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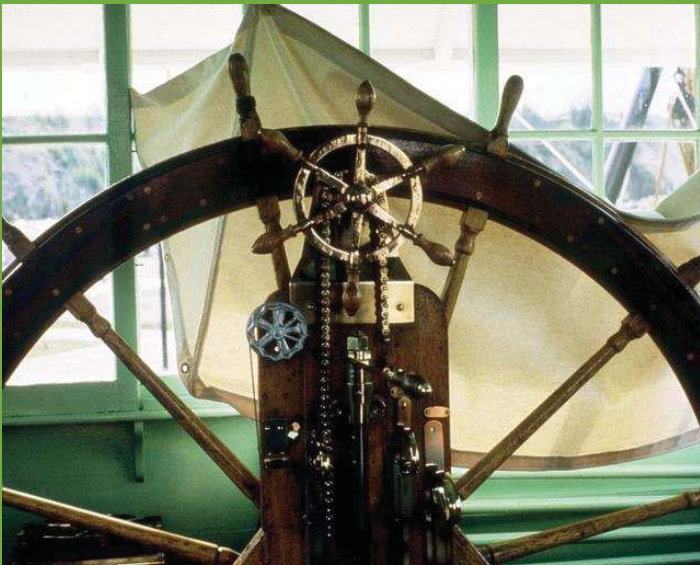
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# New Hampshire State Health Improvement Plan

2013-2020

*Charting a Course  
to Improve the Health  
of New Hampshire*





# **NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013-2020**

*CHARTING A COURSE  
TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF NEW HAMPSHIRE*

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# Acknowledgements

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Overall responsibility for planning and coordination rested with the Bureau of Public Health Systems, Policy and Performance (BPHSPP) under the direction of Lisa Bujno, Bureau Chief. Strategic direction was provided by José Montero, Joan Ascheim and Lisa Bujno. Creative direction, design and publication management of the report were executed by Laura Holmes with graphic support by Christin D'Ovidio, Tyler Brandow, and Denise Krol. Production support was provided by Cheryl Storey. Each section in the report was written by content experts from DHHS. Data analysis was completed by DPHS staff, epidemiologists and data analysts. Graphs were prepared by Michael Laviolette.

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Dear Colleagues:

Times are changing and we need to not only adapt but to lead the change. To maximize the positive impact on the population's health, to improve it, the public health system must work in effective partnerships. We need to be able to strategically partner across sectors and with the health care system. To do that properly we need clear and shared priorities, objectives and measurable goals.

The Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services provides crucial services and expertise for individuals and communities – providing care, linking people to appropriate care, being the steward of the quality of the health care provided, responding to emergencies, conducting surveillance, analyzing data from providers to detect trends, and proposing regulations and policies based on that analysis. Health reform implementation, beyond the discussion about coverage expansion, has already increased coverage of disease screening and clinical preventive services, and is changing the way preventive and other clinical services are provided and reimbursed. But Public Health is much more than providing clinical preventive services, we ensure that all the other services vital to good health do not fall through the cracks—that the unique public health expertise and “wrap-around” services are still available to all who need them. At these times of transition and budgetary constraints we are challenged by difficult decisions about which services we should continue to provide. As stakeholders in public health, we need to maximize our limited resources more effectively—both financial and workforce—by working together to provide comprehensive preventive services

With input from partners from the diverse sectors, agencies and organizations that address population health, the state public health system identified 10 priority areas for improvement with measurable objectives and targets for health outcomes, areas for needed attention in public health capacity, and recommendations for evidence-based interventions and actions. Reaching these targets requires a statewide initiative, and success is possible only through strategic and coordinated state, regional, and local efforts. The New Hampshire State Health Improvement Plan (NH SHIP) priorities and objectives are intended to provide support, guidance, and focus for public health activities throughout the state. The NH SHIP is the state's public health road map, providing evidence-based strategies to guide the direction of many of our actions. The NH SHIP objectives are our destination; reaching them will mean that we have significantly improved the health of our people.

This plan lays out the top health and public health system priorities for New Hampshire in the next five years. It includes measurable objectives, recommended strategies for improvement, and performance measures with time-framed targets for each priority. Because the opportunities and challenges in each area are not identical, efforts in each are at a unique point in the improvement process. Because New Hampshire is a small state with limited human and financial resources, it is imperative that the public health system remain focused on those areas where our collective actions will leverage the most improvement. And while mental health is a key component of a healthy population, and is referenced in this plan, we recognize that mental health has a historically distinct group of stakeholders and DPHS has not systematically addressed it as part of its portfolio. For guidance in identifying mental health priorities, we defer to the New Hampshire mental health plan, *Addressing the Critical Mental Health Needs of NH's Citizens: A Strategy for Restoration* (<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcbcs/bbh/documents/restoration.pdf>).

Various state level plans and actions intended to impact several of the NH SHIP priorities are already in place. For some priorities, like oral health, strategic plans have been in place for many years and we recognize that it is time to revisit and refresh those plans. For others, like heart disease and stroke prevention, work at the DPHS is new, so no statewide plan yet exists. For still others, plans have been in place for several years but work is needed to assure that activities will continue to have a measurable impact on key indicators of success.

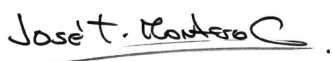
As part of this process, DPHS encourages all our partners to adopt the NH SHIP objectives and implement evidence-based strategies for population health improvement, such as those identified in the National Prevention Strategy and referenced throughout the document. In addition, DPHS will work diligently to engage, involve and empower our communities to focus our efforts on reaching our shared vision together.

Dedicated staff from across DPHS are currently involved in many of the state level groups that are implementing specific health plans. These linkages should continue so that the work of the state health agency is aligned with, and supportive of, the work of external partners and communities. And we should continue to form new linkages; for example, the work of New Hampshire's public health networks and regional substance use networks are now funded through a single State contract. Through this collaboration, Regional Public Health Advisory Councils in each public health region will come together to identify health priorities for their service areas, an unprecedented opportunity for regions to build new partnerships and address new health issues in alignment with NH SHIP priorities.

The DPHS, with the input of the Public Health Improvement Services Council (PHISC), will monitor the implementation of the NH SHIP. Linkages already exist between the PHISC and other state level groups working on specific health issues, such as obesity, substance misuse and regional public health emergency preparedness. Moving ahead and forging links with groups addressing every NH SHIP priority is critical to assuring a coordinated and collaborative implementation phase. To assess our progress toward our targets, DPHS will produce and publish an annual NH SHIP performance dashboard on the DHHS website using our Web-based Interactive System for Data and Outcome Measures (NH Health WISDOM). Through building on the successful partnerships and coordinated interventions our community of health and response professionals have demonstrated in every event, and in rising to meet every challenge, together we can create a better state of health in New Hampshire.

The integrated health care system of the future requires shared objectives that guide empowered individuals and communities on their quest to be active participants in their own health. By providing a clear population health framework this document is a key step in that direction. I am truly pleased to present to you New Hampshire's State Health Improvement Plan, "*Charting a Course to Improve the Health of New Hampshire*". We developed it together and together we will make its implementation a successful reality.

Respectfully,



José T. Montero, MD, MPH, MHCDS

Director, Division of Public Health Services,  
NH Department of Health and Human Services

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# Executive Summary

“**Health** begins with healthy communities, with safe streets, freedom from violence, and parks where kids can play. Health begins with a good education, where children learn not only how to read, write, and prepare for fulfilling, prosperous lives, but how to treat each other with dignity and respect. And health begins with safe jobs and fair wage, where people derive a sense of personal satisfaction from their work and connection to their co-workers... No institution alone can restore a healthy America that nurtures families and communities. That will require leadership, and a partnership of business, government, and civic and religious institutions.”

— *A New Way to Talk About the Social Determinants of Health, Vulnerable Populations Portfolio, 2010*  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The conditions in which we live, work, and play have an enormous impact on our health. Who our parents are, how far we advance in school, our income level, what we eat, whether we exercise or smoke or drink, the conditions of our homes and neighborhoods, and if we have access to health care all contribute to our overall health. In August of 2011, the Division of Public Health Services’ (DPHS) Director, Jose Montero, MD, MPH, MHCDS, challenged DPHS leadership to develop a plan for addressing the most significant health issues facing our state, which had been identified in the 2011 New Hampshire State Health Profile.

This resulting New Hampshire State Health Improvement Plan (NH SHIP), “*Charting a Course to Improve the Health of New Hampshire*”, highlights 10 key health areas and their health outcome indicators that describe the most significant health issues currently facing our population. Its aims are to assist state and community leaders in focusing their work to improve the public’s health and to promote coordination and collaboration among public health partners. Strategies proposed for each priority are evidence-based, designed to have a high impact on the health of the population.

DPHS leaders and its public health improvement advisory body, the Public Health Improvement Services Council (PHISC), acted as the steering committee for the planning process. Foundational concepts influencing the NH SHIP are population health, the social determinants of health, and

Frieden’s Health Impact Pyramid. The National Prevention Strategy and other national standards guided the choice of strategies. The NH SHIP process was adapted from the National Association of City and County Health Officials’ Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) model. The NH SHIP integrates findings from four MAPP assessments that evaluate a community’s health and identify strategic health issues. Together, these form a comprehensive view of the health and quality of life of a population that informs improvement actions.

The NH SHIP can be used by a wide variety of agencies and organizations in numerous ways. For example, public health networks, hospitals, community health centers, and businesses in a region can use this information to structure community health assessments and improvement plans. Government agencies, foundations, schools, and social service organizations can apply NH SHIP priorities as a framework for health-related strategic planning, grant seeking and grant making, performance management, and quality improvement. The information presented in the NH SHIP can be a valuable resource to elected officials, employers, emergency responders, and health planners about the most pressing health issues facing their populations. Academic institutions can tailor research toward these priorities and strategies to further the knowledge base on these issues.

Collaboration by many public health and health system partners is required to improve the health of New Hampshire’s population. The NH SHIP’s success depends on these partners advancing collaboration, coordination and efficiency toward this common health agenda. Working together and in new ways on these most important health issues are at the core of the road ahead for public health and health system partners.

# NH State Health Improvement Plan Priority Areas

## TOBACCO

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death, disease, and disability.

- Reduce adult cigarette smoking
- Reduce the initiation of tobacco use in children
- Reduce tobacco use by adolescents
- Reduce smoking during pregnancy
- Reduce exposure to indoor tobacco smoke

## OBESITY/DIABETES

Obesity is a complex health concern that impacts 26% of our adults and 18% of children, and increases the risk for many chronic diseases. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in New Hampshire, affecting about 8.7% of our adults.

- Reduce adult obesity
- Reduce childhood obesity
- Decrease emergency department visits for diabetes
- Decrease hospitalizations for diabetes

## HEART DISEASE AND STROKE

Heart disease is the second leading cause of death in New Hampshire; stroke is the fifth leading cause.

- Reduce high blood cholesterol in adults
- Reduce high blood pressure in adults
- Reduce coronary heart disease deaths
- Reduce stroke deaths

## HEALTHY MOTHERS AND BABIES

Strategies to promote a healthy start to life may have the greatest potential to reduce health disparities across the life course.

- Reduce preterm births
- Reduce unintended teen births
- Increase screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental delays
- Reduce childhood dental caries

## CANCER PREVENTION

Cancer has overtaken heart disease as the leading cause of death in New Hampshire.

- Increase colorectal cancer screening
- Increase mammogram screening for breast cancer
- Reduce melanoma deaths
- Reduce deaths from lung cancer

## ASTHMA

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows the airways causing difficulty breathing. New Hampshire's asthma rate is among the highest in the nation.

- Increase asthma control in adults
- Increase asthma control in children

## INJURY PREVENTION

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for all New Hampshire residents between age 1 and 44.

- Reduce unintentional poisoning deaths
- Reduce falls-related deaths in older adults
- Reduce motor vehicle crash injuries in teens
- Reduce suicide deaths for all persons
- Reduce suicide attempts by adolescents

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Preventive health services such as immunizations and prompt diagnosis and treatment prevent infectious diseases and improve health outcomes. In 2012, over 3,500 cases of infectious disease were reported in New Hampshire.

- Increase childhood vaccinations
- Reduce healthcare associated infections
- Increase timeliness of foodborne illness investigations
- Enhance food safety
- Increase seasonal influenza vaccination

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The threat of an emergency or disaster is always present. Prepared responders and resilient communities ensure a rapid and effective response to any emergency.

- Increase community engagement in public health emergency activities
- Strengthen the capacity to respond to public health emergencies in a timely manner
- Strengthen the capacity to maintain situational awareness of health threats
- Increase the State's ability to dispense emergency countermeasures to the public

## MISUSE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Substance abuse impacts individuals, families, and communities, significantly contributing to social, physical, mental, and public health problems.

- Reduce binge drinking
- Reduce marijuana use in youth
- Reduce the non-medical use of pain relievers
- Reduce drug-related overdose deaths

# Introduction

## What is the State Health Improvement Plan?

When public health systems are working well, there is little fanfare. In fact, it seems that we don't realize that they are at work. Yet our drinking water and food in our restaurants is safe, our children's teeth are without cavities, fewer teens are smoking and fewer people are dying as a result of motor vehicle crashes or tuberculosis, because public health are performing as expected. The Institute of Medicine defines public health as, "What we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy."<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire embraces this definition, acknowledging that the public health system extends far beyond the boundaries of any health department and it is deeply intertwined with the systems designed to provide care for the ill.

Within New Hampshire's institutional structure, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) bears statutory responsibility for protecting the public's health; its staff has taken a leading role in developing this State Health Improvement Plan. This New Hampshire State Health Improvement Plan (NH SHIP), "*Charting a Course to Improve the Health of New Hampshire*", sets priorities to improve the health status of New Hampshire's people. It highlights 10 key health areas and associated health outcome indicators that reflect the most significant health issues currently facing our population. Its aims are to assist state and community leaders in focusing their work to improve the public's health and to promote coordination and collaboration among public health partners. The strategies proposed for each priority area are based on evidence and designed to have a high impact on the health of the population.

The NH SHIP can be used by a wide variety of state and local agencies and organizations in numerous ways. For example, public health networks, hospitals, community health centers, social service agencies and businesses in a region can use this information to structure their community health assessments and health improvement plans. Government agencies, foundations, schools, and health and social service organizations can apply NH SHIP priorities as a framework for health-related strategic planning, grant seeking and grant making, performance management, and quality improvement. The information presented in the NH SHIP can be a valuable resource to elected officials, employers, emergency responders, and health planners about the most pressing health issues facing their populations. Academic institu-

tions can tailor research toward these priorities and strategies to further the knowledge base on these issues.

DPHS, with input from its public health improvement advisory committee, the Public Health Improvement Services Council (PHISC), will also be responsible for ongoing monitoring of the strategies being implemented. However, many other partners contribute to the health of the population and are essential to the public health system and the success of this plan.

The NH SHIP is intended to be a living document to guide health improvement work throughout our state. The plan can serve as a catalyst for new partners to work together toward this common health agenda. Implementation of NH SHIP strategies over the next few years will bring together public health system partners to coordinate and collaborate in meeting our state's health goals. The commitment of partners to systematically address shared priorities will yield greater improvements in the population's health than individual or disjointed efforts.

## What Makes Us Healthy?

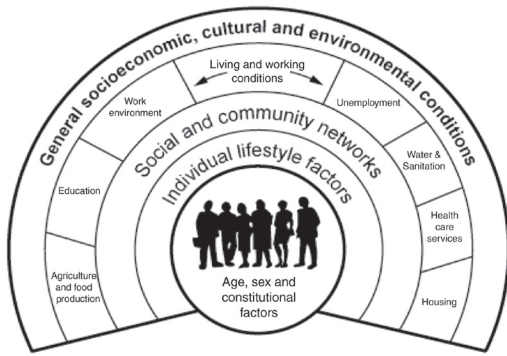
The conditions in which we live, work, and play have an enormous impact on our health. These influences, known as the social determinants of health (Figure 1), are important to consider when thinking about improving the health of a population. Who our parents are, how far we advance in school, our income level, what we eat, whether we exercise or smoke or drink, the conditions of our homes and neighborhoods, and if we have access to health care all contribute to our overall health. For example, individuals with less than a high school education, making less than \$25,000 a year, or living in our North Country or Lakes Region are more likely to smoke than those who make more money, reached a higher education level, or live elsewhere in New Hampshire.

Population health refers to the health of a group of people. It can be measured by health status indicators, like smoking rates, and is impacted by the social determinants of health, such as human development, individual capacity, social, economic and physical environments, personal health practices, the quality of

"When public health is invisible, it means we've done our job successfully. Typically, the only time it is visible is when something new arises or when something has gone wrong. However, we put public health research into practice every day, before we even get to work. We wake up and brush our teeth with fluoridated water. We drive to work with seatbelts on safe roads."

—Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH  
CDC, National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-borne, and Enteric Diseases

**Figure 1: Determinants of Health**



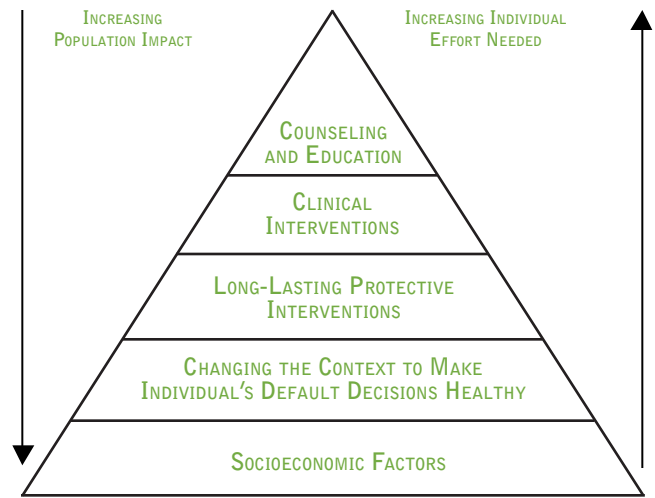
Source: Dahlgren G, Whitehead M (1991) Policies and Strategies to Promote Social Equity in Health, Institute of Futures Studies: Stockholm

health services, and health service systems. A population health approach aims to improve the health of an entire population and reduce health inequities. It focuses on the interrelated factors that influence health from birth to death, identifies systematic variations, and applies this information to develop and implement policies and actions that will improve health. A population health approach is grounded in a life course perspective, recognizing that intervention in early childhood has the greatest potential in terms of health impact and return on investment. Key concepts of public health, such as the social determinants of health, health equity, use of evidenced-based practices for improved health outcomes, and data collection and analysis to establish baselines and evaluate interventions, are at the core of a population health approach.

Collaboration among many public health and health system partners is called for to improve the health of the people of New Hampshire. The Affordable Care Act provides, beyond insurance mandates, unprecedented opportunities for health prevention and promotion for individuals, work-sites, and communities. For example, the Act authorizes funds for grants for small businesses to provide comprehensive workplace wellness programs.<sup>1</sup> But the opportunities presented by the Affordable Care Act are just a beginning; the strategies we employ to improve our health must intervene at multiple levels in order to be most successful.

In his “Framework for Public Health Action”, Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), presents the concept of the Health Impact Pyramid.<sup>5</sup> (Figure 2) This model illustrates that the greatest impact on population health occurs when the socioeconomic factors, in Tier 1 at the bottom of the pyramid, are positively changed. The smallest impact occurs at the top tiers of the pyramid, from clinical interventions

**Figure 2: The Health Impact Pyramid**



Source: Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH. A Framework for Public Health Action: The Health Impact Pyramid. Am J Public Health. 2010 April; 100(4): 590–595. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2009.185652 PMID: PMC2836340

(Tier 4) and individual counseling and education (Tier 5). These two tiers, while extremely important, have a limited impact because they affect one person at a time and depend on compliance with recommended actions and ongoing adherence to these changes by the individual.

Making changes in a population’s income, education, and living environment is challenging. The second tier of the Health Impact Pyramid, Changing the Context to Make Individual’s Default Decisions Healthy, means making the healthy choice the easy choice for an individual. Examples of this are fluoridated water and healthy snacks in vending machines. These interventions require little or no effort on the part of an individual to make a healthy choice. The middle or 3rd tier, long-lasting protective interventions, refers to one-time or infrequent actions that afford long-term protection or prevention, such

### Key Determinants of Health

1. Income and Social Status
2. Social Support Networks
3. Education
4. Employment/Working Conditions
5. Social Environments
6. Physical Environments
7. Personal Health Practices and Coping Skills
8. Healthy Child Development
9. Biology and Genetic Endowment
10. Health Services
11. Gender
12. Culture

Source: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/approach-approche/appr-eng.php#key\\_elements](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/approach-approche/appr-eng.php#key_elements)

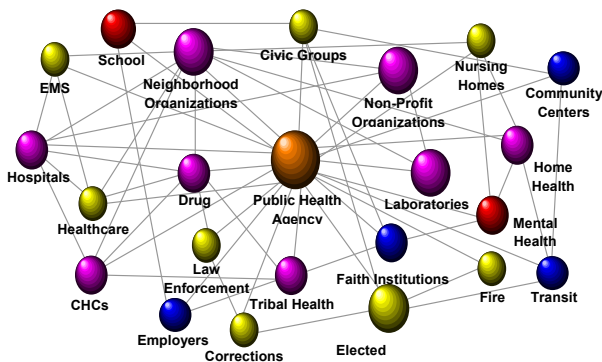


as immunizations and dental sealants. The Health Impact Pyramid provides a sound model for planning across public and private sectors at the state and community levels to improve our performance on our public health problems.

### Who Contributes to the Health of New Hampshire's Residents?

The New Hampshire public health system includes a diverse array of partners from many sectors. (Figure 3) For example, health care providers, community health centers, mental health agencies and hospitals provide health care services directly to individuals. Social service agencies work to impact the social determinants of health by offering programs for vulnerable people, such as access to affordable housing, heating assistance or transportation. Health insurers assure access to health services and promote health through programs for their insured populations and the community at large. Businesses provide health insurance and workplace safety and employee wellness programs. Legislators create policies to protect residents and promote healthy environments. Others, such as emergency responders, health coalitions and associations, philanthropic organizations, schools, child care agencies, academic centers and the media each contribute to the population's health in their own ways. The NH SHIP's success depends on these key public health system partners, and new partners, to advance collaboration, coordination and efficiency as the plan's strategies are implemented. (See Appendix I for a flowchart depicting the steps we and our public health partners took in developing the NH SHIP).

Figure 3: Public Health System Model



Source: CDC

### How was the State Health Improvement Plan Developed?

New technologies are making a clear impact on the capacity of organizations to improve their own capacities and methods for population based data collection and analysis. As a leading public health organization, DPHS has the responsibility to adapt those new technologies and methods to improve the health of the population in New Hampshire. At the same time, with the changes related to the way we provide and pay for health care, especially for illnesses that affect our population, it is evident that we need to prioritize our actions and develop clear

*"The public health system... describes a complex network of individuals and organizations that have the potential to play critical roles in creating the conditions for health. They can act individually, but when they work together toward a health goal, they act as a system—a public health system"*

*— IOM (Institute of Medicine) 2003  
The Future of Public Health in the 21st Century, Washington, DC, National Academy Press*

ways to measure our performance. Within this mind frame the DPHS leadership challenged itself to lead such a prioritization process and develop specific targets that will show the progress we are making in improving and maintaining the health of the state's population. The steps we took toward that direction started in 2009 and by 2011, with the publication of the New Hampshire State Health Profile, the stage was set. Upon the publication of this report, DPHS committed itself to a planning initiative to identify the Division's goals, objectives and priorities. Referred to as the "GO Plan", this Goals and Objectives (GO) planning process occurred between September 2011 and June 2012 and included four steps: identifying the overarching broad goals for the Division, identifying specific goals for each broad goal, analyzing gaps in the Division's strategies and activities, and a prioritization process to identify the health outcomes that would require greater emphasis in the years ahead.

As the GO Plan evolved into the State Health Improvement Plan, DPHS leaders and PHISC members acted as the steering committee for the planning process. Members of the PHISC are representative of statewide organizations, private foundations, and regional public health networks. Established in 2007 by House Bill 491, the group's charge was to oversee public health improvement efforts that began with the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee in 2006. While the legislative charge to the Council is no longer in effect, the group continues to meet regu-

larly. Within the context of building public health infrastructure and the NH SHIP process, the PHISC’s purpose is to: provide expert advice on public health matters, create an independent forum for discussion, share knowledge, and link with other DPHS advisory and planning groups to coordinate communication across the public health system.

The NH SHIP process was adapted from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO’s) Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) model (Figure 4). The MAPP approach includes four types of assessments to evaluate the health of a community and identify strategic issues: the State Health Status Assessment; the Public Health System Assessment; the Themes and Strengths Assessment; and the Forces of Change Assessment. Because each assessment comes from a unique perspective, together they make a comprehensive view of the health and quality of life of a population.

**Figure 4: Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships**



Source: [http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/chapter2\\_section13\\_main.aspx](http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/chapter2_section13_main.aspx). Adapted by Phil Rabinowitz from National Association of County and City Health Officials

**The State Health Status Assessment**

As previously mentioned, the 2011 New Hampshire State Health Profile reported the results of the State Health Status Assessment. The key health factors identified as requiring further attention were: obesity among adults and children and behaviors that may lead to it, such as lack of fruit and vegetable consumption; smoking among adults and high school students; alcohol and illicit drug use, including abuse of prescription drugs; and seatbelt and bike helmet

use. Key health outcomes that were identified as targets for future efforts were asthma, unintentional injuries, and youth suicide.

A companion document, the 2011 Snapshot of New Hampshire’s Public Health Regions, Counties, and the Cities of Manchester and Nashua, provided regional data profiles that could be used among public health partners to plan and implement a public health agenda for New Hampshire communities. The profiles highlighted 30 indicators selected to best describe the health of the people in the regions. Collectively, the profiles highlight the variation and health inequities among the regions of the state. For example, Grafton County had the lowest percent of obese adults, at 20.9, while Coos County had the highest, at 32.7. Similarly, Rockingham County had the lowest percent of currently smoking adults, at 14.1, while Belknap County had the highest, at 21.6. The teen birth rate was lowest in Rockingham County, at 11.5 births per 1,000 females age 15-19, and highest in Sullivan County, at 41.8. These profiles can assist community leaders in focusing their work to improve the public’s health at a local level.

**MAPP Assessments**

**The State Health Status Assessment** looks at health status, quality of life and risk factors in the population. Questions answered here include, “How healthy are our residents?” and “What does the health status of our state look like?”

**The Public Health System Assessment** assesses the capacity of the entire public health system. This assessment answers the questions, “What are the components, activities, competencies and capacities of our public health system?” and “How are the Essential Services being provided to our state?”

