

Analysis

Program Planning

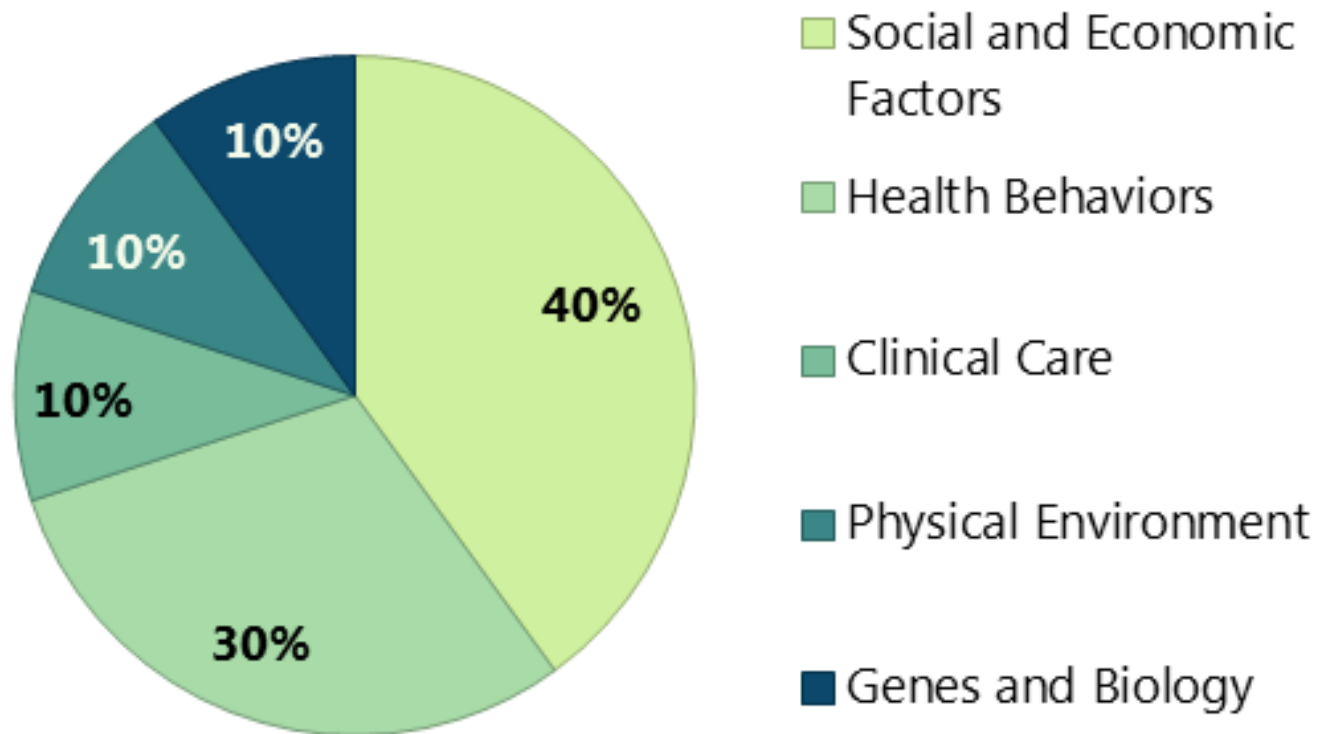
Program Implementation

Budget/Financing

Program Evaluation

Health Factors

Factors Influencing Health and Well-Being



PUBLIC HEALTH IS A SYSTEM

2

Public Health System Levels

- Federal
 - Health and Human Services
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Food and Drug Administration
- State
 - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
 - Colorado Department Human Services
 - Health Care Policy and Finance
- Local
 - Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs)

Public Health System

- Local Public Health Agency/Board of Health
- Other local departments
- Health insurance companies
- Health care providers
- Hospitals
- Non-profit organizations
- Schools
- Statewide organizations
- State government departments
- Federal departments

PUBLIC HEALTH SCENARIOS

Discussion

- Read your public health scenario
- Discuss with your partners

- There are no right or wrong answers
- The approach will be different depending on your LPHA and your role

Questions

- Is this something that you think your LPHA should tackle? Why or Why not?
- What information would you need to help you better understand the problem?
- Where or to whom would you look for information about the issue?
- What do you see as the problem?
- What might be some solutions or where might you find some solutions?

HEALTH IS CONNECTED

3

Health of Your Community Members

- Health is connected to many of your other decisions
- Ask yourself (and others), “How does this impact health?”
- Examples
 - Land Use
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Economic Development
- Social Determinants of Health

YOU HAVE POWERS AND DUTIES

4

Powers and Duties

- County Commissioner powers and duties are different from Board of Health powers and duties
- Public Health Director has powers as well
- Resource: Pocket Guide for Local Boards of Health

Pocket Guide
for Local Boards of Health

In Accordance with
the Colorado Public Health Act of 2008
C.R.S. 25-1-501 et seq.

revised January, 2017

Board of Health Powers

- Hire a public health director and medical officer
- Determine necessary services and set local priorities
- Determine general policies to be followed by public health agency
- Develop policies to support community health
- Hold hearings and take testimony
- Issue orders and adopt rules for health issues
- Assess fees

Board of Health Duties

- Meet at least quarterly as the Board of Health
- Follow orders, rules and standards of State Board of Health
- Review budget
- Approve the 5-year public health plan
- Provide necessary equipment and materials to public health agency

YOU HAVE SUPPORT

5

Sources of Information and Support

- Public Health Agency Director
- Public Health Agency Staff
- Other public health agency directors
- Statewide public health director organization (CALPHO)
- CDPHE and other state departments
- National organizations (NaCO, NACCHO, NALBOH)
- Federal government agencies
- Non-profit partners
- Colleges and Universities

Now What?

- Talk to your Public Health Director
- Find out about the biggest health issues in your county and the region
- Think about how your other decisions are connected to the health of your community
- Be an advocate for healthy choices

Looking Forward

- Cross-sector collaborations
- Regional collaborations
- Focus on Health Equity
- Next round of CHAPS
- Quality Improvement
- National Voluntary Accreditation (PHAB)
 - Accreditation Readiness
- More access to professional development
- Change at the Federal Level

For more information

- Talk with your public health director



CO L O R A D O

**Office of Planning,
Partnerships & Improvement**

Department of Public Health & Environment

P: 303-692-2350

www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe-lpha

CALPHO

Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

P: 303-861-4995

www.calpho.org

info@calpho.org