**The Themes and Strengths Assessment** identifies themes of interest to the population and perceived quality of life issues, as well as community assets. The assessment answers the questions: “What is important to our state?” “How is quality of life perceived in our state?”; and “What assets exist that can be used to improve health?”

**The Forces of Change Assessment** identifies current and imminent forces that will affect the population’s health or public health system. These could be factors such as funding shifts, technology or other significant changes that may affect state residents or the state system. It answers the questions, “What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our state?” and “What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?”

**The Public Health System Assessment**

In 2005, a comprehensive statewide Public Health System Assessment was originally completed in New Hampshire using the CDC’s National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS) tool, Version 1. The following six actions, related to the Essential Public

Health Services, were chosen as strategic public health priorities aimed at improving New Hampshire's public health system; workgroups addressed these most significant capacity gaps over the next several years.

1. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues
2. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
3. Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems
4. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
5. Develop a communication plan to convey the importance and value of public health
6. Develop a plan to assure a competent public health workforce

Subsequently, 12 of the then 15 New Hampshire public health networks completed their own capacity assessments using a revised version of the National County and City Health Officials' Local Health Department Self-Assessment Tool (NACCHO–Rev.1). In the aggregate, the networks' capacity was rated as greater than moderate for these four Essential Services (ES): Link People to Services (ES 7), Inform and Educate (ES 3), Diagnose and Investigate (ES 2); and Mobilize Partnerships (ES 4). Moderate capacity was perceived for: Monitoring Health Status (ES 1), Evaluation and Improvement (ES 9), and Assuring a Competent Workforce (ES 8).

Minimal to moderate capacity was noted for: Developing Policies and Plans (ES 5); Research (ES 10); and Enforcing Laws (ES 6).<sup>2</sup>

A reassessment of the state-level public health system occurred over the spring and summer of 2013, using the CDC's NPHPS tool, Version 3. The analysis of this reassessment is slated to be complete in the fall of 2013. Public health system partners will then prioritize capacity needs and develop action plans to move forward.

### The Themes and Strengths Assessment

The Themes and Strengths Assessment is comprised of feedback from public input sessions in the fall of 2012 and two separate meetings, one with DPHS staff and another with the PHISC members. Three main themes were identified that participants perceived contribute to the strength of our public health system:

- partnerships;
- the strength of the current infrastructure; and
- state characteristics, such as the size of the state and health of its population.

Participants also discussed issues and events that have brought New Hampshire communities together successfully to improve the health and quality of life in our state. Notable situations in which this has occurred included: working to build the regional public health infrastructure; addressing specific health issues; and currently, responding to health system transformation.

The collective information from these assessments paints a vibrant picture of a state's overall health landscape and drives the development of a strategic health plan. The process helps communities achieve optimal health by identifying and using their resources wisely, taking into account their unique circumstances and needs, and forming effective partnerships for strategic action.<sup>3</sup> Appendices A–D provide summaries of the assessments, the methods used and their results.

### The Forces of Change Assessment

The Forces of Change Assessment was conducted in two meetings in 2012: one with DPHS staff and another with the PHISC. Participants provided expertise on the breadth of the health priority issues, as well as their unique perspectives from state and local public health agencies, non-profits, foundations, and public health research organizations. The forces of change identified through these meetings were:

- state demographic trends;
- the economic climate and political landscape;
- health system transformation;
- public health system capacity; and
- emerging issues, such as flu pandemic and radiological emergency response.

### Developing Health Priorities

The previously described GO Plan process identified the top objectives to address New Hampshire's most significant health issues. DPHS leaders met in late 2011 and prioritized these objectives through a weighted voting system. Criteria used included:

- the severity of the problem's health consequences;
  - the number of individuals affected;
  - whether there are disproportionate effects in population subgroups;
  - the problem's economic and social cost; whether the problem is cross-cutting, with an effect across the life span;
  - and the feasibility of addressing the problem.
- Appendix E describes the prioritization process in more detail.



## The Ten Priority Areas

Tobacco  
 Obesity and Diabetes  
 Heart Disease and Stroke  
 Healthy Mothers and Babies  
 Cancer Prevention  
 Asthma  
 Injury Prevention  
 Infectious Disease  
 Emergency Preparedness  
 Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs

The ranked objectives were then grouped into 10 priority areas, becoming the basis for this State Health Improvement Plan. After the priority areas were chosen, DPHS subject matter experts further defined the key objectives. In order to be consistent with national objectives, the National Prevention Strategy was used to guide our choice of strategies for the NH SHIP. Other national standards and evidence-based activities were also considered, such as the CDC's Community Guide, Bright Futures, Healthy People 2020, and the National Health Security Strategy.

### Community and Partner Input

In the fall of 2012, public input meetings were held in five regions of the state to introduce the priorities and gather community feedback. These meetings resulted in a wealth of information about communities' perceptions of the 10 NH SHIP health priorities. Participants at each meeting ranked the priorities through interactive polling using an Audience Response System. Individually, all community meetings chose Obesity/Diabetes as the number one priority for their regions, except the one held in Sullivan County. Partners from within and around Sullivan County chose Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs as the highest priority, with Obesity/Diabetes as second. For all groups, except the one that met in Sullivan County, Asthma was the lowest priority in the rankings. Sullivan County ranked asthma 8th, followed by Infectious Disease and Emergency Preparedness, respectively. A summary of these meetings can be found in Appendix F.

In May of 2013, DPHS convened a statewide meeting of Representatives from public and private organizations serving various roles in community health-related coalitions throughout the state attended the meeting, the Alliance of Healthy Community

Coalitions Summit. The goals of this summit were to develop strategies to address the health priority areas defined in the NH SHIP and bring together coalitions across the state in a coordinated public health effort to further these priorities. Breakout sessions provided an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input on how to move forward, and discuss key evidence-based strategies and action steps.

The following pages describe the 10 NH SHIP priority areas. Each section offers detail on the priority, such as the scope and cost of the health issue, current available data, and populations disproportionately affected. Suggested evidence-based approaches to address each priority are included, as these are at the core of the work ahead for public health and health system partners to improve the health of New Hampshire's population. Where applicable, alignment is noted with national standards, objectives or measures (See Appendix G). Partner input and information and feedback obtained from the community has been incorporated into each priority area section.

### NH SHIP Implementation and Oversight

The NH SHIP lays out the top health and public health system priorities for New Hampshire in the next five years. It includes measurable objectives, recommended strategies for improvement, and performance measures with time-framed targets for each priority. Because the opportunities and challenges in each area are not identical, efforts in each are at a unique point in the improvement process. Because New Hampshire is a small state, with limited human and financial resources, it is imperative that the public health system remain focused on those areas where our collective actions will leverage the most improvement.

The table in Appendix H depicts the status of state level plans and actions intended to impact the NH SHIP priorities. As mentioned by Dr. Montero in his letter, strategic plans for some of the priority areas have been in place for many years and need updating; for other areas no statewide plan exists. For all plans, current and future, we must ensure that the activities in the plans will have a measurable impact on key indicators of success.

The DPHS, with the input of the PHISC, will monitor the implementation of the NH SHIP. Linkages already exist between the PHISC and other state level groups working on specific health issues, such as obesity, substance misuse and regional public health emergency preparedness. Moving ahead, forging links with groups addressing every NH SHIP priority is critical to assuring a coordinated, collaborative implementation phase.



Staff from across DPHS are currently involved in many of these state level groups that are implementing specific health plans (see Appendix H). These linkages will continue so that the work of the state health agency is aligned with, and supportive of, the work of external partners and communities.

### **Ten Recommendations for NH SHIP Implementation**

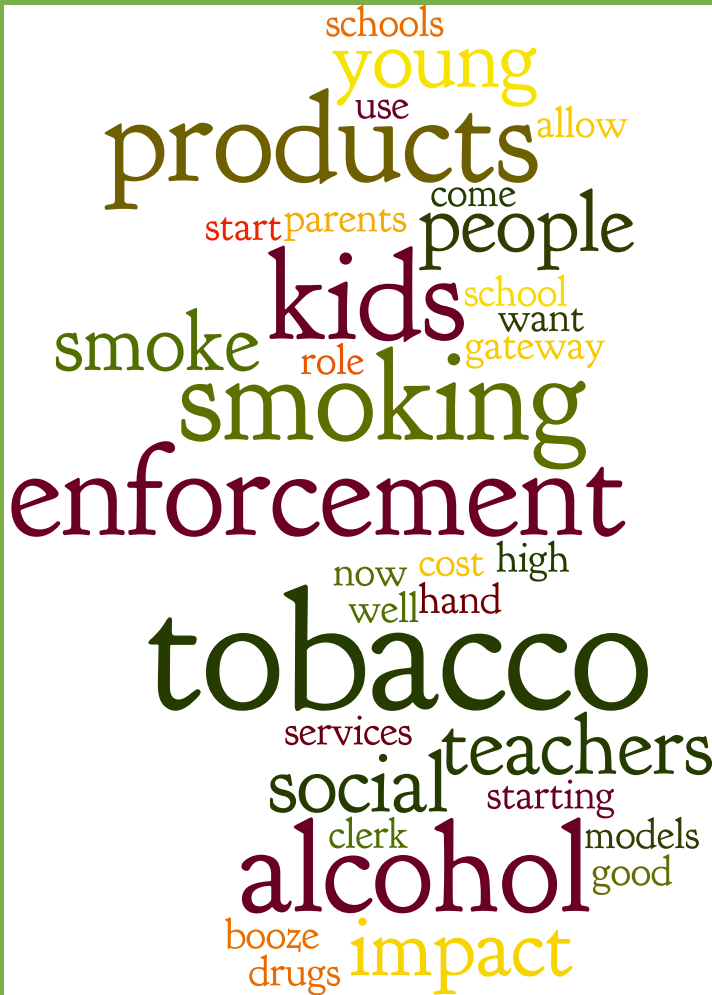
1. Expand PHISC membership so that entities are represented that oversee key state level plans addressing each NH SHIP priority, creating an Alliance of Healthy Communities Coalition.
2. Maintain DPHS staff involvement with priority state level planning activities that involve NH SHIP priority areas.
3. Conduct regular, focused discussions on progress toward meeting NH SHIP objectives at PHISC meetings, through inclusion of specific subject matter experts, state and local level planning group members, and pertinent DPHS staff and managers.
4. Include selected, top priorities from the National Public Health Performance Standards assessment as additional NH SHIP goals, with measurable objectives for each.
5. Promote alignment of comprehensive public health plans across New Hampshire's public health system with NH SHIP priorities and objectives where feasible.
6. Improve the ability of priority areas to effectively progress toward meeting NH SHIP objectives, by supporting the creation or revision of state and regional priority area plans.
7. Support regional public health planning and implementation efforts through DPHS technical assistance and leveraging financial resources to further NH SHIP objectives.
8. Create synergies across priority areas and their respective strategic plans and activities by strategically capitalizing on opportunities to advance NH SHIP priorities.
9. Monitor progress toward targets utilizing WISDOM's Health Topics module.
10. Evaluate NH SHIP implementation annually and revise the NH SHIP by 2018.

### **Vision for the Future**

We look forward to working together with all partners to leverage and integrate resources toward increasing the health and safety of our population. The State Health Improvement Plan: *Charting a Course to Improve the Health of New Hampshire* is a product of our collaborative work and will set the course for our state to move ahead and meet the health and safety challenges described in this plan.

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WORDLE gathered at Franklin/Bristol Public Input Meeting, 9/6/2012

# Tobacco

Tobacco use and dependence remains the single most preventable cause of death and disability in New Hampshire. Helping those who are tobacco dependent and preventing kids from starting tobacco use can save many lives and health care dollars.

Tobacco related diseases kill more people than alcohol, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined.<sup>1</sup> In New Hampshire, more than 1,764 deaths are attributable to tobacco use each year<sup>2</sup>, which includes 556 lung cancer and 490 respiratory deaths each year. Exposure to secondhand and third-hand smoke is linked to thousands of additional deaths.

## Why is Tobacco Use and Exposure Important?

Smoking harms nearly every organ in the body, causes cardiovascular diseases, multiple cancers, pulmonary diseases, adverse reproductive outcomes, and exacerbates other chronic conditions.<sup>3</sup>

The prevalence of adult cigarette smoking in New Hampshire is 19.4% (18.0-20.9).<sup>4</sup> New Hampshire ranks 17th lowest in the nation, with Utah (11.8%) ranking the lowest and Kentucky ranking the highest (29.0%)<sup>5</sup>.

Smoking during pregnancy is associated with higher risk for poor birth outcomes often requiring hospitalization for the infant, mother or both. According to 2011 NH Birth Data, 13.6% of women, or about 1,738, report smoking during pregnancy. 26.3% of teenage pregnant women (up to 19 years of age) report smoking during pregnancy, compared to 13% of women age 20 or older. Pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid smoke at a rate of 31.9%. 25.0% of New Hampshire women enrolled in Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) report smoking during pregnancy. Smoking is higher among unmarried women (29.9%) compared to married women (5.2%).

More than 80% of adult tobacco users start when they are young and carry their nicotine addiction into adulthood, risking chronic disease and premature death. New Hampshire's youth smoking prevalence, at 19.8%<sup>5</sup>, is the highest among the New England

states with approximately 1,700 children less than 18 years of age becoming new daily smokers each year. New Hampshire ranks 35th in the nation for youth cigarette smoking with Utah ranking first at 5.9% (4.9-7.2).<sup>6</sup> 16.4% of high school students currently use cigars, cigarillos or little cigars. 8.4% of male students use smokeless or spit tobacco. 8.9% of high school students report smoking before age 13.

Tobacco dependence is a chronic disease and successful quits lead to improved health outcomes. Since the addictive make-up of cigarettes makes successful quitting a formidable challenge for those that smoke, most successful quits are the result of combined therapies. To quit using nicotine, two issues must be addressed: (1) physiological addiction and (2) behavioral need. Evidence demonstrates that smokers die 8-13 years earlier than non-smokers.<sup>7</sup> However, life expectancy can increase dramatically if abstinence is achieved before age 30. Quitting smoking without medication or counseling gives only a 5%-7% likelihood of being successful. Healthcare providers can truly tip the scale in favor of successful quits by engaging with patients around tobacco use and dependence.

Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is another preventable cause of significant morbidity and mortality associated with tobacco use. ETS exposure can lead to lung cancer, heart disease and other pulmonary diseases in adults and many serious health problems, such as lower respiratory infections, asthma, sudden infant death syndrome, and ear infections, in children.<sup>8,9,10</sup> Evidence also indicates that tobacco smoke is especially harmful to pregnant women and to fetal development.<sup>11,12</sup> Approximately 30% of middle school students with current asthma and 17% of high school students with asthma reported that smoking was allowed in the home.<sup>13</sup>

Reducing exposure to ETS can prevent diseases and save lives.<sup>14,15,16,17</sup> Smoke-free policies improve indoor air quality, reduce negative health outcomes, decrease cigarette consumption, encourage smokers to quit, and change social norms regarding the acceptability of smoking.<sup>18</sup> Research shows that smokers in workplaces with smoke-free policies may reduce the number of cigarettes they smoke or quit smoking altogether.<sup>19,20</sup> In addition, young people who live in households with tobacco-free policies and ride in smoke-free cars are less likely to smoke than those who live in households in which people smoke.<sup>21</sup>

**New Hampshire's youth smoking prevalence, at 19.8 percent<sup>5</sup>, is the highest among the New England states with approximately 1,700 children less than 18 years of age becoming new daily smokers each year.**

Third-hand smoke is generally considered to be residual nicotine and other chemicals left on a variety of indoor surfaces by tobacco smoke that builds up over time. This residue is thought to react with common indoor pollutants to create a toxic mix. Third-hand smoke residue contains cancer-causing substances, posing a potential health hazard to those exposed to it, especially children. Studies show that third-hand smoke clings to hair, skin, clothes, furniture, drapes, walls, bedding, carpets, dust, vehicles and other surfaces, even long after smoking has stopped. Infants, children and adults may be at risk of tobacco-related health problems when they inhale, ingest or touch substances containing third-hand smoke. Third-hand smoke is a relatively new concept, and researchers are still studying its possible dangers.

### The Cost

The economic consequences of tobacco use are in the billions of dollars. Lost work productivity attributable to death from tobacco use in New Hampshire accounts for more than \$419 million per year.<sup>22</sup> Economic costs due to premature death attributable to smoking are estimated to be \$483 million each year. In New Hampshire, the direct private and public health care cost attributable to smoking is \$564 million annually, including \$115 million in state Medicaid costs. The estimated smoking attributable neonatal health care costs annually in New Hampshire are \$585,000<sup>23</sup>. These amounts do not include health costs caused by exposure to secondhand smoke, smoking-caused fires, smokeless tobacco use, or cigar and pipe smoking.

Recent research indicates that tobacco prevention and treatment programs not only reduce smoking and save lives, but also save money by reducing tobacco-related health care costs. A recent study in the American Journal of Public Health found that for every dollar spent by Washington State’s tobacco prevention and control program between 2000 and 2009, more than five dollars were saved by reducing hospitalizations for heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and cancer caused by tobacco use. Over the 10-year period, the program prevented nearly 36,000 hospitalizations, saving \$1.5 billion compared to \$260 million spent on the program. Earlier studies showed that after Massachusetts implemented comprehensive coverage of tobacco treatment services for all Medicaid beneficiaries, the smoking rate among beneficiaries declined by 26% in the first two and a half years. A 2013 study published in PLOS ONE found that between 1989 and 2008 California’s tobacco control program reduced health care costs by \$134

billion, far more than the \$2.4 billion spent on the program. Researchers attribute these savings to reductions in smoking rates and cigarette consumption per smoker, generating significant savings in health care expenditures.

The prices and taxes of cigarettes are lower in New Hampshire relative to its bordering states. While the state collected \$215 million in cigarette tax revenue in state fiscal year 2012, it spent no general funds for tobacco prevention and control activities. The CDC-recommended level of funding is \$19.2 million or \$14.58 per capita.<sup>30</sup> This is equivalent to 8% of the tobacco tax revenue. If New Hampshire were to spend that recommended level on tobacco prevention, based on six different econometric models, the range of cost savings would be from \$330 million to \$470 million (based on 2008 dollars) Thus, the benefits are approximately 18 to 30 times the cost of program implementation; any effort in this direction can result in substantial benefits<sup>24</sup>.

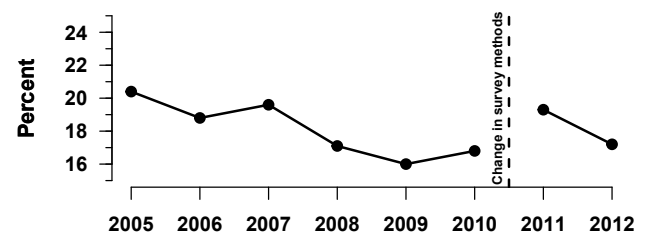
The findings of a 2004 study indicate that if every state funded its tobacco prevention efforts at the minimum amount recommended by CDC, the related declines in youth smoking alone would lock in future reductions in smoking-caused healthcare costs of more than \$31 billion.

### Where do we want to be?

- Reduce cigarette smoking by adults from 19.4% (2011) to 16.0% by 2015 and 12.0% by 2020.
- Reduce tobacco product use by adolescents (past 30 days) from 27.9% (2011) to 27.0% by 2015 and 21.0% by 2020.
- Reduce the initiation of tobacco use among children from 8.9% (2011) to 8.0% by 2015 and 5.7% by 2020.
- Reduce the number of women who report smoking cigarettes during pregnancy from 13.6% (2011) to 12% by 2015 and 10% by 2020.

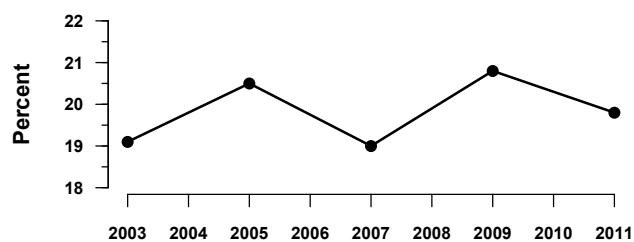
### Where we are

Figure 1. Cigarette smoking by adults



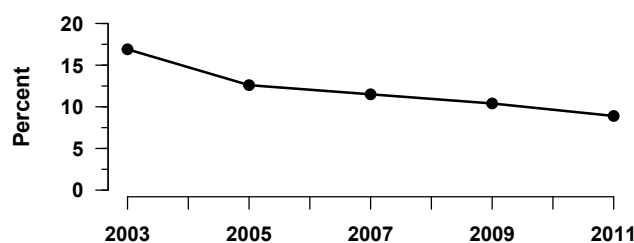
Source: NH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

**Figure 2. Tobacco product use by adolescents**



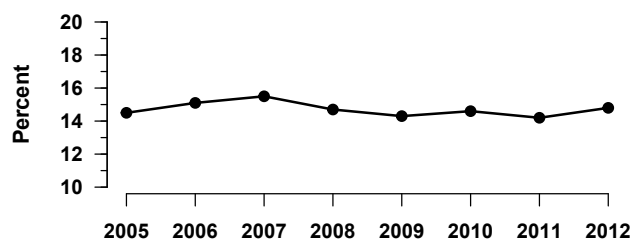
Source: NH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

**Figure 3. Initiation of tobacco use among children**



Source: NH Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System

**Figure 4. Women who report smoking cigarettes during pregnancy**



Source: NH Division of Vital Records Administration, Birth Certificate Data

### Who should we be most concerned about?

In 2011, smoking prevalence was higher among men (20.4%) than women (18.5%). Adults aged 25-34 years (29.6%), compared to ages 55-64 years (13.6%), had the highest smoking prevalence among age groups. By region, prevalence was highest in Belknap County (26.9%) and lowest in the Grafton County (16.1%).<sup>25</sup>

A higher prevalence of smoking exists among those with low income and low education, among blue-collar workers and the military, those with mental health issues and disabilities, and those who are incarcerated. Specifically, prevalence is higher among adults with less than high school education (46.7%) compared to those with college graduate degrees (6.5%), and higher among adults living below the poverty level (37.2% of those with incomes less than \$15,000) compared to adults at or above the poverty level (11.8% of those with incomes more than \$50,000).<sup>25</sup>

Susceptibility increases smoking behavior and is affected by media, peers, and parental involvement.

Smoking rates are higher in pregnant teens, and those with low income or low education. In WIC, smoking is highest among white women, older teens, women in their 20's, those with less than a high school education, and those in Belknap, Sullivan and Merrimack Counties.<sup>26</sup>

Although an increasing number of people in New Hampshire report that smoking is never allowed in their vehicle (78.52%) and in their home (84.6%)<sup>25</sup>, it is estimated that 20% of the state's population ages 15 years and over work in indoor worksites with no smoke-free policies.<sup>28</sup>

Children from lower income families are more likely to be exposed to environmental tobacco smoke in their own homes or in the vehicles that they ride in. 87% of those earning incomes higher than \$75,000 vs. 68% of those with incomes less than \$15,000 do not allow smoking anywhere inside their homes.<sup>29</sup>

### What we are doing

- Promoting the NH Tobacco Helpline (Helpline), a free, evidenced-based telephonic tobacco counseling service. New Hampshire residents may contact the Helpline by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669), through e-mail via the website <http://www.TryToStopNH.org>, or by texting CALLME to 22122. Further, the Helpline offers a Spanish-only line 1-800-8 DÉJALO (1-800-833-8556), a 24/7 pre-recorded tip line 1-800-GET-A-TIP, a tip texting service to receive daily tips by text message and a TTY/TDD service (1-800-833-1477). For residents with language barriers, the AT&T Language Line is available.
- Working to promote smoke-free housing. The Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing initiative is a New Hampshire tenant-centered approach to smoke-free policy adoption. Out of 18 HUD properties (5,794 units), 11 HUD properties (2825 units) are committed to smoke-free policy and report smoke-free status inside their unit. Additionally, six private properties and sub-HUD contractors report adopting smoke-free policies in their units, with 3880 units adopting a smoke-free policy.
- Using current technology such as texting, on-line enrollment and social media allows the NH Tobacco Helpline to reach younger tobacco users to help them quit. These alternatives reach younger tobacco users who would otherwise not take the time to call the Helpline.



- Using media campaigns to encourage cessation and increase quitline utilizations. State campaigns like “Dear Me” and national campaigns like “Tips from Former Smokers” have been used to enhance cessations efforts.

### Stories from the Field

In 2010 the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) contracted with the Community Health Access Network (CHAN) to pilot the evidence-based tobacco treatment system, *Ask, Assist and Refer*, by making changes within their Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

The aim of the project was to increase the capacity of clinical sites to offer evidence-based tobacco treatment by raising awareness and increasing utilization of QuitWorks-NH services. The project modified workflow for tobacco treatment brief interventions within the EMR to identify patients that wanted to quit. The pilot was tested at the Families First Health and Support Center in Portsmouth. The goal was to spread the tobacco treatment model throughout the other CHAN sites.

Performance measure targets for the pilot site were set at: ASK 90% (Baseline 77%); ASSIST 75% (Baseline 30%) and REFER 20% (Baseline 0%) to QuitWorks-NH. The most current data shows that ASK is being documented at 91%, ASSIST is documented at 71% and REFERRALS to QuitWorks-NH are being accepted by patients at 9%. Five of the other CHAN sites are currently referring patients to QuitWorks-NH consistently.

Future data will be examined on the number of patients identified as smoking prior to the systems change and five years post the systems change.

### Partners working on this priority

- CHAN/Families First
- Manchester and Nashua Health Departments
- NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaborative
- NH Citizen’s Health Initiative
- NH DHHS DPHS Programs
- New Hampshire Tobacco Free Network

### Recommendations for Action\*

#### State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Governments can:

- Implement and sustain comprehensive tobacco prevention and control programs, including comprehensive tobacco free and smoke free policies and paid media advertising.
- Work with the Food and Drug Administration to enforce the provisions set forth in the Tobacco Control Act.

#### Businesses and Employers can:

- Provide employees and their dependents with access to free or reduced-cost cessation supports and encourage utilization of these services.
- Provide evidence-based incentives to increase tobacco cessation, consistent with existing law.
- Comply with restrictions on the sale, distribution, advertising, and promotion of tobacco products, including those set forth in the Tobacco Control Act.
- Make work sites (including conferences and meetings) tobacco free and support smoke free policies in their communities.
- Provide smoke free commercial or residential property.

#### Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians can

- Implement evidence-based recommendations for tobacco use treatment and provide information to their patients on the health effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.
- Implement provider reminder systems for tobacco use treatment (e.g., vital signs stamps, and electronic medical record clinical reminders).
- Reduce or eliminate patient out-of-pocket costs for cessation therapies.

#### Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities can:

- Promote tobacco free environments.
- Restrict the marketing and promotion of tobacco products to children and youth.

## Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:

- Work with local policy makers to implement comprehensive tobacco prevention and control programs.
- Implement sustained and effective media campaigns, including raising awareness of tobacco cessation resources.

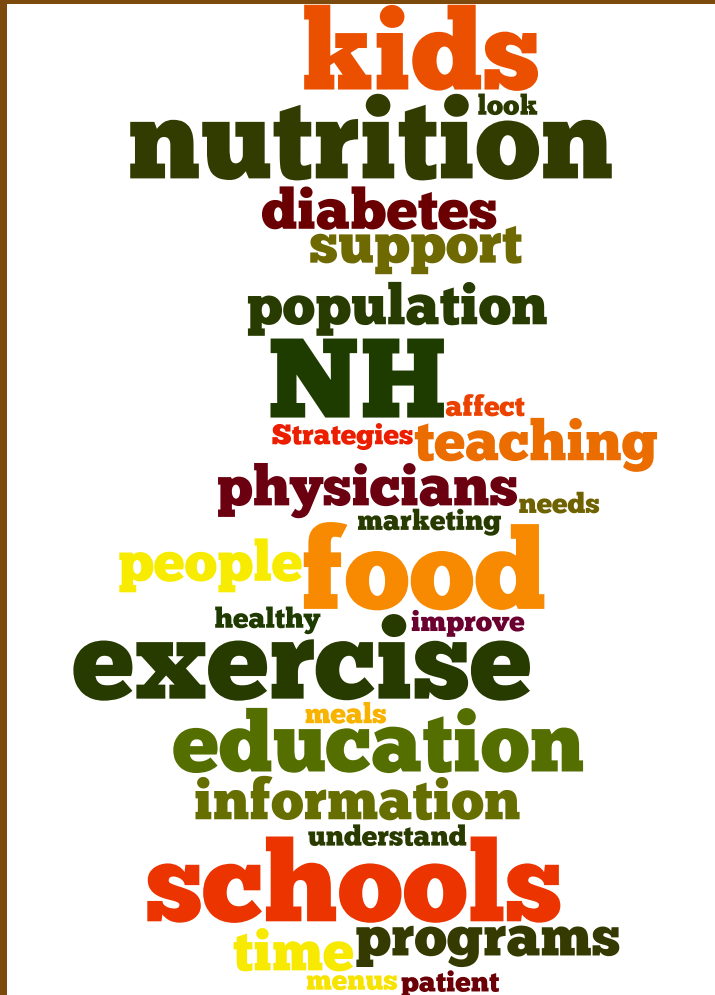
## Individuals and Families can:

- Quit using tobacco products and ask their health care provider or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for cessation support.
- Teach children about the health risks of smoking.
- Make homes smoke free to protect themselves and family members from secondhand smoke.
- Refrain from supplying underage youth with tobacco products.

\* From the National Prevention Strategy

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WORDLE gathered at Greater Manchester Public Input Meeting, 9/17/2012



# Obesity/Diabetes

## OBESITY

Obesity is a complex health problem that impacts one in four New Hampshire adults (26.2%). Obesity also increases the risk for developing many chronic diseases. The state ranks 35th lowest in the nation for adults who are obese; 15 other states have a lower prevalence of obese adults.

Childhood obesity increases risk of remaining obese in adulthood<sup>7</sup> and increases risk for many chronic diseases such as: asthma, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer.<sup>8</sup>

New Hampshire ranks 19th in the nation for children aged 10-17 years who are obese (15.5%). Obesity during childhood is predictive of obesity later in life, and is of great concern.

Data collected from the *New Hampshire Third Grade Healthy Smiles - Healthy Growth Survey*, conducted between September 2008 and June 2009, found that 33.4% of third graders were overweight or obese.<sup>1</sup> This survey collected the heights and weights of third grade students from 81 randomly selected New Hampshire public schools (3,151 third grade students). For more information about this survey, go to <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/nhp/data.htm>.

## Why is this important?

Overweight in adults is defined as a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or higher and obesity is defined as a BMI of 30 or higher. BMI is a number calculated from a person's weight in relation to their height; it approximates body fat but does not directly measure it. BMI in children is also measured by height and weight but CDC Growth Charts are used to determine the corresponding BMI for age and sex percentile. For children and adolescents (aged 2-19 years): Overweight is defined as a BMI at or above the 85th percentile and lower than the 95th percentile for children of the same age and sex. Obesity is defined as a BMI at or above the 95th percentile.

Obesity in adults and children increases the risk of chronic diseases including type-2 diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure. Only 4.1% of adults with healthy weight have diabetes compared with 17.5% of adults who are obese. In adults who are neither overweight nor obese, 3.2% have had a heart attack compared with 6.2% of obese adults. Obesity is also associated with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, gallstones, orthopedic problems, and depression. For children, poor nutrition and physical activity habits acquired at a young age can predispose them to overweight and obesity as adults.<sup>2</sup>

## The cost

Based on 2006 data, obesity-related medical costs in the US totaled \$147 billion annually, nearly 10% of all medical spending.<sup>3</sup> Childhood obesity in the US is responsible for \$3 billion of that total in annual direct costs.<sup>4</sup> The average annual health expenditure for a child enrolled in Medicaid treated for obesity is \$6,730, while the average annual cost to treat all children enrolled in Medicaid is \$2,446. The average annual health expenditure for obesity-related treatment for children with private insurance is \$3,743, while the average annual health expenditure for all children covered by private insurance is \$1,108.<sup>5</sup>

Hospitalizations of children and youths diagnosed with obesity nearly doubled between 1999 and 2005, while total costs for children and youths hospitalized for obesity-related conditions increased from \$125.9 million in 2001 to \$237.6 million in 2005 US dollars.<sup>6</sup>

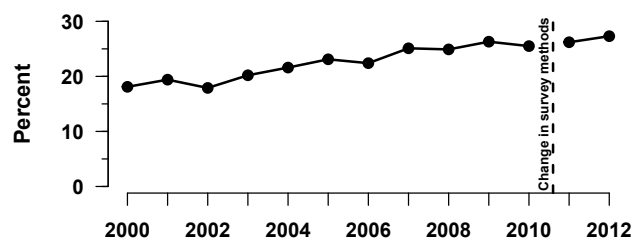
Childhood obesity increases risk of remaining obese throughout adulthood<sup>7</sup> and increases risk for many chronic diseases such as asthma, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer.<sup>8</sup>

### Where do we want to be?

- Reduce the proportion of adults considered obese from 25.5% (2010) to 24% by 2015 and 23% by 2020.
- Reduce the proportion of children considered obese from 18.1% (2008) to 17.2% by 2015 and 16.2% by 2020.

## Where we are

Figure 1. Adults considered obese



Source: NH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

## Who should we be most concerned about?

In Coos County, 32.9% of adults are obese and an additional 31.4% are overweight. More third graders in Belknap/Merrimack Region, and Coos County (24% and 22%) were obese than in any other New Hampshire region in 2009.<sup>10</sup>

Obesity rates are higher in schools with greater than 50% of students participating in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program compared to schools with less than 25% of students participating (27.3% vs. 16.3% respectively)<sup>1</sup>. In Coos County, 45.9% of boys

were either overweight or obese. In the Belknap/Merrimack Region, 43.1% of girls were either overweight or obese.<sup>1</sup>

## What we are doing

- Supporting communities in implementing healthy eating and physical activity strategies in their regions.
- Working with early learning centers to improve their policies on healthy eating and active living.
- Supporting the implementation of the following New Hampshire initiatives:
  - NH Fruit and Vegetable Quantity Cookbook in institutional settings, hospitals and worksite cafeterias to improve consumption of fruits and vegetables.
  - Nutritional guidance systems, such as FitPick, to reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and increase consumption of low energy dense foods.
  - Livable Walkable Community design, complete streets ordinances, and joint use agreements to encourage daily physical activity.
  - The NH School Nutrition Rules regarding all foods made available to students outside of the federal meals programs.
- Promoting the World Health Organization’s Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative which implements evidence based maternity care practices that lead to better breastfeeding outcomes.
- Recognizing employers that implement policies to support and encourage breastfeeding.
- Developing a Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care designation.
- Providing breastfeeding training and technical assistance to child care programs.

## Partners Working on this Priority

- Children’s Alliance of New Hampshire
- Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) NH
- HEAL Community Coalitions (Ashland, Berlin, Capital Region Wellness Coalition, Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services, Manchester Health Department, Steppin’ Up Seacoast)
- Early Learning NH
- NH Regional Planning Commissions
- Spark NH

## DIABETES

Diabetes is a group of diseases marked by high levels of blood glucose resulting from defects in insulin production, insulin action, or both.

Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in New Hampshire.<sup>1</sup> Diabetes is also a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, and lower limb amputation.<sup>2</sup> Persons with diabetes should receive a number of clinical preventive services as many complications of diabetes can be prevented through proper care.

According to BRFSS 2011, the prevalence of diabetes among New Hampshire adults was 8.7%, and another 5.9% reported ever being diagnosed with prediabetes. Prediabetes is often undiagnosed. Up to 35% of New Hampshire adults could have prediabetes based on estimates from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.<sup>2</sup> According to America’s Health Rankings, New Hampshire ranked 18th in the country for diabetes prevalence in 2011.<sup>3</sup>

In 2007, hospitalizations in the U.S. attributable to diabetes cost \$58 billion or 50% of the total direct medical expenditure for diabetes. Nevertheless, a large portion of hospitalizations for diabetes may be preventable if primary care is effectively delivered.<sup>9</sup>

## Why is this important?

Adults with diabetes have heart disease and stroke death rates about two to four times higher than adults without diabetes.<sup>2</sup> Approximately 65% of deaths among people with diabetes are due to heart disease or stroke.<sup>2</sup> In 2011, 16.0% of adults with diabetes in New Hampshire reported having coronary heart disease, 17.8% reported having had a heart attack, and 8.5% reported having had a stroke. Further increasing their risk for coronary heart disease, 14.1% reported cigarette smoking.<sup>4</sup>

## The cost

The total annual cost of diagnosed diabetes in the US is estimated to be \$245 billion and about \$1 billion for New Hampshire.<sup>5</sup> The average annual health care cost for a person with diabetes is \$11,744, compared with \$2,935 for a person without diabetes.<sup>6</sup> Each year, \$27 billion is spent on healthcare costs associated with prediabetes in the US.<sup>7</sup> Medicare paid for approximately two-thirds of diabetes-related hospitalizations in New Hampshire in recent years. Altogether, government insurance paid for almost 70% of all diabetes-related hospitalizations in New Hampshire.<sup>8</sup>

“In 2007, hospitalizations in the US attributable to diabetes cost \$58 billion or 50% of the total direct medical expenditure for diabetes. Nevertheless, a large

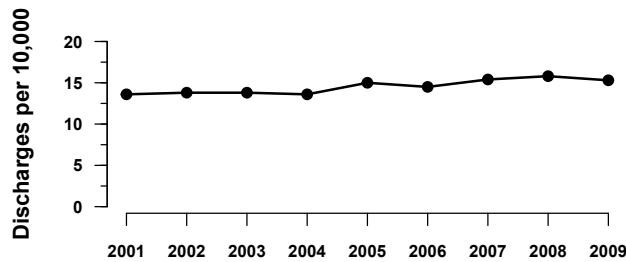
portion of hospitalizations for diabetes may be preventable if primary care is effectively delivered. Timely and effective diagnosis, treatment, and education can result in better management of diabetes, prevent the development or worsening of complications, and lead to lower hospitalization rates. Thus, some diabetes related conditions are referred to as ambulatory care-sensitive, and its associated hospitalizations are often referred to as preventable hospitalizations.”<sup>9</sup>

### Where do we want to be?

- Maintain diabetes-related emergency department admissions for ambulatory sensitive conditions below 15 per 10,000 population by 2020 (baseline 13.5 per 10,000 population in 2007).
- Maintain diabetes-related hospitalizations below 150 per 10,000 population by 2020 (baseline 149 per 10,000 population in 2007).

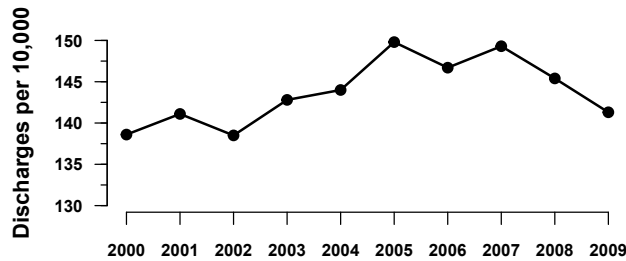
### Where we are

Figure 1. Diabetes-related emergency department admissions



Source: NH Hospital Discharge Data

Figure 2. Diabetes-related hospitalizations



Source: NH Hospital Discharge Data

### Who should we be most concerned about?

Diabetes and prediabetes are more common among older adults, minorities, and those with lower income and education. In the past, diabetes-related hospitalizations have been more common among males than females. The rate of diabetes-related hospitalizations also increases steadily with age. Compared to non-Hispanic white adults, the risk of diagnosed diabetes was 18% higher among Asian Americans, 66% higher among Hispanics, and 77% higher among non-Hispanic blacks.<sup>2</sup>

In New Hampshire, diabetes-related hospitalizations increased from 139 in 2000 to 149 in 2007 (age-adjusted, per 10,000 population). Diabetes emergency room admissions for ambulatory sensitive conditions increased from 10.7 in 2000 to 13.5 in 2007 (age-adjusted, per 10,000 population). Hospitalizations are expected to increase due to the increasing prevalence of diabetes.

### What we are doing

#### Quality Improvement Initiatives

- Promoting Best Clinical Practices for diabetes care and collaborating with partners on clinical quality improvement initiatives at primary care sites.
- Supporting use of electronic health records in primary care settings to improve diabetes prevention and management.
- Working with partners such as the Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) to promote identification and referral of low-income women at risk for diabetes.

#### Professional Education

- Offering professional development sessions for physicians, nurses, diabetes educators, community health workers and others who serve people with or at risk for diabetes.

#### Promoting community-clinical linkages and access to evidence-based disease prevention and management programs such as:

- Stanford University’s Chronic Disease Self-Management Program
- American Diabetes Association-recognized and/or American Association of Diabetes Educators-accredited Diabetes Self-Management Education
- National Diabetes Prevention Program
- New Hampshire Tobacco Helpline

**Stories from the Field**

**The WOW Trail – Promoting Safe Accessible Physical Activity**

Community partners in the Lakes Region have worked together to develop the Winnepesaukee, Opeechee and Winnisquam trail system. The trail system provides opportunities for Lakes Region residents and visitors to walk, run, cross country ski and bike. One portion of the trail was overgrown and uninviting. Partners worked with the property owner to clean up debris and brush from a building adjacent to the trail. Working with a local artist, community members helped paint the building using a whimsical train theme “Get on the health train” that fit well with the building’s shape. Smiling vegetables wave from the train window, and provide a message about healthy eating. The trail is now a more inviting place to enjoy the outdoors and be physically active.

**Monitoring health status including, but not limited to:**

- Trends in the incidence and prevalence of prediabetes & diabetes, risk factors, and complications.
- Changes in the percentages of patients with diabetes who receive care in accordance with the recommended national guidelines.

**Partners working on this priority**

- Community Health Access Network
- NH Departments of Education and Administrative Services
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Granite State Diabetes Educators
- Minority Health Coalition
- NH Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services
- Southern & Northern NH Area Health Education Centers

**Recommendations for Action\***

**State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Governments can:**

- Ensure that foods served or sold in government facilities and government-funded programs and institutions (e.g., schools, prisons, juvenile correctional facilities) meet nutrition standards consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Strengthen licensing standards for early learning centers to include nutritional requirements for foods and beverages served.
- Work with hospitals, early learning centers,

health care providers, and community-based organizations to implement breastfeeding policies and programs.

- Ensure laboratories, businesses, health care, and community partners are prepared to respond to outbreaks of foodborne disease.
- Use grants, zoning regulations, and other incentives to attract full-service grocery stores, supermarkets, and farmers markets to underserved neighborhoods, and use zoning codes and disincentives to discourage a disproportionately high availability of unhealthy foods, especially around schools.
- Design safe neighborhoods that encourage physical activity (e.g., include sidewalks, bike lanes, adequate lighting, multi-use trails, walkways, and parks).
- Convene partners (e.g., urban planners, architects, engineers, developers, transportation, law enforcement, public health) to consider health impacts when making transportation or land use decisions.
- Support schools and early learning centers in meeting physical activity guidelines.

**Businesses and Employers can:**

- Increase the availability of healthy food (e.g., through procurement policies, healthy meeting policies, farm-to-work programs, farmers markets).
- Adopt lactation policies that provide space and break time for breastfeeding employees (in accordance with the Affordable Care Act) and offer lactation management services and support (e.g., breastfeeding peer support programs).
- Provide nutrition information to customers (e.g., on menus), make healthy options and appropriate portion sizes the default, and limit marketing of unhealthy food to children and youth.
- Reduce sodium, saturated fats, and added sugars and eliminate artificial trans fats from products.
- Implement proper handling, preparation, and storage practices to increase food safety.
- Adopt policies and programs that promote walking, bicycling, and use of public transpor-



tation (e.g., provide access to fitness equipment and facilities, bicycle racks, walking paths, and changing facilities with showers).

- Design or redesign communities to promote opportunities for active transportation (e.g., include places for physical activity in building and development plans).
- Sponsor a new or existing park, playground, or trail, recreation or scholastic program, or beautification or maintenance project.

**Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians can:**

- Use maternity care practices that empower new mothers to breastfeed, such as the Baby-Friendly Hospital standards.
- Screen for obesity by measuring body mass index and deliver appropriate care according to clinical practice guidelines for obesity.
- Assess dietary patterns (both quality and quantity of food consumed), provide nutrition education and counseling, and refer people to community resources (e.g., Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); Head Start; County Extension Services; and nutrition programs for older Americans).
- Conduct physical activity assessments, provide counseling, and refer patients to allied health care or health and fitness professionals.
- Support clinicians in implementing physical activity assessments, counseling, and referrals (e.g., provide training to clinicians, implement clinical reminder systems).

**Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities can:**

- Implement and enforce policies that increase the availability of healthy foods, including in a la carte lines, school stores, vending machines, and fundraisers.
- Update cafeteria equipment (e.g., remove deep fryers, add salad bars) to support provision of healthier foods.
- Eliminate high-calorie, low-nutrition drinks from vending machines, cafeterias, and school stores and provide greater access to water.
- Implement policies restricting the marketing of unhealthy foods.
- Provide nutrition education.
- Provide daily physical education and recess that focuses on maximizing time physically active.
- Participate in fitness testing (e.g., the President’s

Challenge) and support individualized self improvement plans.

- Support walk and bike to schools programs (e.g., “Safe Routes to School”) and work with local governments to make decisions about selecting school sites that can promote physical activity.
- Limit passive screen time.
- Make physical activity facilities available to the local community.

**Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-based Organizations can:**

- Lead or convene city, county, and regional food policy councils to assess local community needs and expand programs (e.g., community gardens, farmers markets) that bring healthy foods, especially locally grown fruits and vegetables, to schools, businesses, and communities.
- Implement culturally and linguistically appropriate social supports for breastfeeding, such as marketing campaigns and breastfeeding peer support programs.
- Offer low or no-cost physical activity programs (e.g., intramural sports, physical activity clubs).
- Develop and institute policies and joint use agreements that address liability concerns and encourage shared use of physical activity facilities (e.g., school gymnasiums, community recreation centers).
- Offer opportunities for physical activity across the lifespan (e.g., aerobic and muscle strengthening exercise classes for seniors).

**Individuals and Families can:**

- Eat less by avoiding oversized portions, make half of the plate fruits and vegetables, make at least half of the grains whole grains, switch to fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk, choose foods with less sodium, and drink water instead of sugary drinks.
- Balance intake and expenditure of calories to manage body weight.
- Breastfeed their babies exclusively for the first 6 months after birth when able.
- Prevent foodborne illness by following key safety practices—clean (wash hands and surfaces often), separate (do not cross-contaminate), cook (cook food to proper temperatures), and chill (refrigerate promptly).
- Engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity each week (adults) or at least one hour of activity each day (children).

\*From the National Prevention Strategy

## Clinical Recommendations

### State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Governments can:

- Increase delivery of clinical preventive services, including ABCS, by Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers.
- Foster collaboration among community-based organizations, the education and faith-based sectors, businesses, and clinicians to identify underserved groups and implement programs to improve access to preventive services.
- Create interoperable systems to exchange clinical, public health and community data, streamline eligibility requirements, and expedite enrollment processes to facilitate access to clinical preventive services and other social services.
- Expand the use of community health workers and home visiting programs.

### Businesses and Employers can:

- Offer health coverage that provides employees and their families with access to a range of clinical preventive services with no or reduced out-of-pocket costs.
- Provide incentives for employees and their families to access clinical preventive services, consistent with existing law.
- Give employees time off to access clinical preventive services.
- Provide employees with on-site clinical preventive services and comprehensive wellness programs, consistent with existing law.
- Provide easy-to-use employee information about clinical preventive services covered under the Affordable Care Act.

### Health Care Systems, Insurers and Clinicians can:

- Inform patients about the benefits of preventive services and offer recommended clinical preventive services, including the ABCS, as a routine part of care.
- Adopt and use certified electronic health records and personal health records.
- Adopt medical home or team-based care models.
- Reduce or eliminate client out-of-pocket costs for certain preventive services, as required for

most health plans by the Affordable Care Act, and educate and encourage enrollees to access these services.

- Establish patient (e.g., mailing cards, sending e-mails, or making phone calls when a patient is due for a preventive health service) and clinical (e.g., electronic health records with reminders or cues, chart stickers, vital signs stamps, medical record flow sheets) reminder systems for preventive services.
- Expand hours of operation, provide child care, offer services in convenient locations (e.g., near workplaces), or use community or retail sites to provide preventive services.
- Create linkages with and connect patients to community resources (e.g., tobacco quitlines), family support, and education programs.
- Facilitate coordination among diverse care providers (e.g., clinical care, behavioral health, community health workers, complementary and alternative medicine).
- Communicate with patients in an appropriate manner so that patients can understand and act on their advice and directions.

### Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges and Universities can:

- Train providers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, allied health professionals) to use health information technology and offer patients recommended clinical preventive services as a routine part of their health care.
- Promote the use of evidence-based preventive services within their health services (e.g., school health program).

### Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:

- Inform people about the range of preventive services they should receive and the benefits of preventive services.
- Support use of retail sites, schools, churches, and community centers for the provision of evidence-based preventive services.
- Expand public-private partnerships to implement community preventive services (e.g., school-based oral health programs, community-based diabetes prevention programs).
- Support community health workers, patient navigators, patient support groups, and health coaches.

## Individuals and Families can:

- Visit their health care providers to receive clinical preventive services.
- Use various tools to access and learn about health and prevention and ways they can better manage their health (e.g., personal health records, text reminder services, smart phone applications).

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# Heart Disease & Stroke

## Coronary Heart Disease

Coronary heart disease (CHD), also called coronary artery disease, occurs when a substance called plaque - usually made up of cholesterol, calcium and other substances - builds up in the arteries (called coronary arteries) that supply blood to the heart muscle.

Coronary heart disease is the most common type of heart disease that can lead to a heart attack.<sup>1</sup> Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the US.<sup>2</sup> In New Hampshire, it was the second leading cause

of death in 2008, when over 1,700 deaths<sup>3</sup> occurred and there were 5,583 hospitalizations due to heart disease.

The age-adjusted death rate for coronary heart disease was 115.9 per 100,000 population. Modifiable risk factors

for coronary heart disease include high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, overweight and obesity, tobacco use, alcohol use, physical inactivity, and a diet that is rich in saturated fat, trans fat, and cholesterol.<sup>4</sup> New Hampshire is ranked 29th lowest in the country for coronary heart disease.

## Stroke

In the US, every four minutes someone dies of stroke.<sup>5</sup> A stroke occurs when blood flow to a part of your brain stops due to either a blood clot or the bursting of a blood vessel in the brain.<sup>6</sup> Recurrent stroke is frequent; about 25% of people who recover from a first stroke will have another stroke within five years.<sup>7</sup> In 2008, stroke was the fourth leading cause of death in the US<sup>8</sup> and in New Hampshire<sup>9</sup>, there were 484 deaths and 1,670 people hospitalizations.<sup>3</sup> The age-adjusted death rate for stroke was 33.2 per 100,000 population. Modifiable risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, overweight and obesity, tobacco use, alcohol use, physical inactivity, and unhealthy diet. Other risks factors are previous stroke, sickle cell disease, and heart disease.<sup>10, 11</sup>

## High Blood Pressure and High Blood Cholesterol

High blood pressure and high blood cholesterol are major risk factors for heart disease and stroke.<sup>10, 11, 12, 13</sup> The CDC reports that nationally, approximately 68 million adults 18 years and older have high blood pressure, and only 46% of them have it under control.<sup>14</sup> In 2009, nearly 29% of New Hampshire's

residents reported having been told they have high blood pressure, and about a quarter (24.6%) of them did not take their prescribed medications for it.\* Modifiable risk factors for high blood pressure include high blood cholesterol, diabetes, overweight and obesity, pre-hypertension, tobacco use, alcohol use, physical inactivity, and unhealthy diet.<sup>15, 16, 17, 18, 19</sup>

In 2009, over 38% of New Hampshire's residents were aware they have high blood cholesterol—the second highest rate among the New England States.<sup>20</sup> High blood cholesterol is associated with physical inactivity, overweight, diets that are rich in saturated fats, trans fatty acids (trans fats), dietary cholesterol, or triglycerides.

## Why is this important?

Coronary heart disease can lead to chest pain, heart failure, and abnormal heart rhythm<sup>21</sup>, which is a risk factor for stroke. In addition, it can lead to sudden cardiac death,<sup>22</sup> and may also be associated with greater declines in global cognition, verbal memory, and executive function.<sup>23</sup> Stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability<sup>13</sup>. People who survive stroke usually live with impairments, including vision problems, paralysis or weakness, speech/language problems, and memory loss. Stroke is associated with permanent brain damage and deaths. It can also lead to emotional problems and depression.<sup>7</sup>

Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to coronary artery disease, heart attack, heart failure, and stroke—an important cause of long term disability. In addition, high blood pressure causes more than 25,000 new cases of kidney failure annually in the US.<sup>24</sup> Other possible health consequences include bleeding from the large blood vessel (aorta) that supplies blood to the body and vision problems.<sup>12, 18, 19, 25</sup> Uncontrolled high blood cholesterol (LDL) carries a 10-year risk of developing coronary heart disease and heart attack.<sup>26</sup> It also increases the risk of stroke.<sup>10, 13</sup>

## The cost

In 2010, the estimated cost of heart disease (which also includes coronary heart disease) in the US was \$316.4 billion<sup>27</sup> and the estimated cost of stroke was \$53.9 billion.<sup>13</sup> The estimated cost of hypertension is more than \$93.5 billion per year.<sup>28</sup> These estimates include the cost of health care services, medications, and lost productivity.

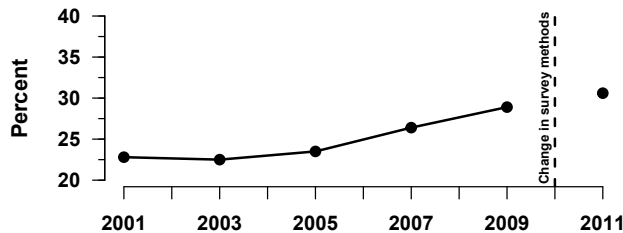
## Where do we want to be?

- Reduce the percent of adults with high blood pressure from 31% (2011) to 26% by 2015 and 22% by 2020.
- Reduce the percent of adults with high blood cholesterol from 39% (2011) to 35% by 2015 and 30% by 2020.
- Reduce coronary heart disease death rates from 101.3 deaths per 100,000 population (2010) to 98 by 2015 and 95 by 2020.
- Reduce stroke death rates from 34 deaths per 100,000 population (2011) to 32 by 2015 and 28 by 2020.

In New Hampshire, the net charge amount for coronary heart disease hospitalizations in 2008 was over \$256.3 million, and the net charge amount for stroke hospitalizations was \$52.9 million.

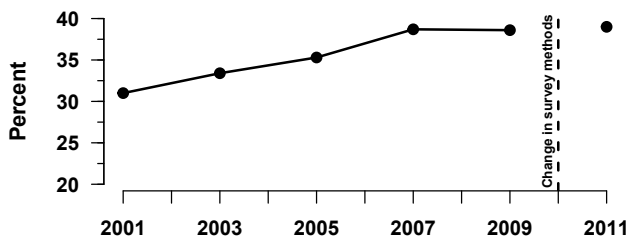
## Where we are

Figure 1. Adults with high blood pressure awareness



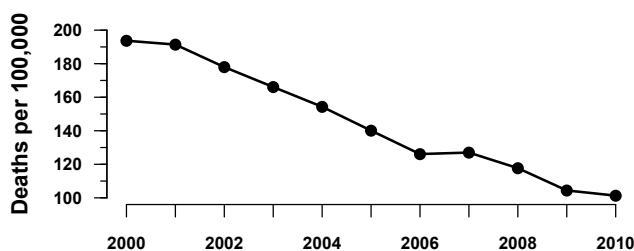
Source: NH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Figure 2. Adults with high blood cholesterol awareness



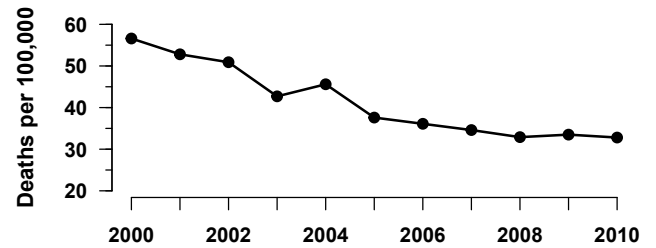
Source: NH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Figure 3. Coronary heart disease deaths



Source: NH Division of Vital Records Administration

Figure 4. Stroke deaths



Source: NH Division of Vital Records Administration

## Who should we be most concerned about?

New Hampshire hospital discharge data from 2008 showed that more often males were hospitalized for coronary heart disease than females (53.2 and 23.5 per 10,000 population respectively). The 2011 death rates were higher in males (139.9 versus 72.1 per 100,000 in females). Between 2005 and 2008, Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties had the highest absolute number of deaths (1,935 and 1,347 respectively); however, Coos and Belknap Counties had the highest death rates (173.9 and 156.1 per 100,000 population respectively).

New Hampshire hospital discharge data from 2001 through 2008 showed that more often males were hospitalized for stroke (an average of 15.3 and 11.6 per 10,000 population respectively); however, the rates of deaths were about the same by sex. Between 2005 and 2008, Hillsborough County had the highest absolute number of deaths (527); however, Carroll and Merrimack Counties had the highest death rates (44.7 and 41.9 per 100,000 population respectively).

New Hampshire BRFSS data from 2011 showed that more males (33.6%) were aware that they have high blood pressure than females (27.9%), and the awareness was more prevalent in the older population and among those who had only a high school diploma or less.

New Hampshire BRFSS data from 2011 showed a slight difference in high blood cholesterol awareness between males (41.6%) and females (36.6%); the awareness was more prevalent in the older population and among those who had no high school diploma.

## What we are doing

- Working with partners to provide technical assistance to primary care practices to implement team based care systems changes that address medication management, patient follow-up and self management support.
- Implementing public information campaigns and education to increase awareness of preventive measures to prevent cardiovascular disease and

stroke (cholesterol and blood pressure screening).

- Providing leadership to the Stroke Steering Committee to develop and strengthen evidence based stroke systems of care (certified primary stroke centers, American Heart Association guidelines).
- Working to implement a cardiac partnership to expand activities around the Million Hearts™ campaign
- Collaborating with other state agencies to improve healthy food options in state agency worksites.

### Partners working on this priority

- American Heart Association (AHA)
- American Stroke Association (ASA)
- NH Department of Administrative Services
- NH Department of Safety, Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- NH Department of Transportation
- NH Vocational Rehabilitation - Blind Services
- NH Health Care Quality Foundation (NHQIO)
- NorthEast Cerebrovascular Consortium (NECC)
- Anthem

### Stories from the Field

The NH Stroke Steering Committee formed in December 2010 and has built partnerships across the state to address stroke. The Committee is looking at identifying interventions, from primary prevention through rehabilitation, that improve stroke systems of care in New Hampshire. Several hospitals are looking at approved stroke programs such as Get With the Guidelines (GWTG) Stroke program for “improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to the latest scientific treatment guidelines”. Hospitals are also beginning to share model plans of systems for stroke care and sharing ideas for acute care protocols. Steering committee members are offering to serve as a resource to hospitals seeking support in making changes to improve stroke care.

### Recommendations for Action\*

#### State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Governments can:

- Increase delivery of clinical preventive services, including ABCS (Aspirin, Blood Pressure Control, Cholesterol Management, Smoking Cessation) by Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers.
- Drive awareness of the importance of heart health.

#### Businesses and Employers can:

- Align existing employee health initiatives and programs with Million Hearts™ goals. Examples include education programs, tobacco prevention, worksite wellness programs, and employee or community recognition programs.
- Educate employees. Educate employees about the importance of healthful living and the risk factors for heart disease and stroke to empower employees to take control of their heart health.
- Create healthy workplaces. Promote heart health through workplace wellness programs.

#### Health Care Systems, Insurers and Clinicians can:

- Inform patients about the benefits of preventive services and offer recommended clinical preventive services, including the ABCS, as a routine part of care.
- Adopt medical home or team-based care models.
- Reduce or eliminate client out-of-pocket costs for certain preventive services, as required for most health plans by the Affordable Care Act, and educate and encourage enrollees to access these services.
- Establish patient (e.g., mailing cards, sending e-mails, or making phone calls when a patient is due for a preventive health service) and clinical (e.g., electronic health records with reminders or cues, chart stickers, vital signs stamps, medical record flow sheets) reminder systems for preventive services.
- Expand hours of operation, provide child care, offer services in convenient locations (e.g., near workplaces), or use community or retail sites to provide preventive services.
- Create linkages with and connect patients to community resources (e.g., tobacco quitlines), family support, and education programs.

- Facilitate coordination among diverse care providers (e.g., clinical care, behavioral health, community health workers, complementary and alternative medicine).
- Communicate with patients in an appropriate manner so that patients can understand and act on their advice and directions.

#### **Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges and Universities can:**

- Train providers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, allied health professionals) to use health information technology and offer patients recommended clinical preventive services as a routine part of their health care.
- Promote the use of evidence-based preventive services within their health services (e.g., school health program).

#### **Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:**

- Inform people about the range of preventive services they should receive and the benefits of preventive services.
- Support use of retail sites, schools, churches, and community centers for the provision of evidence-based preventive services.
- Expand public-private partnerships to implement community preventive services (e.g., school-based oral health programs, community-based diabetes prevention programs).
- Support community health workers, patient navigators, patient support groups, and health coaches.

#### **Individuals and Families can:**

- Know your ABCS:  
*Appropriate Aspirin Use:* Ask your doctor if aspirin will reduce your risk for heart attacks.  
*Blood Pressure Control:* You can control your blood pressure and reduce your risk for heart disease and stroke.  
*Cholesterol Management:* Your health care professional has advice to help you lower your cholesterol levels if they're high.  
*Smoking Cessation:* Ask your health care professional to connect you with tools to help you quit smoking.

\*From the Million Hearts Campaign and National Prevention Strategy

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WORDLE gathered at Greater Sullivan Public Input Meeting, 9/4/2012

# Healthy Mothers & Babies

## PRETERM BIRTH

Premature birth is a serious health problem. The period of gestation is one of the most important predictors of an infant's subsequent health and survival. Premature babies (<37 weeks gestation) are at increased risk for newborn health complications such as breathing problems and even death. In 2009, 1,329 infants, or 9.9% of New Hampshire infants, were born preterm, compared to 12.2% nationally.

### Why is this important?

Preterm birth remains a public health challenge; more than 50% of all infant deaths in the US occurred in infants who were born preterm. Preterm babies face an increased risk of lasting disabilities, such as intellectual disabilities, learning and behavioral problems, cerebral palsy, lung problems, and vision and hearing loss.<sup>1</sup> The economic burden of preterm births impacts individuals, families, and society and reaches well beyond birth.

### The cost

According to the March of Dimes Foundation, the average cost of medical care for a premature or low birth-weight baby in the first year of life is about \$49,000. By contrast, a newborn without complications is estimated to cost approximately \$4,551 for care in the first year of life.

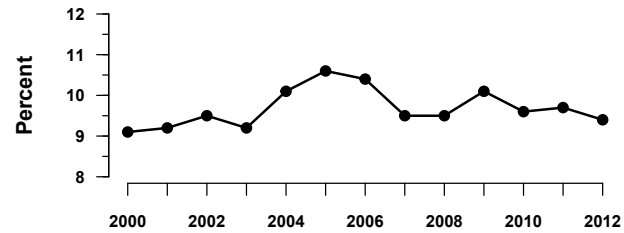
The annual societal economic burden associated with preterm birth in the US may be as much as \$26.2 billion based on 2005 dollars, or \$51,600 per infant born preterm. The Institute of Medicine Committee on Understanding Premature Birth and Assuring Healthy Outcomes estimated that medical care services contributed \$16.9 billion to the total cost and maternal delivery costs contributed another \$1.9 billion. In terms of longer-term expenditures, early intervention services cost an estimated \$611 million, whereas special education services associated with a higher prevalence of four disabling conditions among premature infants add an additional \$1.1 billion. Finally, the committee estimates that lost household and labor market productivity associated with those disabilities contributed \$5.7 billion.<sup>2</sup>

### Where do we want to be?

- Reduce preterm births in NH by 8%, from 9.9% (2009) to 9.1% in 2015 and by a total of 10% to 8.9% in 2020.

## Where we are

Figure 1. Preterm Births



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

### Who should we be most concerned about?

Nationally, preterm births occur more often among certain racial and ethnic groups. Infants of non-Hispanic black mothers are at greater risk of being born preterm. They are more than 1.5 times more likely to be born preterm compared with infants of non-Hispanic white women. In addition, preterm-related infant mortality rates vary by maternal race and ethnicity. In 2007, preterm-related mortality rates were 3.4 times higher for infants of non-Hispanic black mothers (5.99 per 1,000 live births) than for non-Hispanic white mothers (1.78)<sup>1</sup>.

The prematurity rate for white infants in New Hampshire in 2010 was 9.2%, lower than the national white rate of 10.8%. The rate among Non-Hispanic Black infants was 13.5%, also lower than the national prematurity rate for Non-Hispanic Black infants at 17.1%. Caution must be used when making any conclusions, however because of New Hampshire's small populations of diversity.<sup>3</sup>

### What we are doing

- Supporting and funding culturally competent perinatal care through community health centers.
- Promoting Centering Pregnancy best practice model of group prenatal care to promote optimal birth outcomes.
- Supporting efforts to reduce nonmedically indicated early-term deliveries prior to 39-weeks gestation.
- Supporting use of evidence-based practice to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs.
- Promoting and funding smoking cessation activities
- Supporting social media and other efforts to increase awareness of preterm birth outcomes including *text4baby* and *Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait*.
- Providing technical assistance to decrease non-medically indicated early and preterm deliveries.

## Stories from the Field

Sally has no health insurance and is pregnant. She knows that it is important to get early prenatal care for the health of her unborn baby, so she called the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services' Maternal and Child Health Section to find out where she can receive prenatal care, as she does not qualify for Medicaid but states she cannot afford to go to a private obstetrician's office. The Prenatal Program Manager was able to provide Sally with the name of an MCH-contracted community health center close to Sally's home that provides prenatal care on a sliding fee scale based on her family income. Sally states she will call today to schedule an appointment.

### Partners working on this priority

- March of Dimes
- The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG)
- Northern New England Perinatal Quality Improvement Network (NNEPQIN)
- Community Health Centers

### Recommendations for Action\*

#### State and Local Governments can:

- Increase access to comprehensive preconception and prenatal care, especially for low-income and at-risk women.
- Strengthen delivery of quality reproductive and sexual health services (e.g., family planning, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/ Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) testing).
- Implement evidence-based practices to prevent teen pregnancy and HIV/STIs and ensure that resources are targeted to communities at highest risk.
- Use social marketing, support services and policies to increase the number of people tested and linked to care for HIV, viral hepatitis, and other STIs.

#### Businesses and Employers can:

- Provide health coverage and employee assistance programs that include family planning and reproductive health services.
- Provide time off for pregnant employees to access prenatal care.
- Implement and enforce policies that address sexual harassment.

### Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians can:

- Advise patients about factors that affect birth outcomes, such as alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, poor nutrition, stress, lack of prenatal care, and chronic illness or other medical problems.
- Include sexual health risk assessments as a part of routine care, help patients identify ways to reduce risk for unintended pregnancy, HIV and other STIs, and provide recommended testing and treatment for HIV and other STIs to patients and their partners when appropriate.
- Provide vaccination for Hepatitis B virus and Human Papillomavirus, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
- Offer counseling and services to patients regarding the range of contraceptive choices either onsite or through referral consistent with federal, state, and local regulations and laws.
- Implement policies and procedures to ensure culturally competent and confidential reproductive and sexual health services.

#### Schools, Colleges, and Universities can:

- Support medically accurate, developmentally appropriate, and evidence-based sexual health education.
- Support teen parenting programs and assist parents in completing high school, which can promote health for teen parents and children.
- Provide students with confidential, affordable reproductive and sexual health information and services consistent with federal, state, and local regulations and laws.
- Implement mentoring or skills-based activities that promote healthy relationships and change social norms about teen dating violence.

#### Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:

- Support pregnant women obtaining prenatal care in the first trimester (e.g., transportation services, patient navigators).
- Educate communities, clinicians, pregnant women, and families on how to prevent infant mortality (e.g., nutrition, stress reduction, postpartum and newborn care).

- Promote and offer HIV and other STI testing and enhance linkages with reproductive and sexual health services (e.g., counseling, contraception, HIV/STI testing and treatment).
- Provide information and educational tools to both men and women to promote respectful, nonviolent relationships.
- Promote teen pregnancy prevention and positive youth development, support the development of strong communication skills among parents, and provide supervised after-school activities.

#### Individuals and Families can:

- Eat healthfully, take a daily supplement of folic acid, stay active, stop tobacco and alcohol use and see their doctor before and during pregnancy.
- Discuss their sexual health history, getting tested for HIV and other STIs, and birth control options with potential partners.
- Notify their partner if they find out they have HIV or another STI.
- Discuss sexual health concerns with their health care provider.
- Use recommended and effective prevention methods to prevent HIV and other STIs and reduce risk for unintended pregnancy.
- Communicate with children regarding their knowledge, values, and attitudes related to sexual activity, sexuality, and healthy relationships.
- Make efforts to know where their children are, and what they're doing and make sure they are supervised by adults in the after-school hours.

\*From the National Prevention Strategy,

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## AUTISM

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a range of complex neurodevelopment disorders, characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, and restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior. Experts estimate that 1 out of 88 children age eight will have an ASD.<sup>1</sup>

### Why is this important?

Children with characteristics of an ASD may have co-occurring conditions, including Fragile X syndrome (which causes mental retardation), tuberous sclerosis, epileptic seizures, Tourette syndrome, learning disabilities, and attention deficit disorder. About 20% to 30% of children with an ASD develop epilepsy by the time they reach adulthood. For many children, symptoms of ASD improve with treatment and with age. Children whose language skills regress early in life (before the age of three) appear to have a higher than normal risk of developing epilepsy or seizure-like brain activity. During adolescence, some children with an ASD may become depressed or experience behavioral problems, and their treatment may need some modification as they transition to adulthood. People with an ASD usually continue to need services and supports as they get older, but many are able to work successfully and live independently or within a supportive environment.<sup>1</sup>

### The cost

Autism's costs to the nation are estimated to have reached \$126 billion per year. This figure includes indirect costs such as lost family income and productivity in addition to the direct costs of autism-associated care. Lifetime costs are estimated to be more than \$2.3 million for a person with an ASD and intellectual disability and \$1.4 million for a person with ASD and no intellectual disability. Intellectual disabilities affect around 40 percent of those with autism.<sup>2</sup>

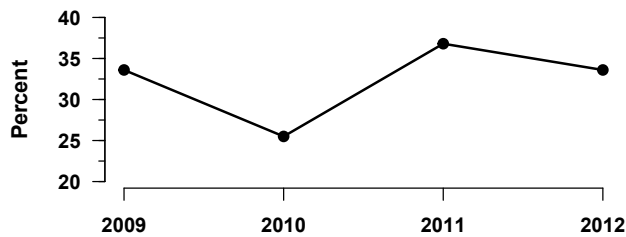
Autism's costs to the nation are estimated to have reached \$126 billion per year. This figure includes indirect costs such as lost family income and productivity in addition to the direct costs of autism-associated care.

### Where do we want to be?

- Among newly diagnosed cases of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), increase the proportion diagnosed by 36 months of age from 33.6% in 2012 to 40% by 2015 and to 50% by 2020.

## Where we are

**Figure 1.** Proportion diagnosed at or before 36 months of age Among newly diagnosed cases of ASD



Source: NH Autism Spectrum Disorder Registry

## Who should we be most concerned about?

Although ASD varies significantly in character and severity, it occurs in all ethnic and socioeconomic groups and affects every age group. Males are four times more likely to have an ASD than females.<sup>3</sup>

## What we are doing

- Promoting and supporting comprehensive preventive pediatric care in community health centers to ensure autism screening and development screening per American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines.
- Promoting and supporting community based developmental screening systems including *Watch Me Grow*.
- Partnering with the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program to train providers on developmental disabilities screening.
- Maintaining an Autism Registry.
- Promoting the CDC “Learn the Signs, Act Early” public information campaign.

## Partners working on this priority

- Members of the NH Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders and its workgroups/committees
- LEND program
- NH Pediatric Society

## Recommendations for Action\*

**State and Local Governments can work with Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians to:**

- Implement current nationally accepted autism screening and surveillance guidelines\*. This effort will include providing information

and tools for screening, diagnostic evaluation referral, early intervention and preschool special education referral, individual autism program grants, reporting requirements of the New Hampshire Autism Registry, and connection to available parent-to-parent and family support services, including the Autism Society of New Hampshire.

- Adopt and endorse the two most recent national health care guidelines on ASD\*. These guidelines call for universal screening of all children for ASD through continuous surveillance, the use of autism-specific screening tools, and the valuation of parental concerns.
- Identify and support leadership for a regionalized system of autism diagnostic clinics using or expanding upon available resources to increase access to timely diagnostic evaluations by improving geographic access and reducing wait times for clinical appointments. It may be possible to build upon services provided through the New Hampshire Office of Special Medical Services (Title V—Children with Special Health Care Needs agency) by identifying autism as needing systematic care coordination and service integration among available providers. This effort could follow the models of other SMS clinical services in child development and neuromotor conditions.
- Pursue grant opportunities through the US Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) program.
- Ensure consistent eligibility criteria for services that include all individuals with ASD, including those with a diagnosis of autism, Asperger syndrome, and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD–NOS).

\*From Medical Home Services for Autism Spectrum Disorders, published by the US Maternal and Child Health Bureau through the National Medical Home Autism Initiative, and Bright Futures, the guidelines for child health supervision developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

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## ORAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN

Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease, five times more common than asthma. An estimated 51 million school hours per year are lost due to dental-related illness. Early tooth loss caused by tooth decay can result in failure to thrive in children. Dental problems can lead to impaired speech development, absence from and inability to concentrate in school, and reduced self-esteem. New Hampshire ranks 5th lowest in the nation for caries experience among 43 states that conduct third grade oral health surveys, with the US median at 57.2%<sup>1</sup>.

Oral health is related to well-being and quality of life as measured along functional, psychosocial, and economic dimensions. Diet, nutrition, sleep, psychological status, social interaction, school, and work are affected by impaired oral and craniofacial health.

There was a significant increase in ambulatory care sensitive emergency department (ED) visits from 2001-2007. The most notable rate of increase was for non-traumatic dental conditions that increased significantly from 11,067 (age-adjusted rate 89.5 per 10,000 population) in 2001 to 16,238 (age adjusted rate 129.3 per 10,000 population) in 2007<sup>2</sup>.

### Why is this important?

Oral health is related to well-being and quality of life as measured along functional, psychosocial, and economic dimensions. Diet, nutrition, sleep, psychological status, social interaction, school, and work are affected by impaired oral and craniofacial health. Oral and craniofacial diseases and their treatment place a burden on society in the form of lost days and years of productive work. Acute dental conditions contribute to a range of problems for employed adults, including restricted activity, bed days, and work loss, and school loss for children. In addition, population-based studies have demonstrated an association between periodontal diseases and diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Further research is needed to determine the extent to which these associations are causal or coincidental<sup>3</sup>.

### The cost

In the US, 25% of children, typically those from the most vulnerable groups, experience 80% of all tooth decay occurring in permanent teeth. Targeting children at high risk for tooth decay and providing preventive services like dental sealants can result in considerable cost savings. In 1999 the average cost of applying one dental sealant was \$29.09 compared with

the average cost of \$65.09 for a one-surface filling.

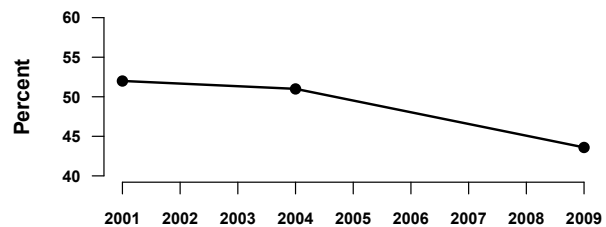
According to the Pew Children's Dental Campaign, in 2009, more than 800,000 emergency room visits across the country related to preventable dental conditions, a 16% increase from 2006<sup>4</sup>. New Hampshire ED charges associated with dental conditions, including professional services, increased from 1.8 million dollars for all ages in 2001 to 5.9 million dollars in 2007. Charges totaled 26.9 million dollars over the 2001–2007 study period<sup>5</sup>.

### Where do we want to be?

- Reduce the percent of third grade students with dental caries experience in their primary and permanent teeth from 43.6% (2009) to 41.4% by 2015 and 39.2% by 2020.

### Where we are

Figure 1. Percent of third grade students with dental caries experience in their primary and permanent teeth



Source: NH Third Grade Healthy Smiles–Healthy Growth Survey

### Who should we be most concerned about?

Dental disease rates are higher in schools with greater than 50% of students participating in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program compared to schools with less than 25% of students participating, 68.4% compared to 38.5% respectively. Coos County third graders had the highest prevalence of dental caries experience at 64% compared with 44% in New Hampshire overall.<sup>6</sup>

Fifty percent of all school-aged children do not have private dental insurance.<sup>7</sup> Most protective dental sealants are placed in private dental practices, but the children at greatest risk for dental disease are the least likely to receive dental care in a private practice. Children with special health care needs are almost twice as likely to have unmet oral health needs as their peers without special needs, across all income levels.<sup>8</sup>

### What we are doing

- Conducting the 3rd grade oral health and body mass index survey every five years to assess oral health status and height and weight status of children.

- Supporting and analyzing assessment of annual oral health status of children in schools to determine need for preventive and restorative services.
- Supporting the provision of on-site preventive services and referrals for restorative treatment in local dental practices.
- Promoting oral health education of parents and providing on-site preventive services and assessment of young children's oral health status in WIC and Head Start and childcare settings.
- Identifying and sustaining funds to support early oral health intervention.
- Promoting education and dental treatment for pregnant mothers to avoid transmission of dental disease to babies.
- Promoting the assessment of child fluoride status to determine need for supplementation.
- Supporting and promoting the integration of child oral health assessment, treatment and education in community health centers and other medical practices, based on recommendations in Bright Futures.

### Stories from the Field

The New Hampshire Oral Health Program is partnering with WIC and Alice Peck Day Hospital to provide on-site oral health screenings, education and fluoride varnish applications for young children from families enrolled in WIC. In July 2012 a young Hispanic father brought his 10 month-old daughter to a WIC dental screening. He was so enthusiastic about his dental visit at the WIC site that he allowed us to take pictures. When he showed up in July 2013 for his WIC dental visit with his daughter and a new infant son we were amazed and convinced that, given the knowledge gained from a good dental experience, high-risk families with young children who have never been to a dental office can become great dental patients!

### Partners working on this priority

- NH Medicaid
- NH Oral Health Coalition
- NH Office of Head Start Collaboration
- Local WIC programs
- New Hampshire Dental Society
- Healthy New Hampshire Foundation
- Northeast Delta Dental Foundation
- DPHS funded community and school-based oral health programs

### Recommendations for Action\*

#### State and Local Governments can:

- Increase delivery of clinical preventive services, including childhood immunizations and influenza vaccination as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), by Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers.
- Foster collaboration among community-based organizations, the education and faith-based sectors, businesses, and clinicians to identify underserved groups and implement programs to improve access to preventive services.
- Create interoperable systems to exchange clinical, public health and community data, streamline eligibility requirements, and expedite enrollment processes to facilitate access to clinical preventive services and other social services.
- Expand the use of community health workers and home visiting programs.
- Support and promote school-based and school-linked dental sealant delivery programs to prevent or reduce tooth decay among children. (*CDC Guide to Community Prevention Services. April 2013.*)
- Promote early intervention to prevent dental disease in young children. (*American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Clinical Guidelines on Periodicity of Exams, Preventive Dental Services, Anticipatory Guidance. 2013.*)
- Promote the inclusion of children's oral health in overall health care (*US Surgeon's General Report, 2000.*)
- Promote community water fluoridation in Nashua and mid-sized NH communities as the most cost effective way to prevent tooth decay across the lifespan. (*CDC Guide to Community Prevention Services. April 2013.*)

#### Businesses and Employers can:

- Offer health coverage that provides employees and their families with access to a range of clinical preventive services with no or reduced out-of-pocket costs.
- Provide incentives for employees and their families to access clinical preventive services, consistent with existing law.

- Give employees time off to access clinical preventive services.
- Provide employees with on-site clinical preventive services and comprehensive wellness programs, consistent with existing law.
- Provide easy-to-use employee information about clinical preventive services covered under the Affordable Care Act.

**Health Care Systems, Insurers and Clinicians can:**

- Inform patients about the benefits of preventive services and offer recommended clinical preventive services, including immunizations, as a routine part of care.
- Adopt and use certified electronic health records and personal health records.
- Adopt medical home or team-based care models.
- Reduce or eliminate client out-of-pocket costs for certain preventive services, as required for most health plans by the Affordable Care Act, and educate and encourage enrollees to access these services.
- Establish patient (e.g., mailing cards, sending e-mails, or making phone calls when a patient is due for a preventive health service) and clinical (e.g., electronic health records with reminders or cues, chart stickers, vital signs stamps, medical record flow sheets) reminder systems for preventive services.
- Expand hours of operation, provide child care, offer services in convenient locations (e.g., near workplaces), or use community or retail sites to provide preventive services.
- Create linkages with and connect patients to community resources (e.g., tobacco quitlines), family support, and education programs.
- Facilitate coordination among diverse care providers (e.g., clinical care, behavioral health, community health workers, complementary and alternative medicine).
- Communicate with patients in an appropriate manner so that patients can understand and act on their advice and directions.

**Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges and Universities can:**

- Train providers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, allied health professionals) to use health infor-

mation technology and offer patients recommended clinical preventive services as a routine part of their health care.

- Promote the use of evidence-based preventive services within their health services (e.g., school health program).

**Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:**

- Inform people about the range of preventive services they should receive and the benefits of preventive services.
- Support use of retail sites, schools, churches, and community centers for the provision of evidence-based preventive services.
- Expand public-private partnerships to implement community preventive services (e.g., school-based oral health programs, community-based diabetes prevention programs).
- Support community health workers, patient navigators, patient support groups, and health coaches.

**Individuals and Families can:**

- Visit their dental providers to receive clinical preventive services.
- Use various tools to access and learn about health and prevention and ways they can better manage their health (e.g., personal health records, text reminder services, smart phone applications).

\*From the National Prevention Strategy, the Community Guide, and the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry

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## TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Compared with older women or adult parents, unintended pregnancy in teens poses increased risks to themselves and their children. These include delays in the initiation of prenatal care, reduced likelihood of breastfeeding, less healthy children, maternal depression, increased risk for child abuse and neglect and lower academic achievement for the teen parents and the child.<sup>1</sup>

Teen mothers are less likely to graduate from high school or attain a High School Equivalency Certificate by the time they reach age 30, and on average earn approximately \$3,500 less per year compared with those who delay childbearing until their 20's.

There are over 178,000 teenagers in New Hampshire, or 13.5% of the population. According to data from the National Center for Health Statistics, New Hampshire's teen birth rate for 2011 was 15.7 per 1,000 births (among 15-19 year-olds). About three-quarters of the teen births occur among 18-19 year-olds.

### Why is this important?

Births resulting from unintended pregnancies can have negative consequences, including birth defects and low birth weight. Children from unintended pregnancies are more likely to experience poor mental and physical health during childhood, have lower cognitive attainment and proficiency scores in kindergarten entry, exhibit more behavioral problems, have chronic medical conditions, rely more heavily on publicly provided health care, and be incarcerated at some time during adolescence. Teen mothers are less likely to graduate from high school or attain a High School Equivalency Certificate by the time they reach age 30, and on average earn approximately \$3,500 less per year compared with those who delay childbearing until their 20s. In addition, they receive nearly twice as much federal aid for nearly twice as long. Similarly, early fatherhood is associated with lower educational attainment and lower income.<sup>2</sup>

### The cost

Nationally, teen childbearing costs taxpayers at least \$10.9 billion each year. An updated analysis from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing in New Hampshire costs taxpayers at least \$25 million in 2008. Of the total teen childbearing costs in New Hampshire in 2008, 45% were federal costs and 55% were state and local costs.

Most of the public sector costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for



the children of teen mothers during both their childhood and their young adult years. In New Hampshire in 2008, taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers included \$8 million for public health care (Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)), \$9 million for child welfare, and for children who have reached adolescence or young adulthood, \$7 million for increased rates of incarceration and \$4 million in lost tax revenue due to decreased earnings and spending. Between 1991 and 2008 there have been approximately 17,800 teen births in New Hampshire, costing taxpayers a total of \$600 million over that period. The teen birth rate in New Hampshire declined 41% percent between 1991 and 2008. The progress New Hampshire has made in reducing teen childbearing saved taxpayers an estimated \$27 million in 2008 alone over the costs it would have incurred had the rates not fallen.<sup>3</sup>

According to a more recent report released by the Guttmacher Institute, nationally Title X clinics averted 1.2 million unintended pregnancies in 2010 and of these, 460,000 were unintended teen pregnancies. An investment of \$1.3 billion toward services for Title X led to a net public savings of \$5.3 billion to Medicaid. This calculated a cost per Title X client for contraceptive care for 2010 at \$239 per client compared to the cost of \$12,770 for one covered Medicaid birth (prenatal care, delivery, postpartum and 1 year of infant care). Ultimately, this translates to \$5.68 saved for every dollar spent providing contraceptive care.

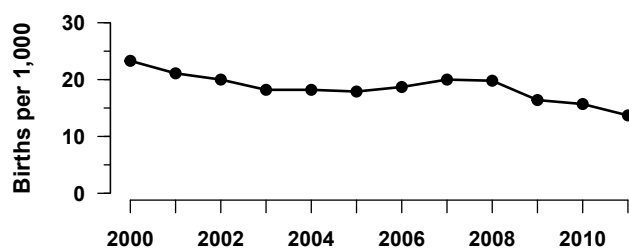
In 2010, NH Title X services averted 1,200 teen pregnancies and 600 teen births.<sup>4,5</sup>

### Where do we want to be?

- Reduce the unintended birth rate for adolescents from 15.7 (2010) to 15.0 by 2015 and to 14.0 by 2020.

### Where we are

Figure 1. Birth rate for adolescents



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

### Who should we be most concerned about?

New Hampshire remains focused on unintended teen births and particularly on efforts to have an impact on the births to young women in the higher teen age group, as they make up three quarters of the teen births in New Hampshire. It is essential that health centers, clinicians, schools and community organizations throughout New Hampshire create plans that leverage federal and state funding sources to build a system that offers consistent and reliable support to adolescents and young adults. Identification and support of strategies like evidence-based pregnancy prevention curricula, reproductive health education, access to confidential reproductive health care and home visitation for pregnant and parenting teens, will help adolescents and young adults make healthy decisions about their sexual health. The challenge, however, remains in reaching even deeper into the communities where there are significant disparities; where the cycle of poverty and low educational attainment puts adolescents at heightened risk for teen pregnancy and teen birth.

Some compelling key facts to consider in the connection between teen and unplanned pregnancy and poverty are:

- A child's chance of growing up in poverty is nine times greater if the mother gave birth as a teen, if the parents were unmarried when the child was born, and if the mother did not receive a high school diploma, than if none of these circumstances are present.
- The 30% decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2002 accounted for one-quarter of the decline in the number of young children living in poverty. Without this decline, some 460,000 more children would have been living in poverty in 2002 alone.
- Two-thirds of families begun by a young unmarried mother are poor.
- Approximately one-quarter of teen mothers are enrolled in family assistance within three years of the child's birth.<sup>6</sup>

The overall New Hampshire teen birth rate is low, however, the use of an average value obscures the high teen birth rates that face many New Hampshire cities and towns. Manchester is the city with the highest teen birth rate at 39.4 births per 1,000 from the years 2000-2006<sup>7</sup>. Nine percent of births in Manchester were to teen mothers in 2007, which was a teen birth rate of 42.3 per 1,000. Sullivan County is the county with the highest teen birth rate at 41.0 births per 1,000 from years 2000-2006 compared to the state rate of 15.7 per 1,000 births in 2011.<sup>8</sup>



Children and adolescents in poverty are at increased risk for unintended pregnancy. Children and adolescents in the state are disproportionately affected by poverty, with 10.8% of New Hampshire residents under age 18 living below 100% of the federal poverty level in the previous 12 months, compared to 8.1% of individuals aged 18 to 64 years old and 6.7% of residents aged 65 and older.<sup>9</sup> Poverty and level of insurance among those in late adolescence (18-24 years) is also significantly higher than among other age groups: 16% of youth ages 18-24 (16,000 youth) live in poverty and 30% of adolescents ages 18-24 lack health insurance.<sup>10</sup> Child poverty rates in the state have been increasing.<sup>11</sup>

Statewide efforts through Title X Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), Community Health Centers, and other community and health care providers, aim to increase access to resources, education and healthcare services specifically to teens and low income women and men for the intended purpose of preventing unintended pregnancies.

### What we are doing

New Hampshire funds 10 Title X agencies (20 clinics) that provide clinical and educational reproductive health services to women and men. In 2010, 5,230 teens were seen in the Title X clinics.

New Hampshire funds two agencies to conduct specific teen pregnancy prevention education. The areas of concentration, based on having the highest teen birth rates, are the City of Manchester and Sullivan County. Through the PREP, the contracted agencies deliver an evidence-based program (FOCUS) to area female teens (ages 16-19 and pregnant/parenting up to age 21). The curriculum also includes adult preparatory subjects: healthy relationships, healthy life skills, and education and career success.

The Adolescent Health and Wellness Task Force meets quarterly and has been working on a strategic approach to adolescent health and wellness. This group also plays a key advisory role to the PREP and to Title X, in the capacity of reviewing material that is handed out in Title X clinics.

To date, the group has worked to define the group's mission, vision and guiding principles. The group has developed a logic model style workplan that includes a goal statement of assuring that all adolescents (10-19) and young adults (20-25) have access to quality health care services, as well as, skills, information and supports that promote healthy life choices. One of the identified outcomes is to "decrease teen birth rate, unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections."

An initial objective that is being considered includes: to improve cultural attitudes about sexual health. An activity to accomplish this is to increase awareness and engagement with parents, educators, and health professionals.

### Stories from the Field

In 2012, the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services (NH DHHS) contracted with Child Health Services (CHS) in Manchester and Good Beginnings in Sullivan County to implement the FOCUS curriculum.

The aim of the curriculum is to service communities in NH with the highest teen birth rate. Whereas Manchester had a rate of 34.5% and Sullivan County had a rate of 32.5% and of those teen births, three quarters are to 18-19 year olds, CHS and Good Beginnings are targeting young women between the ages of 16-19, as well as pregnant and parenting young women up to the age of 21. The goal of the program is to help teens prevent unintended pregnancy, including subsequent unintended pregnancies, by providing teens a healthy foundation for adult life.

FOCUS is an evidence-based effective program that has been shown to help reduce sexual activity, increase contraceptive use in already sexually active youth, and ultimately reduce teen pregnancy. In addition, FOCUS works with teens to build important life skills such as financial literacy; education and employment preparation skills; and healthy communication skills.

### Partners working on this priority

#### Title X Agencies

- Ammonoosuc Community Health Center
- Belknap Merrimack Community Action Program
- Coos County Community Health Center
- Child Health Services
- Concord Hospital
- Goodwin Community Health Center
- Lamprey Community Health Center
- Indian Stream
- Weeks Community Health Center
- White Mountain Community Health Center

#### PREP Agencies

- Child Health Services
- Good Beginnings

#### Adolescent Health & Wellness Task Force

- NH Department of Education

- NH WIC Program
- NH Infectious Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control Section
- Catholic Medical Center
- Belknap Merrimack Community Action Program
- Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
- Child Health Services
- Good Beginnings
- Feminist Health Center
- Jane Lovering Health Center
- White Mountain Community Health Center
- Communities United Regional Network
- Lamprey Community Health Center
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic – Concord Pediatrics

### Recommendations for Action\*

#### State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Governments can:

- Increase access to comprehensive preconception and prenatal care, especially for low-income and at-risk women.

#### Businesses and Employers can:

- Provide health coverage and employee assistance programs that include family planning and reproductive health services.

#### Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians can:

- Include sexual health risk assessments as a part of routine care, help patients identify ways to reduce risk for unintended pregnancy, HIV and other STIs, and provide recommended testing and treatment for HIV and other STIs to patients and their partners when appropriate.
- Offer counseling and services to patients regarding the range of contraceptive choices either onsite or through referral consistent with Federal, state, and local regulations and laws.
- Implement policies and procedures to ensure culturally competent and confidential reproductive and sexual health services.

#### Schools, Colleges, and Universities can:

- Support medically accurate, developmentally appropriate, and evidence-based sexual health education.

- Support teen parenting programs and assist parents in completing high school, which can promote health for teen parents and children.
- Provide students with confidential, affordable reproductive and sexual health information and services consistent with Federal, state, and local regulations and laws.
- Implement mentoring or skills-based activities that promote healthy relationships and change social norms about teen dating violence.

#### Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:

- Promote and offer HIV and other STI testing and enhance linkages with reproductive and sexual health services (e.g., counseling, contraception, HIV/STI testing and treatment).
- Provide information and educational tools to both men and women to promote respectful, nonviolent relationships.
- Promote teen pregnancy prevention and positive youth development, support the development of strong communication skills among parents, and provide supervised after-school activities.

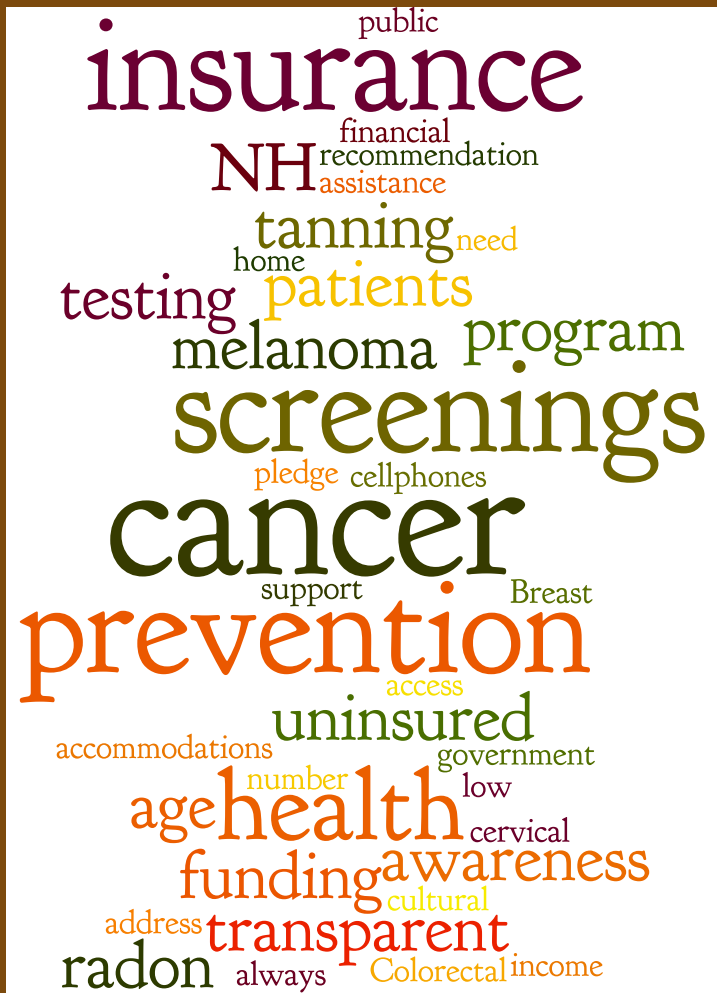
#### Individuals and Families can:

- Eat healthfully, take a daily supplement of folic acid, stay active, stop tobacco and alcohol use and see their doctor before and during pregnancy.
- Discuss their sexual health history, getting tested for HIV and other STIs, and birth control options with potential partners.
- Discuss sexual health concerns with their health care provider.
- Use recommended and effective prevention methods to prevent HIV and other STIs and reduce risk for unintended pregnancy.
- Communicate with children regarding their knowledge, values, and attitudes related to sexual activity, sexuality, and healthy relationships.
- Make efforts to know where their children are, and what they're doing and make sure they are supervised by adults in the after-school hours.

\*From the National Prevention Strategy,

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WORDLE gathered at Capital Area Public Input Meeting, 9/18/2012

CANCER PREVENTION

## Cancer Prevention

Cancer has overtaken heart disease as the leading cause of death in New Hampshire. Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide uncontrollably and often invade other tissues. By current estimates, approximately one in two men and one in three women, more than 40% of the US population, will develop cancer at some point in their lives. In New Hampshire each year, approximately 7,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed and 2,600 deaths from cancer occur. This amounts to approximately 20 new diagnoses and seven deaths per day.

In New Hampshire each year, approximately 7,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed and 2,600 deaths from cancer occur. This amounts to approximately 20 new diagnoses and seven deaths per day.

The five leading cancer diagnoses in New Hampshire and the US are cancers of the prostate, female breast, lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, and bladder. These cancers are also the leading causes of cancer mortality and accounted for 56% of cancer deaths in the State between 2003 and 2007. Although not all cancers can be prevented, risk factors for some cancers can be reduced. Nearly two-thirds of cancer diagnoses and deaths in the US can be linked to behaviors, including tobacco use, poor nutrition, obesity, and lack of exercise. Even if risk factors cannot be modified, early detection is available for many types of cancer and can save lives.

### Why is this important?

Breast cancer affects the adult female population. Regular screening leads to early-stage diagnoses and significant reductions in mortality. The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that women aged 50-64 receive a bi-ennial screening mammogram. Women under 50 should talk with their healthcare provider about when to begin mammography screening.

Screening for colorectal cancer can help prevent cancer. Colorectal cancer almost always develops from precancerous polyps that can be found and removed following screening.<sup>1</sup> Early diagnosis and treatment of colorectal cancer can result in a five-year survival rate of up to 90% in some cases, compared with a rate of 10% of those colorectal cancers found in the late stage.<sup>2</sup> The USPSTF recommends that you speak to your doctor about when to get screened for colorectal cancer. In adults without any risk factors the USPSTF recommends using fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy, beginning

at age 50 years and continuing until age 75 years.<sup>3</sup> Despite the potential benefits of following these guidelines, only 75.2% of people 50 and older in New Hampshire reported having ever had a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy procedure.<sup>4</sup>

New Hampshire has a higher than average radon exposure potential due to radioactive gas in the bedrock. In New Hampshire, an estimated 14% of all lung cancer cases are radon-related (101 of 721 lung cancer cases per year from 2004-2008).<sup>5</sup> There are also approximately 78,000 homes with elevated radon levels that have not been mitigated. About 195,000 individuals occupy these high-radon homes.<sup>6</sup> Over 50 of these individuals will die from radon-related lung cancer each year without increased mitigation rates, lower smoking prevalence, or a combination of the two.<sup>7</sup>

New Hampshire is one of only a few states with a melanoma incidence rate that is higher than the national average.<sup>8</sup> Practicing sun safe behaviors that protect from intense ultraviolet (UVA and UVB) can prevent skin cancer. Screening can find cancer early when the treatment may be more effective and the cancer is easier to cure.

### The cost

For Medicaid clients the estimated costs nationally of treating breast cancer at 6 months after diagnosis were \$11,350 to \$28,911 for those with local, regional and distant breast cancers, respectively.<sup>9</sup> The estimated lifetime treatment costs per patient with breast cancer ranges from \$20,000 to \$100,000.<sup>10</sup>

Cancer costs are projected to reach at least \$158 billion in 2020, with \$14 billion due to colorectal cancer. With new technologies and treatments, it is predicted that costs will continue to rise even higher.<sup>11</sup> These projections do not include the cost of lost productivity.

### Where do we want to be?

- Increase the percent of women between the ages of 40-64 who had a mammogram in the past year from 80.4% to 82% by 2015 and 84% by 2020<sup>†</sup>.
- Increase the percent of adults age 50 and older who report being screened for colorectal cancer from 75.2% to 80% by 2015 and 82% by 2020.
- Reduce the melanoma cancer death rate from 3.1 deaths in 2007 to 2.8 by 2015 and 2.5 by 2020.
- Reduce the lung cancer death rate from 49.8 deaths to 47.8 by 2015 and 45.5 by 2020.

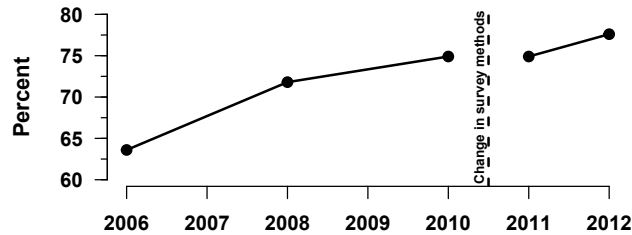
<sup>†</sup> Recent recommendations for mammography screening are not reflected in this objective. A revised objective is in progress.



The average annual cost of lung cancer treatment in New Hampshire in 2009 was \$6,928 per Medicaid member and \$33,327 per commercially insured member.<sup>20</sup>

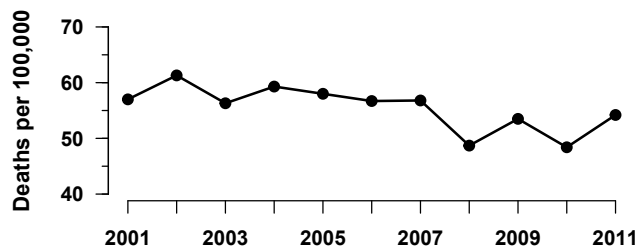
## Where we are

**Figure 1. Percent of adults age 50 and older who report being screened for colorectal cancer**



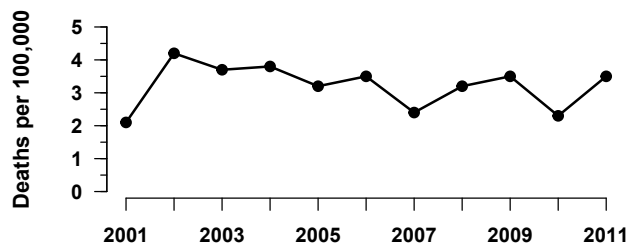
Source: NH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

**Figure 2. Lung cancer deaths**



Source: NH Division of Vital Records Administration

**Figure 3. Melanoma deaths**



Source: NH Division of Vital Records Administration

## Who should we be most concerned about?

### Breast Cancer

While nearly 90% of NH women age 40 and older in the highest income and education levels reported that they had mammograms in the past two years, that percent drops to 66% in the lowest income level and 67% at the lowest education level<sup>11</sup>. These women represent a subgroup of women who are either uninsured or underinsured and might not be able to afford a mammogram.

### Colorectal Cancer

Risk factors for colon cancer include age older than 50, black race, personal or family history of

colon cancer, polyps in the colon or rectum, inflammatory bowel disease, genetic factors, and a diet high in fat and animal protein and low in fiber and folic acid. New Hampshire residents who are not college graduates and those who earn less than \$50,000 a year are less likely to have colonoscopy.<sup>12</sup> Barriers to screening for colorectal cancer may include confusion about guidelines, fear of the actual procedure, failure to successfully complete the preparation stages for a screening, high co-pays, and lack of insurance. Additional barriers to colonoscopy screening include getting time off from work, losing pay for time off, and transportation to and from the screening site. These barriers may disproportionately affect different population subgroups.

### Lung Cancer

Socio-economically stressed individuals are particularly at risk for radon-related lung cancer. Residents of New Hampshire in lower socioeconomic groups are less likely to test their homes for radon.<sup>13</sup> In addition to having elevated rates of smoking, they often rent homes without radon-resistant construction features, or, if they own a home, may be unable to pay the cost of a radon mitigation system.<sup>14</sup> Smoking and radon have a synergistic relationship that significantly increases the lung cancer risk of those exposed to both hazards. The risk of radon-related lung cancer is seven to 10 times greater for smokers than for non-smokers.<sup>15</sup>

### Melanoma

White, non-Hispanic people are the most at-risk group for melanoma. States with similar rates of melanoma, like Vermont and Idaho, also have some of the highest percentage of non-Hispanic white populations.<sup>16</sup> Men over age 50 are particularly at risk. In New Hampshire in 2009, the incidence rate was 28.6 cases of melanoma per 100,000 men and 20.2 per 100,000 women.<sup>17</sup>

## What we are doing

- Ensuring the availability of statewide screening services for women enrolled in the breast and cervical cancer program.
- Expanding the availability of statewide screening services, such as colorectal cancer screening, for all recommended populations.
- Expanding the use of client reminder systems
- Working with providers to utilize electronic medical records to identify those in need of screening.

- Working with insurers and worksites to expand interventions to increase screening.
- Expanding the use of community health workers and patient navigators to ensure the utilization of screening services.
- Implementing and sustaining tracking of radon and lung cancer via web-based data portal to monitor trends in exposure and guide decision-making.
- Promoting testing for radon to environmental and health professionals.
- Promoting the community based educational program “Your Skin is In” for primary and middle schools.
- Promoting the Teens on Tanning forums for high school students.
- Working with recreational and tourism settings to increase sun-protective knowledge, attitudes, and intentions, and affect behaviors among adults and children.

### Stories from the Field

Program Directors from each CDC-funded Breast and Cervical Cancer Program nationally organized through the Cancer Council and prepared a document entitled Letters From the Heart. Each state contributed letters from women who were screened through the state programs. The document was presented to the National Program Director at the annual Program Directors’ meeting in 2012. Below is a sample of some of New Hampshire’s letters:

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being provided preventive healthcare today through your program. I never imagined that I would be in the financial and career situation that I am in and that I would need to accept charity.”

“Thank you so much for letting me a part of your ‘Let No Woman be Overlooked’ program during my hard times. It was great for me having that program as I probably would have let my mammograms slide because I couldn’t afford them. Thank you for always being kind and gracious and making me feel special.”

“The BCCP is responsible for my early diagnosis of breast cancer. Dealing with cancer at any stage I’m sure can be overwhelming to anyone....Your program does a great service for women like myself who probably wouldn’t have been back to a doctor for a long time. Thank you for your kindness and help in many ways.”

“Just a note to thank you for your excellent care! I had no idea that such services were available until I heard from you. What a great, great service you provide for those of us who go without because of cost or no insurance. My sincere appreciation to all of you for what you do.”

- Expanding distribution of free radon testing kits to homeowners by NH Healthy Homes Program
- Promoting awareness among environment and health professionals relative to radon risks and public misperceptions of radon and health impacts.
- Working with private industry to build radon-resistant materials, test homes for radon, and install radon reducing systems in homes.

### Stories from the Field

The NH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program in partnership with the NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration’s (CCC) sun safety workgroup has partnered with the Melanoma Foundation of New England (MFNE) to provide programming related to increasing high school students knowledge about melanoma, risks and sun safety behaviors. As part of these efforts the MFNE has hosted a number of “Teens-on-tanning” forums that bring together high school students to gain knowledge about melanoma, develop leadership skills and advocacy plans. Additionally, a number of NH high schools are participating in the “Your Skin is In” pledge campaign that focuses on getting students to pledge not to tan for their upcoming proms.

### Partners working on this priority

- NH Breast Cancer Coalition
- Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
- Melanoma Foundation of New England
- Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health
- Capital Region Public Health Network
- American Cancer Society

### Recommendations for Action\*

#### State and Local Governments can:

- Facilitate collaboration among diverse sectors (e.g., planning, housing, transportation, energy, education, environmental regulation, agriculture, business associations, labor organizations, health and public health) when making decisions likely to have a significant effect on health.
- Include health criteria as a component of decision making (e.g., policy making, land use and transportation planning).
- Promote the use of interoperable systems to support data-driven prevention decisions and implement evidence-based prevention policies and programs, such as Multi-component

Community Wide Interventions to prevent skin cancer.

- Strengthen and enforce housing and sanitary code requirements and ensure rapid remediation or alternative housing options.
- Increase delivery of clinical services that comply with the US Public Services Task Force recommendations for clinical screening for cancers.
- Foster collaboration among community-based organizations, the education and faith-based sectors, businesses, and clinicians to identify underserved groups and implement programs to improve access to preventive services.
- Create interoperable systems to exchange clinical, public health and community data, streamline eligibility requirements, and expedite enrollment processes to facilitate access to clinical preventive services and other social services.
- Implement and sustain comprehensive tobacco prevention and control programs and protect people from secondhand smoke exposure.
- Implement and sustain comprehensive efforts to promote healthy eating to reduce cancer risk

**Businesses and Employers can:**

- Ensure that homes and workplaces are healthy, including eliminating safety hazards (e.g., trip hazards, unsafe stairs), ensuring that buildings are free of water intrusion, indoor environmental pollutants (e.g., radon, mold, tobacco smoke), and pests, and performing regular maintenance of heating and cooling systems.
- Adopt practices to increase physical activity and reduce pollution (e.g., workplace flexibility, rideshare and vanpool programs, park-and-ride incentives, travel demand management initiatives, and telecommuting options).
- Identify and implement green building siting, design, construction, operations, and maintenance solutions that over time will improve the environment and health.
- Adhere to best practices to promote safety and health, including participatory approaches to hazard identification and remediation as well as supervisory and worker training.
- Offer health coverage that provides employees and their families with access to a range of

clinical preventive services with no or reduced out-of-pocket costs.

- Provide incentives for employees and their families to access clinical preventive services, consistent with existing law.
- Give employees time off to access clinical preventive services.
- Provide employees with on-site clinical preventive services and comprehensive wellness programs, consistent with existing law.
- Support smoke free work site and individual tobacco cessation interventions.
- Increase the availability of healthy food and policies that support healthy eating practices.

**Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians can:**

- Partner with state, tribal, local, and territorial governments, business leaders, and community-based organizations to conduct comprehensive community health needs assessments and develop community health improvement plans.
- Support integration of prevention and public health skills into health care professional training and cross train health care practitioners to implement prevention strategies.
- Increase the use of certified electronic health records to identify populations at risk and develop policies and programs.
- Inform patients about the benefits of preventive services and offer recommended clinical preventive services, including the ABCS, as a routine part of care.
- Adopt and use certified electronic health records and personal health records.
- Adopt medical home or team-based care models.
- Reduce or eliminate client out-of-pocket costs for certain preventive services, as required for most health plans by the Affordable Care Act, and educate and encourage enrollees to access these services.
- Establish patient (e.g., mailing cards, sending e-mails, or making phone calls when a patient is due for a preventive health service) and clinical (e.g., electronic health records with reminders or cues, chart stickers, vital signs stamps, medical record flow sheets) reminder systems for preventive services.

- Expand hours of operation, provide child care, offer services in convenient locations (e.g., near workplaces), or use community or retail sites to provide preventive services.
- Create linkages with and connect patients to community resources (e.g., tobacco quitlines), family support, and education programs.
- Facilitate coordination among diverse care providers (e.g., clinical care, behavioral health, community health workers, complementary and alternative medicine).
- Communicate with patients in an appropriate manner so that patients can understand and act on their advice and directions.
- Implement tobacco use treatment strategies to assist patients' cessation efforts.
- Implement healthy eating strategies to improve patients' dietary patterns.

#### **Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities can:**

- Integrate appropriate core public health competencies into relevant curricula (e.g., nursing, medicine, dentistry, allied health, pharmacy, social work, education) and train professionals to collaborate across sectors to promote health and wellness.
- Include training on assessing health impact within fields related to community planning and development (e.g., urban planning, architecture and design, transportation, civil engineering, agriculture) and encourage innovation in designing livable, sustainable communities.
- Implement policies and practices that promote healthy and safe environments (e.g., improving indoor air quality; addressing mold problems; reducing exposure to pesticides and lead; ensuring that drinking water sources are free from bacteria and other toxins; implementing and enforcing tobacco free policies).
- Train providers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, allied health professionals) to use health information technology and offer patients recommended clinical preventive services as a routine part of their health care.
- Promote the use of evidence-based preventive services within their health services (e.g., school health program).
- Promote tobacco prevention interventions

- Implement and enforce of healthy food policies and interventions.

#### **Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:**

- Convene diverse partners and promote strong cross-sector participation in planning, implementing, and evaluating community health efforts.
- Implement processes to ensure that people are actively engaged in decisions that affect health.
- Inform people about the range of preventive services they should receive and the benefits of preventive services.
- Support use of retail sites, schools, churches, and community centers for the provision of evidence-based preventive services.
- Expand public-private partnerships to implement community preventive services (e.g., school-based oral health programs, community-based diabetes prevention programs).
- Support community health workers, patient navigators, patient support groups, and health coaches.
- Work with local policy makers to implement comprehensive tobacco prevention and control programs.
- Work with local policy makers to implement healthy food interventions.

#### **Individuals and Families can:**

- Conduct home assessments and modifications (e.g., installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, testing for lead, checking for mold and radon).
- Visit their health care providers to receive clinical preventive services.
- Use various tools to access and learn about health and prevention and ways they can better manage their health (e.g., personal health records, text reminder services, smart phone applications).
- Quit using tobacco products and ask their health care provider or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for cessation support.
- Teach children about the health risks of smoking.
- Make homes smoke free to protect themselves and family members from secondhand smoke.

- Refrain from supplying underage youth with tobacco products.
- Eat less by avoiding oversized portions, make half of the plate fruits and vegetables, make at least half of the grains whole grains, switch to fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk, choose foods with less sodium, and drink water instead of sugary drinks.

\*From the National Prevention Strategy, the Community Guide and the US Public Services Task Force Clinical Preventive Services

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WORDLE gathered at Greater Sullivan Public Input Meeting, 9/4/2012

# Asthma

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows the airways causing difficulty breathing. Asthma can be effectively treated. Treating symptoms early is important to prevent the symptoms from worsening and causing a severe asthma attack. Severe asthma attacks may require emergency care, and they can be fatal.<sup>1</sup>

New Hampshire's asthma rate is among the highest in the nation. Approximately 110,000 NH adults (2010)<sup>2,3</sup> and 25,000 NH children (2006 – 2008)<sup>4</sup> have asthma.

New Hampshire's asthma rate is among the highest in the nation. Approximately 110,000 adults (2010)<sup>2,3</sup> and 25,000 children (2006 – 2008)<sup>4</sup> in the state have asthma. Each year about 10% of adults and 8% of children are diagnosed with asthma, amounting to approximately 7,000 new cases.<sup>4</sup>

In 2009, 55% of New Hampshire adults and 66% of New Hampshire children had their asthma well controlled.<sup>5</sup> Compared to other states that have collected asthma control data, New Hampshire's percentage of adults with well-controlled asthma was 3rd best out of the 36 states and, among children, was 9th best out of 35 participating states.<sup>6,7</sup>

## Why is this important?

Compared to those without asthma, New Hampshire residents with asthma experience decreased quality of life, increased limitations to regular activities, and increased health care utilization.<sup>5,8,9</sup> Asthma is significantly associated with several other chronic conditions. Adults with asthma have a higher prevalence of obesity and obese individuals have a higher prevalence of asthma. This increases the risk of obesity related co-morbidities.<sup>10</sup> Both adults and children with asthma have a higher prevalence of depression.<sup>9</sup>

Among the possible reasons for poor asthma control are inadequate insurance coverage, including coverage for drugs, limited access to primary care providers, and lack of adherence to national guidelines by both patients and providers. Tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke are an important risk factor for uncontrolled asthma. Since appropriate treatment is important for asthma control, reduced health care access increases the risk of loss of control.<sup>9</sup>

## The cost

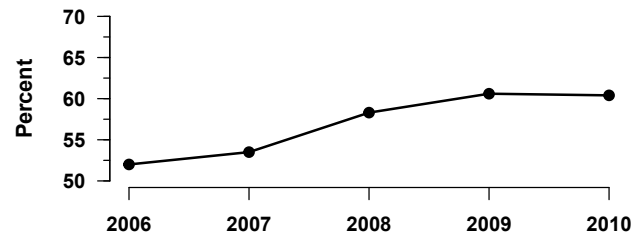
Direct costs in the US due to asthma have been estimated at \$50.1 billion a year (2007, adjusted to 2009 dollars) and indirect costs (lost productivity) at \$5.9 billion a year (2007, adjusted to 2009 dollars).<sup>11, 12</sup>

### Where do we want to be?

- Increase the percent of adults with current asthma who have well-controlled asthma from 54.7% (2010) to 61.9% by 2015 and 69% by 2020.
- Increase the percent of children with current asthma who have well-controlled asthma from 66% (2008) to 74.5% by 2015 and 83% by 2020.

## Where we are

Figure 1. Adults with current asthma who have well-controlled asthma



Source: NH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, asthma callback

The percent of children (age <18 years) with current asthma that is “Well Controlled” is 66% for the period 2006-2008.

## Who should we be most concerned about?

Among adults, asthma prevalence in New Hampshire is significantly higher among females compared to males (14% versus 6%) and individuals with lower income and education levels (16% among those with incomes of less than \$25,000 compared to 9% among higher income adults). Approximately 35% of New Hampshire adults with Medicaid reported current asthma compared to 9.5% of adults whose insurance source is an employer.<sup>4,8</sup>

Until about age 14, boys have a significantly higher prevalence of asthma and a higher asthma hospitalization rate than girls. Beginning in the mid-teen years, girls have a significantly higher prevalence of asthma and higher rates of asthma hospitalization than boys. Children in households with lower incomes have a significantly higher prevalence of asthma.<sup>4,8</sup>

## What we are doing

- Organizing and facilitating the work of a network of asthma experts from around New Hampshire reduce the burden of asthma.
- Asthma Educator Institutes and Certified Asthma Educator Exam Preparation Workshops have updated more than 300 participants on current best practices and prepared them to take the national asthma educator certification exam. The number of nationally certified asthma educators in the state has increased from four to thirty-four since the start of the program.
- Improving Asthma Management series. Sessions on diagnosing and managing asthma have been offered to community health centers and private practices around New Hampshire. To date, over 1,093 health care providers at approximately 80 different sites have received continuing medical education credits for 42 different education sessions.
- Funding asthma quality improvement projects. Health centers and private medical practices assess their practices relative to national guidelines, identify needs, set priorities, and implement a work plan to improve their management of asthma and patient health outcomes. Small grants, training and technical assistance have been provided by the NH Asthma Control Program and NH Asthma Collaborative (NHAC) partners.
- Reducing environmental asthma triggers in homes: The first New Hampshire Healthy Homes Strategic Action Plan was developed by the Statewide Healthy Homes Program Steering Committee in 2009. Priority actions from the plan have been implemented – among them the “One-Touch” home visiting approach, a Healthy Homes website, and regional healthy homes strategic planning for priority target communities.
- Organizing a smoke-free housing initiative with housing authorities and multi-unit property owners in New Hampshire, with at least 10,000 units to date going smoke-free.
- Asthma Healthy Schools: Building and maintaining healthy school environments, the NH Partners for Healthy Schools, a working group of the NHAC, providing webinars to school administration, faculty and facilities managers and working with school districts in New Hampshire to assess school buildings and provide both technical and material assistance to improve indoor air quality, building maintenance practices and asthma management in New Hampshire’s schools.

- Analyzing and monitoring available public health data on asthma to describe the asthma burden and inform efforts to reduce its impact.

## Stories from the Field

### Camp Spinnaker- Empowering Children with Asthma

Partners in the NH Asthma Collaborative, with the direction of Zebra Crossings and New Hampshire’s Hospital for Children, provided a unique opportunity for 22 children with asthma, most with moderate or severe illness. These children experienced a week of camp on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee. Each camper identified an initial goal they would like to accomplish by the end of camp. They had lots of “first time opportunities” including soccer, archery, canoeing, street hockey, junk band and crafts while learning to manage their asthma well. The camp was supported by medical staff from New Hampshire’s Hospital for Children and many other volunteers from multiple partners. Asthma education was an integral part of the camp with campers building their airway models to reflect their understanding of asthma control. At the close of camp, all campers had improved their knowledge of asthma, including airway changes due to asthma, asthma triggers, and use of medications, and every camper was able to identify a goal they had reached during the week.

## Partners working on this priority

- American Lung Association of New England
- Ashfield Health Care
- BREATHE New Hampshire
- Bridge the Gap, LLC
- Manchester Health Department
- NH Housing Authority
- NH Bureau of Special Medical Services
- Workwise NH
- Elliot Hospital

## Recommendations for Action\*

### State and Local Governments can:

- Facilitate collaboration among diverse sectors (e.g., planning, housing, transportation, energy, education, environmental regulation, agriculture, business associations, labor organizations, health and public health) when making decisions likely to have a significant effect on health.
- Include health criteria as a component of decision making (e.g., policy making, land use and transportation planning).

- Promote the use of interoperable systems to support data-driven prevention decisions and implement evidence-based prevention policies and programs, such as those listed in the Guide to Community Preventive Services.
- Strengthen and enforce housing and sanitary code requirements and ensure rapid remediation or alternative housing options.
- Increase delivery of clinical services that comply with National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma.
- Foster collaboration among community-based organizations, the education and faith-based sectors, businesses, and clinicians to identify underserved groups and implement programs to improve access to preventive services.
- Create interoperable systems to exchange clinical, public health and community data, streamline eligibility requirements, and expedite enrollment processes to facilitate access to clinical preventive services and other social services.
- Implement strategies to reduce tobacco use.

#### **Businesses and Employers can:**

- Ensure that homes and workplaces are healthy, including eliminating safety hazards (e.g., trip hazards, unsafe stairs), ensuring that buildings are free of water intrusion, indoor environmental pollutants (e.g., radon, mold, tobacco smoke), and pests, and performing regular maintenance of heating and cooling systems.
- Adopt practices to increase physical activity and reduce pollution (e.g., workplace flexibility, rideshare and vanpool programs, park-and-ride incentives, travel demand management initiatives, and telecommuting options).
- Identify and implement green building siting, design, construction, operations, and maintenance solutions that over time will improve the environment and health.
- Adhere to best practices to promote safety and health, including participatory approaches to hazard identification and remediation as well as supervisory and worker training.
- Offer health coverage that provides employees and their families with access to a range of clinical preventive services with no or reduced out-of-pocket costs.

- Provide incentives for employees and their families to access clinical preventive services, consistent with existing law.
- Give employees time off to access clinical preventive services.
- Provide employees with on-site clinical preventive services and comprehensive wellness programs, consistent with existing law.
- Implement strategies to reduce tobacco use.

#### **Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians can:**

- Partner with state, tribal, local, and territorial governments, business leaders, and community-based organizations to conduct comprehensive community health needs assessments and develop community health improvement plans.
- Support integration of prevention and public health skills into health care professional training and cross train health care practitioners to implement prevention strategies.
- Increase the use of certified electronic health records to identify populations at risk and develop policies and programs.
- Inform patients about the benefits of preventive services and offer recommended clinical preventive services, including the ABCS, as a routine part of care.
- Adopt and use certified electronic health records and personal health records.
- Adopt medical home or team-based care models.
- Reduce or eliminate client out-of-pocket costs for certain preventive services, as required for most health plans by the Affordable Care Act, and educate and encourage enrollees to access these services.
- Establish patient (e.g., mailing cards, sending e-mails, or making phone calls when a patient is due for a preventive health service) and clinical (e.g., electronic health records with reminders or cues, chart stickers, vital signs stamps, medical record flow sheets) reminder systems for preventive services.
- Expand hours of operation, provide child care, offer services in convenient locations (e.g., near workplaces), or use community or retail sites to provide preventive services.
- Create linkages with and connect patients to

community resources (e.g., tobacco quitlines), family support, and education programs.

- Facilitate coordination among diverse care providers (e.g., clinical care, behavioral health, community health workers, complementary and alternative medicine).
- Communicate with patients in an appropriate manner so that patients can understand and act on their advice and directions.
- Implement evidence-based recommendations for tobacco use treatment and provide information to their patients on the health effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.

**Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities can:**

- Integrate appropriate core public health competencies into relevant curricula (e.g., nursing, medicine, dentistry, allied health, pharmacy, social work, education) and train professionals to collaborate across sectors to promote health and wellness.
- Include training on assessing health impact within fields related to community planning and development (e.g., urban planning, architecture and design, transportation, civil engineering, agriculture) and encourage innovation in designing livable, sustainable communities.
- Implement policies and practices that promote healthy and safe environments (e.g., improving indoor air quality; addressing mold problems; reducing exposure to pesticides and lead; ensuring that drinking water sources are free from bacteria and other toxins; implementing and enforcing tobacco free policies).
- Train providers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, allied health professionals) to use health information technology and offer patients recommended clinical preventive services as a routine part of their health care.
- Promote the use of evidence-based preventive services within their health services (e.g., school health program).
- Promote tobacco free environments.

**Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:**

- Convene diverse partners and promote strong cross-sector participation in planning, implementing, and evaluating community health efforts.

- Implement processes to ensure that people are actively engaged in decisions that affect health.
- Inform people about the range of preventive services they should receive and the benefits of preventive services.
- Support use of retail sites, schools, churches, and community centers for the provision of evidence-based preventive services.
- Expand public-private partnerships to implement community preventive services (e.g., school-based oral health programs, community-based diabetes prevention programs).
- Support community health workers, patient navigators, patient support groups, and health coaches.
- Implement comprehensive tobacco prevention and control programs.

**Individuals and Families can:**

- Conduct home assessments and modifications (e.g., installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, testing for lead, checking for mold and radon).
- Visit their health care providers to receive clinical preventive services.
- Use various tools to access and learn about health and prevention and ways they can better manage their health (e.g., personal health records, text reminder services, smart phone applications).
- Quit using tobacco products and ask their health care provider or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for cessation support.
- Teach children about the health risks of smoking.
- Make homes smoke free to protect themselves and family members from secondhand smoke.
- Refrain from supplying underage youth with tobacco products.

\* From the National Prevention Strategy and National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute



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# Injury Prevention

## Why is this important?

More people ages 1-44 die of injuries in New Hampshire than of any other cause.<sup>1,2</sup> Many others are injured and sometimes the effects of their injuries are felt for a lifetime. Injuries are not unpredictable acts of fate; they can be prevented through a combination of strategies including behavioral and cultural change, education, the re-engineering of environments and technology, and effective policy and enforcement. Injuries can affect everyone.

### Older Adult Falls

Every 15 seconds, an older adult is seen in a US emergency department for a fall-related injury. In New Hampshire, injuries are seen in the emergency department at a rate of 4,622.8 per 100,000 people, which mirrors the national rate.<sup>3</sup> Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and non-fatal injuries for New Hampshire residents 65 and older. Approximately 105 older Granite Staters die every year because of a fall. This rate has remained stagnant over the past 10 years.<sup>4</sup> Twenty to 30% of older adults who fall sustain moderate to serious injuries such as hip fractures and traumatic brain injuries. These injuries can make it impossible to live independently and are associated with functional decline leading to an early death.<sup>11</sup> Among older adults living in the community, falls can be a strong predictor of placement in a nursing home.<sup>12, 13</sup> But falls are not an inevitable consequence of aging; they can be prevented.

Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and non-fatal injuries for New Hampshire residents 65 and older.

### Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Adolescents

Speed and the inexperience of novice drivers (16 and 17 years of age) are the major causes of fatal crashes amongst adolescents in New Hampshire.<sup>5</sup> Adolescent novice drivers are also involved in more motor vehicle crashes per licensed driver than any other age group in the state.<sup>6</sup> Despite the fact that the state has a primary seatbelt law for people under the age of 18, surveys show that adolescents don't always buckle up. Results from the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) indicate that, of the respondents, 10.7% never or rarely wore a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else. Although the New Hampshire rate has gone down from 27.6% in 1993, it has been stable since 2003.<sup>7</sup> According to the 2012 New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency's annual seatbelt by physical observation survey, adoles-

cent drivers are less likely to buckle up than adult drivers, at 57.1% compared to 71.2%.

In the ten year period from 2001-2010, motor vehicle crashes were the number one cause of fatalities for New Hampshire's adolescents ages 10-24.<sup>14</sup> They are also a leading cause of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for this age group. Serious disabling injuries from motor vehicle crashes are common and include traumatic brain injuries that can have a lifelong effect on cognitive ability. Not wearing a seatbelt is also cause for alarm. The use of a seatbelt is the most effective way to protect oneself from serious injury and death in a roadway crash.<sup>15</sup>

### Suicide

Suicide is a major public health problem both nationally and in New Hampshire. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in New Hampshire for those ages 15-34 and has historically outnumbered homicides by eight to one.<sup>8</sup> Firearms are the leading mechanism for suicide in New Hampshire, followed by poisoning and hanging.<sup>9</sup> Family and friends of those who died by suicide have an increased risk of ending their own lives. Many others are affected in a variety of ways, including those providing emergency care to the victims and those who may feel that they failed to prevent a death. Thus, it could be said that suicide has a rippling effect in the community in which it occurs, affecting many people.

In an average year in New Hampshire, approximately 156 people die by suicide, 186 are hospitalized, and close to 945 are treated in the emergency department for self-inflicted injuries.<sup>16</sup> Self-inflicted injuries are only a proxy for suicide attempts and it is thought that the number of actual attempts is much higher. Suicide is a complicated issue and never can be attributed to just one precipitating factor. However, it is generally preventable. In a 2008 University of New Hampshire poll, three-quarters or 75% of respondents agreed that suicide was preventable. In that same poll of New Hampshire adults, 81% agreed that if someone were thinking about, threatening, or had attempted suicide, they would know how to find help. These results mimic that of a similar survey in 2006.<sup>17</sup>

### Unintentional Poisoning

A poison is any substance, including medications, that is harmful to your body if too much is eaten, inhaled, injected, or absorbed through the skin. An unintentional poisoning occurs when a person taking

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in New Hampshire for those ages 15-34 and has historically outnumbered homicides by eight to one.<sup>8</sup>

or giving too much of a substance did not mean to cause harm. Nationally, 87 people die each day as a result of unintentional poisoning; another 2,277 are treated in emergency departments.<sup>10</sup> In 2009, there were approximately 132 deaths in New Hampshire due to unintentional poisoning, a rate of 10.0 deaths per 100,000 population. Nearly half of these deaths were due to narcotics and other drug misuse.

Over the past decade, there has been a tremendous rise in the mortality and morbidity associated with unintentional poisonings in New Hampshire and throughout the US. Since 2000, the rate of deaths from poisoning has seen a three-fold increase in our state and a doubling in the country as a whole.<sup>18</sup> There are numerous factors contributing to this dramatic increase including the rapid rise in the prescribing and misuse of opioid painkillers. In addition, there has been an increase in reported occupational poisoning exposures.<sup>19</sup> Likewise, there are a number of strategies for addressing and preventing these incidents that include: surveillance, prescription drug monitoring, use of less hazardous chemicals at work, public and professional education, and effective and timely treatment for those who intentionally or unintentionally suffer an overdose or other poisoning.

### The cost

#### Older Adult Falls

Falls are very costly. In 2009 in New Hampshire, the total approximate cost for emergency and inpatient hospital visits due to falls in the older adult was \$105.6 million dollars.<sup>20</sup> Most of these costs are borne by Medicare and Medicaid. Between 2005 and 2009, the average cost for a fall-related emergency department visit was \$1,959 per patient and \$25,047 for an inpatient stay.<sup>21</sup> Hospital fees may include treatment for other chronic diseases, like diabetes or heart disease, which are often co-occurring conditions in the older adult.

#### Motor Vehicle Crashes involving Adolescents

Nationally, young people ages 15-24 represent only 14% of the US population. However, they account for 30% (\$19 billion) of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries among males and 28% (\$7 billion) of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries among females.<sup>22</sup> Because of the potential hospital and aftercare associated with motor vehicle crashes, the costs can be significant. In New Hampshire, for all ages, the costs for crash related death alone are estimated to be \$143 million, including medical and work productivity losses. Adolescents ages 15-19 make up 18% of those costs.<sup>23</sup>

### Suicide

Nationally, suicide results in an annual medical cost and productivity lost estimate of \$34.6 billion; nonfatal, self inflicted injuries are another \$6.5 billion.<sup>24</sup> In New Hampshire, it is estimated that the medical costs due to suicide deaths alone are \$379,000 annually and loss of work productivity costs another \$161 million. Self-inflicted injuries add a cost of \$7 million.<sup>25</sup> Much of the costs associated with suicides are those in lost work productivity or the cost of the potential work productivity lost.

### Unintentional Poisonings

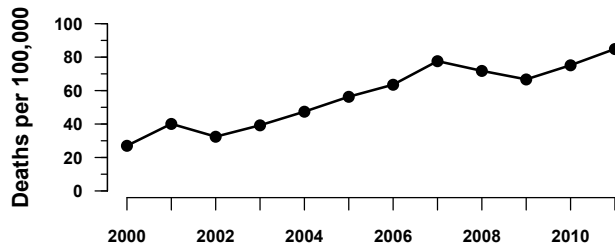
In New Hampshire, the total costs for all deaths due to unintentional poisonings is \$154 million including medical and lost work productivity. The annual total medical cost savings attributed to poison centers for avoided medical utilization and reduced hospital length of stay is \$1.19 billion on an annual basis. Poison centers save \$307.6 million in Medicare dollars and \$382.4 million in Medicaid dollars, for a total of \$689.6 million in savings to federally supported programs each year. For every \$1 invested in poison centers, another \$13.39 is saved in medical costs and lost productivity. Ninety percent of people who call from home are treated at home.<sup>26</sup>

#### Where do we want to be?

- Reduce the rate of older adult fall deaths from 56.7 in 2009 to 45.0 deaths per 100,000 in 2020.
- Reduce the rate of emergency department discharges due to motor vehicle crashes in 15-19 year olds from 1,925.4 per 100,000 population (2009) to 1,837.0 by 2020.
- Reduce the number of suicide attempts by adolescents (self-inflicted emergency department discharges as a proxy) from 559 per 100,000 population (2009) to 511 by 2020.
- Reduce the suicide death rate for all persons from 11.6 suicide deaths per 100,000 population (2009) to 9.5 by 2020.
- Reduce the rate of unintentional poisoning deaths in people from 10.0 deaths per 100,000 in 2009 to 8.0 deaths per 100,000 in 2020.

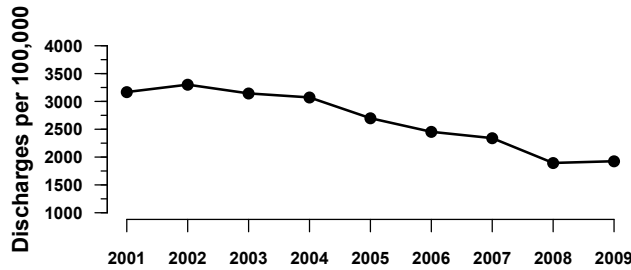
**Where we are**

**Figure 1. Fall-related deaths among adults age 65 years and older**



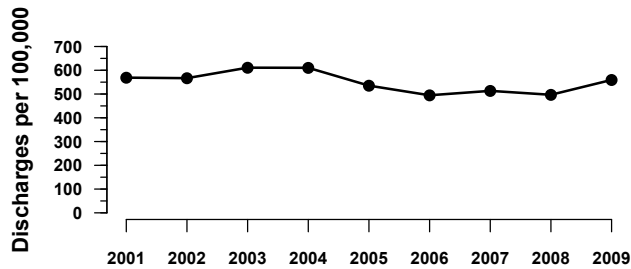
Source: NH Hospital Discharge Data

**Figure 2. Emergency department discharges due to motor vehicle crashes in 15-19 year olds**



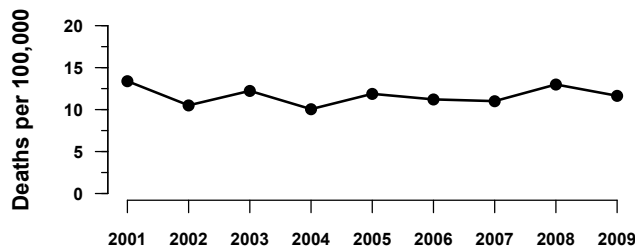
Source: NH Hospital Discharge Data

**Figure 3. Suicide attempts by adolescents (self-inflicted emergency department discharges as a proxy)**



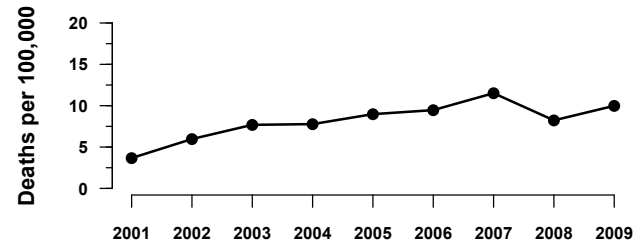
Source: NH Division of Vital Records Administration

**Figure 4. Suicide death rate for all persons**



Source: NH Division of Vital Records Administration

**Figure 5. Poisoning deaths caused by unintentional or undetermined intent among all persons**



Source: NH Division of Vital Records Administration

**Who should we be most concerned about?**

**Older Adult Falls**

Injuries and fatalities increase in the oldest of the state’s older population, those over 85 years of age. Common risk factors for falls in the older adult are:

- Having had a fall
- Taking four or more medications daily
- Unstable gait and/or balance
- Vision problems
- Fear of falling
- Chronic neurological or medical problem that results in dizziness and/or loss of feeling, particularly in the foot
- Depression

**Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Adolescents**

Among adolescent drivers, those at especially high risk for motor vehicle crashes are:

- Males: In 2010, the motor vehicle death rate for male drivers and passengers ages 16 to 19 was almost two times that of their female counterparts.<sup>27</sup>
- Adolescents driving with passengers their same age: The presence of adolescent passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised young drivers. This risk increases with the number of adolescent passengers.<sup>28</sup>
- Newly licensed adolescent: Crash risk is particularly high during the first months of licensure.<sup>29, 30</sup>

Many things make adolescents particularly vulnerable to getting into and getting hurt from motor vehicle crashes, including, but not limited to, their lower use of seatbelts, their greater likelihood to speed and to underestimate dangerous or hazardous situations.

**Suicide**

The numbers of suicides are highest in the 40-50 year age group, but rates are highest in New Hampshire residents over the age of 80.<sup>31</sup>



Males are generally more at risk for suicide than females, but this may be because of their general choice of using firearms, the most lethal method for suicide. The suicide death rate in males rises rapidly from ages 10-14 to 15-19 and then again from ages 15-19 to 20-24. Similarly, male elderly suicide rates increase substantially at 80-84 years compared to the younger age groups, indicating another vulnerable time of life for men. Those at greatest risk are males over the age of 80, followed by males in their 70's and early 50's.<sup>32</sup>

In contrast, females attempt suicide at higher rates than of males. The 2011 NH YRBS reports approximately 1.6 times as many female youth attempt suicide as males each year (7.5 % of females and 4.8% of males). Emergency department visits for self-inflicted injuries by females 15-19 mirror the results of the YRBS in that rates are 760/100,000, about 172 times the suicide death rate for this population and gender.<sup>33</sup>

It has been estimated that as many as 90% of individuals who take their own life had a diagnosable mental illness, the most common diagnoses being depression and substance abuse disorders. Yet a much smaller percentage is receiving treatment. In New Hampshire, approximately one of every 84 residents received treatment at a community mental health center for depression during 2010. Of those in treatment for depression, approximately two thirds were female and one third were male.<sup>34</sup>

### Unintentional Poisonings

While unintentional poisoning can affect people at all ages and from all walks of life, certain groups are at a greater risk of dying by unintentional poisoning:

- Many more men than women die of unintentional poisonings.
- Middle-aged adults have the highest unintentional poisoning death rates than any other age group.
- Native Americans have the highest death rate due to unintentional poisoning, then whites and then blacks.<sup>35</sup>
- For children, those age 1-3 are of greatest risk for poisonings due to their mobility and curiosity. In this age group, monitoring is key and risk is diminished by close caregiving relationships with strict oversight.<sup>36</sup>

### What we are doing

#### Older Adult Falls

- Continuing the New Hampshire Falls Risk Reduction Task Force, co-facilitated by the

DPHS Injury Prevention Program and the Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth.

- Facilitating an annual professional conference on evidence-based practices in the community, long term and acute care settings.
- Co-facilitating trainings on falls screening in the primary care setting according to the American Geriatrics Society's best practice guidelines.
- Informing older adults with a health communications campaign, "You CAN Reduce Your Risk of Falls", which teaches efficacious ways of reducing risk such as engaging in strength and balance exercises, monitoring medication, taking Vitamin D and assessing environments for modifiable risk.
- Reviewing and monitoring outcome data related to falls, including, but not limited to hospitalizations, deaths, emergency department visits, emergency medical services' runs, E-911, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System results, OASIS (home care) and MDS (long term care).
- Training partners in community evidence based exercise programs, such as "Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance" and supporting these programs with technical assistance as they're brought to all corners of the state.

### Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Adolescents

- Working with the New Hampshire Driving Toward Zero Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of multiple State agencies and organizations and is working toward the implementation of the New Hampshire Strategic Highway Safety Plan, 2012-2016, which has a component focusing on adolescents.
- Working toward both strengthening and understanding the State's Graduated Drivers Licensing laws. Graduated Drivers Licensing or GDL involves stepped licensing of novice drivers and has been proven to be effective in reducing the number of crashes and fatalities.<sup>38</sup>
- Increasing parental involvement in encouraging safe teen driving practices. This includes the use of contracts between parents and novice drivers.<sup>39</sup>
- Targeting educational outreach to novice drivers through work concentrated work with high schools in the State, thereby increasing their culture of safe driving. Derry Local Access Television produced a special on teen drivers, which was circulated statewide.
- Updating Drivers Educators' skills and competencies.

- Supporting enforcement of the primary seatbelt law, which currently exists up to the age of 18.
- Working with partners to review adolescent motor vehicle crash outcome data.

### Suicide

- Working with the New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Council, a legislatively created public-private partnership whose mission is to reduce the incidence of suicide by:
  1. Raising public and professional awareness of suicide prevention
  2. Addressing the mental health and substance abuse needs of all residents
  3. Addressing the needs of those affected by suicide; and
  4. Promoting policy change.
- Working to implement the State Suicide Prevention Plan, recently revised in 2013.
- Promoting awareness that suicide is generally preventable.
- Reducing the stigma associated with mental health, substance misuse and suicide prevention services.
- Promoting safe messaging, media reporting and portrayal of suicidal behavior.
- Supporting survivors of suicide attempts and survivors of suicide loss.
- Improving and expanding suicide surveillance systems.
- Promoting effective clinical and professional practices.
- Supporting sustainability and infrastructure of suicide prevention best practices.
- Promoting the integration and coordination of suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.
- Developing and implementing public policy initiatives to ensure the sustainability of suicide prevention efforts.

### Unintentional Poisoning:

- Sustaining funding for NH's portion of the costs of a Regional Poison Control Center.
- Increasing educational efforts regarding the health care and related savings in lives lost and lost productivity associated with effective poison prevention services
- Maintaining the proportion of unintentional pediatric (5 years of age and under) poisonings resolved

at home through assistance by Regional Poison Control Center at 90%

- Collaborating with partners at the Poison Center, and those involved with suicide and substance abuse prevention to develop and implement collaborative programs that can prevent and effectively treat poisonings.
- Working with occupational health partners to ensure workers are educated about toxic substances at work.
- Disseminating poison prevention curriculum for non-English speakers.
- Working with partners to address the increasing mortality and morbidity resulting from the misuse of prescription medications.
- Increasing public awareness that prescription drugs are the most common cause of unintentional poisoning in NH including disparate communities (older adults, teens, refugees and immigrants, low income and those with mental illness).
- Collaborating with partners to implement a sustainable prescription drug-monitoring program (PDMP).

### Stories from the Field

#### Older Adult Falls

Tai Chi – Moving for Better Balance is an evidence based exercise program researched and taught by Dr. Fuzhong Li from the Oregon Pacific Research Institute. In 2012 and 2013, Dr. Li came to New Hampshire and taught 30 instructors in the method who are now teaching across the State. In an initial analysis of data from these instructors, 73% of participants who finished the 12-week course decreased their scores in the Timed Up and Go (TUG) test upon completion. An increase in the TUG is associated with falls risk. 85% of the participants also increased their functional reach assessment test on completion of the course.<sup>40,41</sup>

### Partners working on this priority

#### Older Adult Falls:

- Foundation for Healthy Communities, Partnership for Patient Safety
- Northern New England Geriatric Education Center
- Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth College
- Northeast HealthCare Quality Foundation
- NH Hospital Association

- NH Home Care Association
- NH Health Care Association
- Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
- Cheshire Medical Center
- Elliot Hospital
- Catholic Medical Center
- Concord Hospital
- Capital Region Visiting Nurse Association\
- NH State Fire Marshal's Office
- Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
- Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services
- Community Health Institute
- St. Joseph's Hospital
- VA Medical Center, Manchester
- Belknap Merrimack County CAP
- Grafton County Senior Citizens Council

#### **Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Adolescents:**

- NH Driving Toward Zero Coalition, <http://www.nhdtz.com>
- NH Department of Transportation
- NH Department of Safety
- NH Highway Safety Agency
- Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth College
- AAA of Northern New England
- NH Department of Justice
- NH's Regional Planning Commissions
- NH Pediatric Society
- AllState Foundation
- Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire

#### **Suicide:**

- Child and Family Services of New Hampshire
- Disabilities Rights Center
- Bureau of Behavioral Health
- Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
- Bureau of Community Based Military Programs
- Eliot Hospital
- Genesis Behavior Health
- Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth
- Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health
- National Alliance on Mental Illness NH

- New Futures
- NH Association of Counties
- NH Community Behavioral Health Association
- NH Department of Corrections
- NH Department of Safety
- NH Medical Society
- NH National Guard
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- VA Medical Center
- Unintentional Poisoning:
- Northern New England Poison Center
- Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
- NH Board of Pharmacy
- New Futures
- Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth
- Center of Excellence at the Community Health Institute
- Safe Kids New Hampshire
- NH Department of Education
- NH Public Health Association
- NH Department of Safety

### **Recommendations for Action\***

#### **State Governments can:**

- Strengthen and enforce transportation safety policies and programs (e.g., primary seatbelt laws, child safety and booster seat laws, graduated driver licensing systems for young drivers, motorcycle helmet use laws, ignition interlock policies).
- Implement traffic engineering strategies (e.g., sidewalks and pedestrian safety medians) that allow pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users to safely move along and across streets.
- Implement countermeasures for impaired driving (e.g., alcohol sobriety checkpoints) and enhance enforcement of speeding and other safety regulations.
- Implement per se drug impairment laws (presence of any illegal drug in one's system), train law enforcement personnel to identify drugged drivers, and develop standard screening methodologies to detect the presence of drugs.

- Develop systems to increase access to trauma care.
- Implement policies to support modifications to the physical environment to deter crime (e.g., crime prevention through environmental design).

#### **Businesses and Employers can:**

- Implement and enforce safety policies for all drivers (e.g., seatbelts or restraint use, zero tolerance for distracted driving).
- Implement comprehensive workplace injury prevention programs that include management commitment, employee participation, hazard identification and remediation, worker training, and evaluation.
- Expand and improve occupational injury and illness reporting systems.

#### **Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians can:**

- Conduct falls-risk assessments for older adults, including medication review and modification and vision screening.
- Implement and test models for increasing falls-risk assessments (e.g., physician education, and linkages with community-based services).
- Include occupational and environmental risk assessment in patient medical history-taking.

#### **Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities can:**

- Encourage youth to use seatbelts, bicycle helmets, and motorcycle helmets, and not drive while distracted or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Collect and report statistics on crimes that occur and result in injuries on or around campuses and issue timely warnings to campus communities about crimes that may threaten safety and health.
- Implement policies, practices, and environmental design features to reduce school violence and crime (e.g., classroom management practices, cooperative learning techniques, student monitoring and supervision, limiting and monitoring access to buildings and grounds, performing timely maintenance).

#### **Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:**

- Promote safer and more connected communities that prevent injury and violence (e.g., by designing safer environments, fostering economic growth).
- Build public awareness about preventing falls, promote fall prevention programs in home and community settings, and educate older adults on how to prevent falls.

#### **Individuals and Families can:**

- Refrain from driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs or while drowsy or distracted (e.g., texting).
- Use seatbelts, bicycle helmets, motorcycle helmets, and protective sports gear.
- Establish clear expectations and consequences with teenagers about safe driving, including speeding, seatbelt use, alcohol-or drug-impaired driving, and distracted driving.
- Engage in regular physical activity to increase strength and balance to help prevent falls.

\*From the National Prevention Strategy

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WORDLE gathered at Capital Area Public Input Meeting, 9/18/2012

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE

## Infectious Disease

### Children's Vaccination Series

The national immunization program currently provides childhood and teen vaccines that prevent sixteen diseases. As late as 2007, 374 children in New Hampshire were diagnosed with chickenpox, which dropped to 139 by 2012 as vaccination rates improved. Diseases such as polio, diphtheria, measles, rubella and mumps continue to be a rarity in our state. However, pertussis, or whooping cough, is of great concern across the country. In 2012 New Hampshire had a surge of 267 cases, up from 22 in 2010, but according to the National Immunization Survey, the state ranked second highest in the nation for immunization coverage among children 19-35 months of age (80.1% coverage in New Hampshire compared to Hawaii's 80.2%). The sixteen diseases preventable through the childhood vaccination series can all cause great long-term disability to the survivor and can often cause death.

Over a period of 30 years, between 1976 and 2006, annual estimates of flu-associated deaths in the US range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people.

### Adult Flu Vaccine

Influenza is a disease that crosses generations and is contagious before it makes itself known. Flu seasons are unpredictable and can be severe. Over a period of 30 years, between 1976 and 2006, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the US range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people annually. In 2010, 43.6% of adults age 19-64 and 70.8% of those ages 65+ received their influenza vaccine in New Hampshire.

### Foodborne Illness

Foodborne illness refers to illnesses caused by the consumption of contaminated foods or beverages. There are a variety of bacteria, viruses, parasites and toxins that can contaminate food and cause illness. Though preventable, foodborne illness is common, causing an estimated 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths in the US each year.<sup>1</sup> In New Hampshire in 2012, over 700 infectious foodborne diseases were reported to DHHS; due to under-reporting, it is estimated that over 11,000 illnesses actually occurred.<sup>2</sup> The most common causes of foodborne illness in the US and in New Hampshire are Salmonella, Campylobacter, and norovirus.

### Healthcare Associated Infections

A healthcare associated infection (HAI) is an infection that a patient acquires during the course of receiving treatment for another condition within a healthcare setting. It is estimated that healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) affect 5% of patients hospitalized in the US each year, causing an estimated 1.7 million infections and 99,000 deaths each year in the US.<sup>3</sup> By these estimates, HAIs are among the top 10 leading causes of death in the nation.

The most common HAIs are catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), surgical site infections (SSI), central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), and ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP).<sup>4</sup> CAUTI are the most frequent, accounting for more than 30% of HAIs reported by acute care hospitals. Surgical site infections develop in about 1 to 3 out of every 100 patients who have surgery.<sup>5</sup> In 2009, an estimated 23,000 CLABSIs occurred among patients in inpatient wards and, in 2008, an estimated 37,000 CLABSIs occurred among patients receiving outpatient hemodialysis.<sup>6</sup>

### Why is this important?

#### Childhood Vaccination Series

Some vaccine preventable childhood diseases can have long-term effects. Meningitis can cause brain damage and many sufferers lose their limbs. Hepatitis B can be contracted at birth and may cause liver damage and even death at an early age. Measles can cause blindness. Congenital rubella syndrome in a pregnant mom can cause birth defects. Each of the vaccine-preventable diseases has been a scourge to humans and most have successfully been eliminated or reduced significantly in the US.

#### Adult Flu Vaccine

Influenza can cause severe complications or death for any individual but appears to have a more severe impact on infants, those with chronic disease and the elderly. Complications of flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.

#### Foodborne Illness

More than 30 million people in the US are likely to be particularly susceptible to foodborne disease. Very young, elderly, and immune-compromised persons experience the most serious foodborne illnesses.<sup>7</sup> It is estimated that chronic, secondary complications resulting from foodborne illness occur in 2-3% of cases.<sup>8</sup>

## Healthcare Acquired Infections

HAIs cause increased morbidity and can be fatal. Some HAIs, like ventilator-associated pneumonia, have high morbidity and mortality rates. Central line-associated blood stream infections have a reported mortality of 12% to 25%. Others, like CAUTI are associated with increased morbidity, hospital cost, and length of stay.<sup>9</sup> An increased length of hospital stay and likelihood of hospital readmission subsequently affect personal economic situations. Additionally, HAIs overlap with chronic diseases (such as diabetes and cancer) over the course of medical care.

## The cost

### Children's Vaccination Series

As of 2005, the return on the childhood immunization investment equaled \$16.50 for each \$1 spent on vaccines.<sup>10</sup> In New Hampshire, over \$25 million is spent every year on childhood vaccines to reach the 325,000 children under the age of 19.

### Adult Flu Vaccine

The flu vaccine is one of the most cost-effective interventions possible for the elderly, saving \$182 in medical costs for every person age 65 and older who is vaccinated. The flu vaccine reduces both direct medical costs and indirect costs from work absenteeism. Research has shown that: health care provider visits are reduced between 13% and 44%; lost work days are reduced between 18 and 45; and influenza-related antibiotic use is reduced by 25%.<sup>11</sup>

### Foodborne Illness

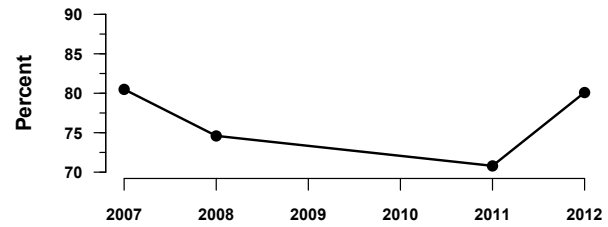
The Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates the annual costs of medical care, productivity losses, and premature deaths due to foodborne illnesses caused by the five

### Where do we want to be?

- Increase the percent of children from birth through 35 months of age who receive complete vaccination series, from 73.8% (2011) to 85% by 2020.
- Increase the percent of adults (ages 19-64) receiving influenza vaccine from 43.6% (2010) to 60% by 2020.
- Increase the percent of adults (ages 65+) receiving influenza vaccine from 70.8% (2010) to 80% by 2020.
- Reduce the number of healthcare acquired infections from 114 to 57 by 2020.
- Decrease the occurrence of one or more priority violations in licensed food establishments (LFEs) from 33.4% to 25% of inspections by 2015.

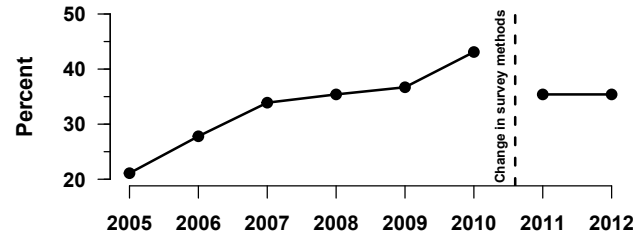
## Where we are

Figure 1. Children from birth through 35 months of age who receive complete vaccination series



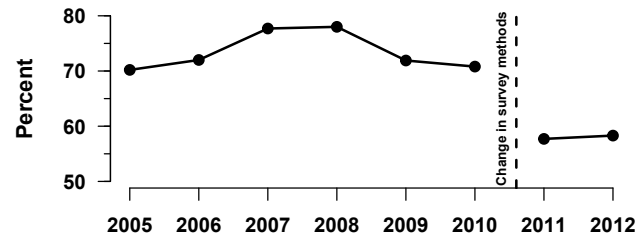
Source: National Immunization Survey

Figure 2. Adults (ages 19-64) receiving influenza vaccine



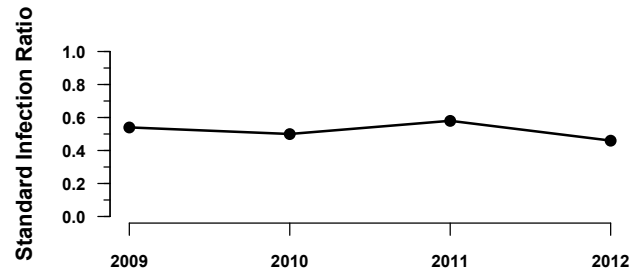
Source: National Immunization Survey

Figure 3. Adults (ages 65+) receiving influenza vaccine



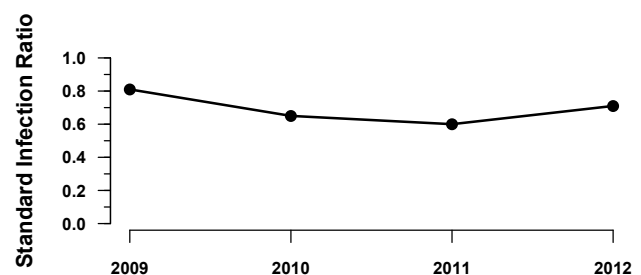
Source: National Immunization Survey

Figure 4. Central line-associated bloodstream infections



Source: National Healthcare Safety Network

Figure 5. Surgical site infections



Source: National Healthcare Safety Network

major pathogens to be \$6.9 billion.<sup>12</sup> The estimated total health related annual cost of foodborne illness in New Hampshire is \$681,000.<sup>16</sup>

### Healthcare Acquired Infections

HAI's are a common complication during health-care and the economic burden of HAI's is substantial and increasing. The total cost of HAI's has been estimated at \$33 billion per year in US hospitals. However, recent studies suggest that implementing existing prevention practices can lead to a 70% reduction in certain HAI's. The financial benefit of using such prevention practices is estimated to be \$25.0 billion to \$31.5 billion in medical cost savings.<sup>13</sup>

A total of 198 HAI's were reported in 2012 in New Hampshire Hospitals (SIR 0.75). The overall observed number of HAI's was 25% fewer than expected based on national data. This difference is statistically significant, which means the overall number of HAI's in the state is lower than the number seen nationally. The number of reported infections is higher than previous years due to new reporting requirements in 2012, which added CAUTI and SSI following abdominal hysterectomy procedures.

A total of six SSIs were reported in 2012 in New Hampshire Ambulatory Surgery Centers (SIR 0.84). The overall observed number of SSIs in New Hampshire ASCs was 16% fewer than expected based on national data. This difference is not statistically significant, which means the overall number of SSIs in the state is similar to the number seen nationally.

Go to <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/hai/publications.htm> for more details about data collection, analysis methods, and HAI reporting.

### Who should we be most concerned about?

#### Children Vaccination Series

Approximately 3% or 3,000 children enter kindergarten in the state without having received all of the required vaccinations due to religious or medical exemptions. This population is at risk of contracting vaccine preventable diseases from a community member who carries the disease, or from a tourist from Europe or Asia who may be unknowingly ill. Others at risk are those children and adults who, for medical reasons, cannot be immunized, or infants who are not old enough to vaccinate. Other groups may be adults who do not seek preventive medical care or do not have access to it, and populations who are uncomfortable seeking medical care.

#### Adult Flu Vaccine

It's estimated that 90% of seasonal flu-related deaths and more than 60% of seasonal flu-related

hospitalizations in the US each year occur in people 65 years and older. Flu is also more likely to cause severe illness in pregnant women than in women who are not pregnant. Changes in the immune system, heart, and lungs during pregnancy make pregnant women more prone to severe illness from flu as well as hospitalizations and even death. Pregnant women with flu also have a greater chance for serious problems for their unborn baby, including premature labor and delivery. In addition, individuals with chronic health conditions, such as AIDS, diabetes, and cancer, are also more likely to experience serious complications with the flu.

### Foodborne Illness

Foodborne illness refers to illnesses caused by the consumption of contaminated food or beverages. There are a variety of bacteria, viruses, parasites and toxins that can contaminate food and cause illness. Though preventable, foodborne illness is common causing an estimated 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths in the US each year.<sup>1</sup> In New Hampshire in 2012, over 700 infectious foodborne diseases were reported to DHHS; due to under-reporting, it is estimated that over 11,000 illnesses actually occurred<sup>2</sup>. The most common causes of foodborne illness in the US and in New Hampshire are Salmonella, *Compylobacter*, and norovirus.

### Healthcare Acquired Infections

Patients can acquire HAI's during the course of medical treatment for another condition within a healthcare setting. Medical treatment is dynamic and patients often receive their care in various settings, such as acute care hospitals, community based-settings, outpatient or long-term care facilities, and ambulatory surgery centers. Furthermore, individuals with certain other medical conditions, such as a compromised immune system, are at greater risk for HAI due to frequent hospitalizations, readmissions, facility transfers, and other underlying factors.

### What we are doing

#### Children's Vaccination Series

- Implementing and evaluating school based influenza clinics.
- Identifying the need for provision of additional childhood vaccines in school settings.
- Conducting surveys of immunizations in schools and child care annually to determine compliance with required vaccinations.

## Adult Flu Vaccine

- Providing technical assistance and education to vaccination providers to improve vaccination coverage.
- Implementing reminder and recall interventions to improve vaccination coverage.
- Providing consolidated immunization histories for use by a vaccination provider in determining appropriate client vaccinations.
- Aggregating data on vaccinations for use in surveil-

lance and program operations, and in guiding public health action.

## Foodborne Illness

- Ensuring compliance with safe food protocols through licensing and inspection of food establishments.
- Providing on-site education to food establishments for long-term adherence to safe food practices.
- Ensuring that food safety regulations are modeled after most current science and federal regulations.

### Stories from the Field

#### Food Safety

Television shows like *Restaurant Impossible* and *Bar Rescue* have gained a lot of attention for exposing deplorable conditions in food establishments. The New Hampshire Department of Health of Health and Human Services Food Protection Section wants consumers to know these conditions are not common place. New Hampshire state food inspectors complete more than 5,000 inspections each year of everything from restaurants and mobile food units to grocery stores, cafeterias, and schools. Eight food inspectors cover almost 5,000 food establishments across the state.

Sharon Wogaman, who has worked for the state for 19 years, is responsible for inspecting 600 food establishments in northern New Hampshire. Sharon makes the best use of the limited time she has to conduct inspections. As high risk establishments may only be inspected once a year, she tries to make sure the managers understand the most risky elements of the food service so they are doing the right things when she is not there.

Armed with thermometers, chemical test strips and a flashlight, Sharon focuses on making sure food is cooked to and held at proper temperatures, employees are practicing good hygiene and food is being produced under sanitary conditions. "If I find that a refrigerator is not working, I work to correct the problem during the inspection and make sure employees understand that temperature control is important to keep from making their customers sick. We also discuss ways that temperatures can be monitored daily at the restaurant."

New Hampshire state food inspectors spend time to educate food service workers on how to control the things that could lead to someone getting sick from the food that they make. "For many reasons, it is often lack of awareness that there is a problem. No one wakes up in the morning with the plan of making their customers sick," says Sharon. Although she admits it's not always an easy job, Sharon recognizes that by helping people to better understand how to keep their food operations in check she is protecting the health of the public by reducing the risk of foodborne illness.

### Stories from the Field

#### Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAI)

In late September, the NH HAI program received a call from a New Hampshire ambulatory surgery center (ASC) about a recall of glucocorticoid steroid injections compounded by New England Compounding Center. Information about this recall, and an associated outbreak of fungal meningitis, was also received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through subsequent national calls.

Immediately, the HAI Program and other Bureau of Infectious Disease Control (BIDC) staff initiated an investigation. By collaborating with the local ASC to notify exposed patients, alerting infectious disease and other clinicians about this national outbreak and locally exposed patients, ensuring symptomatic patients had access to care, and coordinating specimen testing through the public health lab and CDC, people exposed to this contaminated product were notified and advised of risks and treatment options.

In New Hampshire, 14 cases were identified out of 752 patients exposed to the affected compound. Nationally, 20 states identified cases of fungal infection. Currently, there are 749 cases and 61 deaths out of 13,534 patients at risk (as of July 1st, 2013).

This response was unprecedented in its scope, duration, and clinical complexity and is the largest HAI outbreak in US history. Investigation is still ongoing because the predominant organism has an unknown clinical course in healthy individuals.

This outbreak highlights the importance of public health departments and private partnerships in preventing and investigating HAI outbreaks. In New Hampshire, the HAI program infrastructure helped activate investigation activities, provided epidemiology capacity, and worked closely with other BIDC sections and state partners. BIDC staff continue to work with the NH Board of Pharmacy when notified of concerning drug recalls and are currently developing an investigation protocol that can be used during future outbreak investigations involving contaminated medication.



- Providing education to the general public on safe food practices and alerts of recalls.
- Educating healthcare providers and laboratories to enhance knowledge of reportable foodborne illness.
- Monitoring and evaluating suspect or probable cases and clusters of foodborne illness.
- Supporting outbreak investigations through timely provision of laboratory and epidemiological information.
- Monitoring trends in food borne illness reoccurrence in the state and investigating potential outbreaks, identifying source and prevent further illness.

## Healthcare Acquired Infections

- Tracking and providing reported healthcare associated infections data to hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.
- Supporting outbreak investigations through provision of clinical guidance and epidemiological support.
- Promoting and providing infection prevention training to healthcare providers on topics such as injection safety and standard precautions.
- Collaborating with partners to expand opportunities for provider and public education concerning infection prevention.

## Partners working on this priority

### Immunization:

- Hospital Systems
- Medical Providers
- School Systems
- NH Medical society and New Hampshire Nurses Association
- NH Vaccine Association
- Childcare Agencies

### Healthcare Acquired Infections

- NH Hospital Association
- NH Ambulatory Surgery Association
- Northeast Healthcare Quality Foundation
- Foundation for Healthy Communities/Partnership for Patients
- NH Patient Voices
- NH Infection Control and Epidemiology Professionals
- Infection Control Practitioners (ICPs) and HAI reporting contacts in New Hampshire hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs), and long-term care facilities.

## Recommendations for Action\*

### State and Local Governments can:

- Increase delivery of clinical preventive services, including childhood immunizations and influenza vaccination as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), by Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers.
- Foster collaboration among community-based organizations, the education and faith-based sectors, businesses, and clinicians to identify underserved groups and implement programs to improve access to preventive services.
- Create interoperable systems to exchange clinical, public health and community data, streamline eligibility requirements, and expedite enrollment processes to facilitate access to clinical preventive services and other social services.
- Expand the use of community health workers and home visiting programs.

### Businesses and Employers can:

- Offer health coverage that provides employees and their families with access to a range of clinical preventive services with no or reduced out-of-pocket costs.
- Provide incentives for employees and their families to access clinical preventive services, consistent with existing law.
- Give employees time off to access clinical preventive services.
- Provide employees with on-site clinical preventive services and comprehensive wellness programs, consistent with existing law.
- Provide easy-to-use employee information about clinical preventive services covered under the Affordable Care Act.

### Health Care Systems, Insurers and Clinicians can:

- Inform patients about the benefits of preventive services and offer recommended clinical preventive services, including immunizations, as a routine part of care.
- Adopt and use certified electronic health records and personal health records.
- Adopt medical home or team-based care models.

- Reduce or eliminate client out-of-pocket costs for certain preventive services, as required for most health plans by the Affordable Care Act, and educate and encourage enrollees to access these services.
- Establish patient (e.g., mailing cards, sending e-mails, or making phone calls when a patient is due for a preventive health service) and clinical (e.g., electronic health records with reminders or cues, chart stickers, vital signs stamps, medical record flow sheets) reminder systems for preventive services.
- Expand hours of operation, provide child care, offer services in convenient locations (e.g., near workplaces), or use community or retail sites to provide preventive services.
- Create linkages with and connect patients to community resources (e.g., tobacco quitlines), family support, and education programs.
- Facilitate coordination among diverse care providers (e.g., clinical care, behavioral health, community health workers, complementary and alternative medicine).
- Communicate with patients in an appropriate manner so that patients can understand and act on their advice and directions.

**Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges and Universities can:**

- Train providers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, allied health professionals) to use health information technology and offer patients recommended clinical preventive services as a routine part of their health care.
- Promote the use of evidence-based preventive services within their health services (e.g., school health program).

**Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:**

- Inform people about the range of preventive services they should receive and the benefits of preventive services.
- Support use of retail sites, schools, churches, and community centers for the provision of evidence-based preventive services.
- Expand public-private partnerships to implement community preventive services (e.g., school-based oral health programs, community-based diabetes prevention programs).

- Support community health workers, patient navigators, patient support groups, and health coaches.

**Individuals and Families can:**

- Visit their health care providers to receive clinical preventive services.
- Use various tools to access and learn about health and prevention and ways they can better manage their health (e.g., personal health records, text reminder services, smart phone applications).

\*From the National Prevention Strategy

**Recommendations for Action for HAI\*\***

**State Action Plans**

- The 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act required states receiving Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funds to certify that they would submit a plan to reduce HAIs to the Secretary of HHS in order to receive the full allotment of grant funds. The purpose of the State Action Plans was primarily to outline strategies to leverage and enhance state capacity to reduce and prevent HAIs, focusing on achievement of the Action Plan goals. States were asked to address four areas in their State Action Plans:
  - Program Infrastructure;
  - Surveillance, Detection, Reporting, and Response;
  - Prevention; and,
  - Evaluation, Oversight, and Communication.

**Frontline Clinicians can:**

- **Reduce Inappropriate/Unnecessary Device Use:** A large proportion of HAIs are associated with the use of indwelling medical devices, especially intravascular catheters, urinary catheters, and devices associated with mechanical ventilation. Although optimal practices concerning insertion, maintenance, and care of such devices greatly reduces the risk of HAIs, avoiding the insertion of such devices and their prompt removal as soon as clinically appropriate is the best strategy for preventing device-associated infections.
- **Improving Adherence to Hand Hygiene and Barrier Precautions:** Mechanically preventing the spread of pathogenic microor-

ganisms, especially to high-risk patients and particularly for antimicrobial resistant microorganisms, is a simple and powerful prevention tool that requires the consistent and universal adoption of these proven prevention practices in every patient interaction and in ongoing vigilance of the environment.

- **Implementing and Improving Antimicrobial Stewardship:** Efforts to ensure optimally appropriate antimicrobial use have been a hallmark of quality improvement activity in both inpatient and outpatient care setting in recent decades. Ongoing research is allowing for greater precision and understanding of the best use of antimicrobial agents balancing clinical necessity and optimal patient care with the negative consequences of overuse and inappropriate use of antimicrobial agents, including the spread of antimicrobial resistant pathogens, adverse drug reactions in patients, and excess financial cost. Providers and patients must partner to use antibiotics only when needed and completing scheduled doses appropriately.

**Clinical Leaders, Executives, and Administrators can:**

- **Engaging Leadership Support at the Highest Levels of the Facility:** A central role for leadership in supporting practice improvements is vital to efforts in preventing HAIs and other adverse patient safety events. Strong support, both in terms of personal commitment and allocated resources, from health-care executives and administrators is frequently cited by front-line healthcare workers as one of the most important factors in implementation of successful HAI prevention strategies in healthcare facilities and health systems.
- **Implementing a Culture of Safety:** All parts of the health system need to move towards a culture of safety that includes patients and families as members of the healthcare team. The broadening of responsibility and accountability for patient safety, including recognition of a role for patients and their families, has been one of the most impactful developments in the patient safety movement. Making the prevention of HAIs as important a part of the clinical decision-making process as any other aspect of patient care, and continuing to acknowledge the role of consumers as partners

in prevention – even, and perhaps especially – in clinical settings can have a profound impact on our ability to eliminate HAIs.

**Government, Advocates, Clinical Leaders, and Administrators can:**

- **Enhancing Financial Incentives and Regulatory Oversight:** The growth of the patient safety and HAI prevention and elimination effort has both prompted, and been advanced by, an increasing alignment of financial incentives by public and third party payers. These incentives provide a greater margin of reimbursement for care that does not incur adverse healthcare events such as HAIs. Similarly, accreditation, certification, and other regulatory oversight increasingly incorporate adherence to proven HAI prevention practices in the inspection process. This has promoted adherence to best practices and facilitated decision-making that rewards prevention.
- **Implementing System-Based Approaches and Evidence-Based Guidelines:** A number of authors and organizations have demonstrated the value of system-based approaches to improving healthcare and preventing medical errors and adverse healthcare events, including HAIs. These approaches, based on human factors research in the social sciences as much as on the traditional medical sciences, have led to significant improvements in patient outcomes in many different types of facilities in a variety of settings. Introducing checklists and standardizing care or protocols for procedures associated with HAI incidence (i.e., catheter insertion) have been helpful in reducing infections and promoting stronger healthcare teams.
- **Achieving Better Use of Technology:** Technological advances are very powerful tools in the effort to eliminate HAIs. Improvements in medical devices, supplies, equipment, and antimicrobial compounds can impede colonization of indwelling catheters, improve the effectiveness of barrier precautions, enhance compliance with and the effectiveness of hand hygiene, and decrease the risk of cross-infection due to contamination of the environment. The advance of information technology and the rapidly increasing application of digital technologies to medical records, healthcare management, and healthcare administration are of particular importance now. Thoughtful

applications of computer-based records and systems (e.g., computerized physician order entry) have shown their value in improving patient care and patient safety, including HAI prevention and elimination. In addition, information technology tools need to be appropriate for smaller, rural, or under-resourced hospitals and the timeliness of data feedback must be improved for real-time improvements.

- **Improving Public Reporting of Credible Data:** Elimination of HAIs will require “a clear national will to succeed in this area.”[25] Public reporting of HAI data has been a vital factor in focusing the attention of both the general public and healthcare professionals and administrators on the scope and magnitude of the problem. Assuring the validity of reported and published data is a responsibility of all parties in the data collection and reporting process. The continued dissemination of trusted, reliable, and credible data can provide an ongoing stimulus for the HAI prevention effort. The goal is to report actionable, timely data that multi-sector stakeholders can readily use for multiple purposes.
- **Enhancing Traditional and Non-Traditional Partnerships:** The modern patient safety movement has succeeded in engaging the attention of everyone who works in or seeks care from the health system. Continuing awareness of this problem is prompting an ever-growing network of committed individuals and organizations. Some of these partners have been traditional advocates for infection control for many decades; others, including consumers, are newly empowered and exercising an increasingly important role. The network and partnerships involving care providers, health professionals, public health officials, academia, industry, payers, employers, and patients and their families have provided both the capacity and commitment that has led to the call for the elimination of HAIs. Meaningful partnerships across sectors could uncover innovative ways to improve patient safety across the continuum of care.
- Integrate information systems to monitor and report HAIs.
- Create policy options for linking payment incentives or disincentives to quality of care

and enhancing regulatory oversight of hospitals.

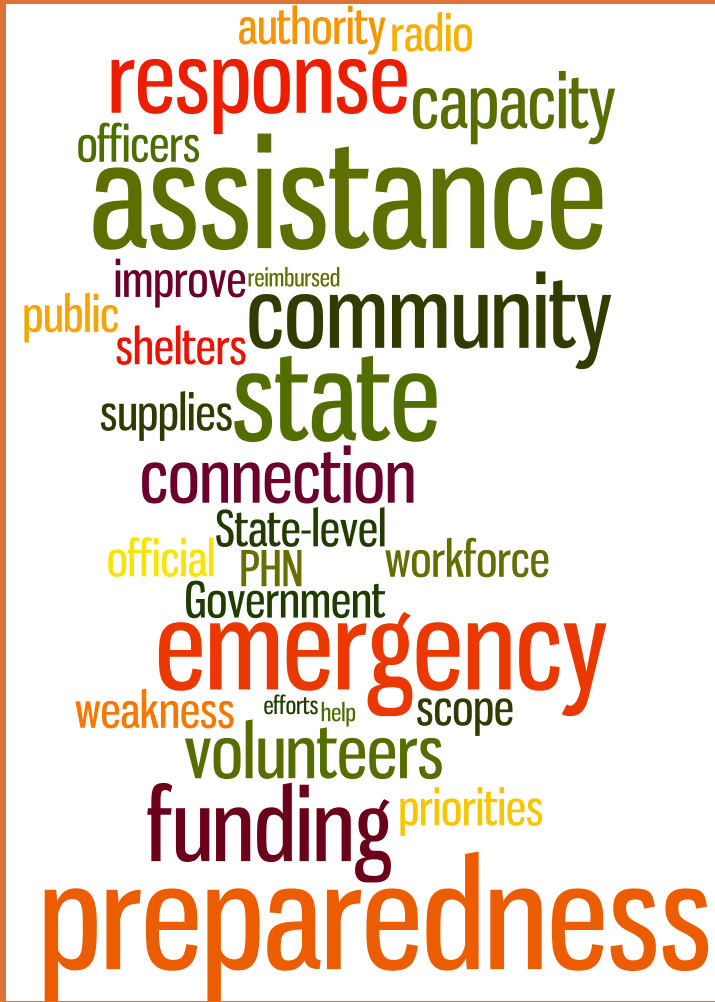
- Develop a national messaging and communications plan to raise awareness of HAIs among the general public.
- Implement HAI prevention strategies among healthcare personnel.

\*\*National Action Plan to Prevent Health Care-Associated Infections: Strategies for States and HC Systems

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# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



WORDLE gathered at Franklin/Bristol Public Input Meeting, 9/6/2012



## Emergency Preparedness

Public health threats are all around us. They may be natural, accidental, or even intentional. Being prepared to prevent, respond to, and rapidly recover from a public health threat is critical for protecting the public's health. Public health emergencies and natural disasters with public health, healthcare, and behavioral health system impact do not discriminate, so the effect is across the life span.

New Hampshire's primary preparedness strategy is to identify opportunities to align currently existing resources in order to meet operational needs. New Hampshire is well positioned to coordinate all state-wide activities in order to support the State's response during an emergency. Collaborative work among agencies is crucial and already exists in the coordination of response among the Department of Health and Human Services' Emergency Services Unit (ESU) and Division of Public Health Services (DPHS); the Department of Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM); and regional and local partners.

In the event of a public health emergency, multiple entities mount a response in a coordinated manner. Emergency preparedness has been demonstrated in several instances; the distribution of H1N1 pandemic vaccine in 2009 through hospital systems and public health clinics administering over 200,000 vaccinations; a response to a gastrointestinal anthrax case in Durham which unified multiple local, state and federal agencies to manage the response including the closure and subsequent decontamination of a building; in 2012 over 700 patients were exposed to a contaminated medication from a compound pharmacy resulting in 14 cases of fungal infection; and the Hepatitis C outbreak affecting 32 patients at Exeter Hospital, testing over 4,000 persons, involving over 150 statewide responders and lasting for one year ending in June 2013.

Emergency Preparedness activities are broad and span across many disciplines statewide. Key goals for emergency preparedness in the NH SHIP include: engagement of key stakeholders; information sharing to promote and maintain situational awareness during an event; and timely and effective response, specifically related to dispensing and distribution of countermeasures. Every emergency response is unique and each event varies in scope, impact, resource demand and required expertise.

## Why is this important?

Health security relies on actions by individuals and communities as well as governments. An essential component of being prepared is to assure that community partners are aware of their potential risks and have public health emergency response plans that address the needs of their communities (National Health Security Strategy). For DPHS, planning, training and coordinating a systematic response during a public health emergency is crucial. DPHS staff completed trainings from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the national incident management system (NIMS) incident command system (ICS). FEMA offers trainings to local fire and safety officials as well other agencies. NIMS provides a common and consistent framework during a response while ICS provides the structure and organization of roles. Having the proper training and knowledge of ICS will ensure the execution of a systematic approach to managing a public health threat or incident. DPHS has identified an Incident Management Team (IMT) of staff with assigned ICS roles. The IMT has been activated for both drills and real events and unannounced assembly of the IMT has occurred in less than 18 minutes.

As a result of the combined efforts of many agencies, prepared communities are aware of their potential risks and what is expected from community members before and after an adverse incident and, in turn, of what they can expect from local, state, and federal government and other responders, including non-governmental organizations. Empowered communities have contingency plans, communications plans, and provisions in place to shelter, sustain, and provide medical and other care for the entire community, including at-risk individuals; they also have community members who are actively engaged in local decision-making. Empowered individuals have the information and skills they need to protect their health and safety. A foundation of effective routine health promotion and access to health services is needed to support healthy and resilient individuals and communities and thereby support national health security.

NH is structured into 13 Public Health Networks (PHN) in order to build community capacity to respond during emergencies. The PHN is comprised of community-based partnerships involving broad public health interests, including local health departments and health officers, health care providers, social service agencies, schools, fire, police, emergency medical services, media and advocacy groups, behavioral health, and leaders in the business, government,

and faith communities, working together to address complex public health issues.

A key capability that is needed during an emergency is the capacity to request, collect and analyze health data to maintain situational awareness of the health threats in order to improve the effectiveness of the response. (National Health Security Strategy) DPHS performs surveillance during weather related events, such as looking at carbon monoxide exposures and people who visit the emergency department. This data is tracked using a surveillance system called Automated Hospital Emergency Department Data (AHEDD). Reports are built using real time syndromic surveillance data. Additionally, data are analyzed and reports are provided during extreme heat and cold conditions to describe potential or actual health impact. For example, with extreme heat conditions, data is analyzed for the number of people who visit an emergency department with dehydration. This data provides information to stakeholders so they can assess resources in a community, such as if a shelter or a cooling center needs to be opened. Surveillance data reports are an important piece of information to responders.

Regardless of whether an emergency results from a natural disaster, an infectious disease outbreak, or a chemical or radiological release, key response entities must ensure a coordinated response. The ability to quickly notify and assemble state and local partners is essential to improve our capacity statewide and achieve an optimal response to an incident. In the context of health incidents, operational situational awareness captures information related to health threats and health system resources and thus informs and improves prevention, protection, response, and recovery operations and, ultimately, health outcomes. Situational awareness requires the ability to tap into data from relevant sources; the efficient use of appropriate information technologies and means of data exchanges; health surveillance and laboratory capacity that can be stepped up to meet surge needs during an incident; effective coordination of information sharing across federal, state, and local entities to create a common operating picture; and the active use of information to make timely and well-informed decisions. A robust and integrated biosurveillance capability and effective leveraging of information in the private sector health care delivery system is especially important.

While continued information technology systems development is aimed at establishing standardized data elements for information sharing that may occur in the future, the principal mechanism to share

information is the Health Alert Network (HAN) Communicator!NXT system. The Communicator!NXT is used to send important health alerts via electronic devices to specified groups. Recipients of the health alert messages include over 8,000 individuals, such as physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, hospital emergency departments, local health departments, local public health responders, public health volunteers, specialists, and health officers. In 2012, thirty-one health alert messages were sent by DPHS.

New Hampshire, like every state, continues to work to improve the capacity to receive, manage, and administer vaccines or medications to the public and emergency responders in response to public health threats (National Health Security Strategy). Medical countermeasures are the drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and nonpharmaceutical countermeasures that may be needed to lessen the adverse health effects caused by a health incident. In order to ensure the efficiency of effort and prudent investments, an integrated vision is needed for all of the requirements associated with medical countermeasures—from fundamental research to manufacturing, dispensing, and tracking of safety and effectiveness. It will also be critical for states and local authorities to set priorities for how such resources will be allocated when there is a limited supply of medical countermeasures for their populations. New Hampshire has exceeded national benchmarks established to distribute and dispense countermeasures during an event.

### The cost

Natural disasters may cause mass displacement of people and disrupt supplies of food, shelter, water and health care. Costs of natural disasters and public health emergency events may vary widely depending upon the cause, scope, duration and impact. A large-scale public health event such as the Hepatitis C outbreak at Exeter Hospital in 2012-2013 utilized resources across the State. The investigation and response efforts involved approximately 150 staff and included epidemiologists, public health nurses, laboratory workers, emergency service unit workers, administrators, support staff, and many others. The investigation and response efforts cost nearly \$400,000. The majority of the costs were incurred for the laboratory testing and overtime hours for staff necessary to conduct public blood screening clinics over 8 days, serving 1,190 people. Being able to assess a financial impact from an event allows for decision making and allocation of resources.

## Where do we want to be?

- Decrease the Incident Management Team assembly time from 18 minutes to 15 minutes by 2014 to respond and fill key ICS roles.
- Increase the proportion of key organizations identified by PHN that engaged in a significant public health emergency planning, exercising or training activity from 74% to 80% in 2015 and 85% in 2020.
- Increase the CDC Medical Countermeasure Distribution and Dispensing composite score from 71 in 2013 to 90 by 2015 and to 95 by 2020. (NH exceeds the national benchmark of 52.).

## Where we are

Emergency preparedness must include evaluation of responses to identify lessons learned and form the evidence base to make improvements. Following each public health emergency event an After Action Report (AAR) is developed which identifies strengths, weaknesses and typically assesses capabilities based on national standards. Once the AAR is completed, an Improvement Plan (IP) is developed within a target time of 60 days from the close of the real incident or exercise. The IP facilitates reevaluation of response capabilities following completion of corrective actions outlined in an AAR/IP. The overarching intent is to inform and improve future responses. The AAR/IP measure, among several performance measures, have evolved since the recent publication (2011) of the 15 Public Health Preparedness Capabilities. New Hampshire will continue to address and build performance measures data in response to and in accordance with federal guidance. New Hampshire has consistently submitted best demonstrations for AAR/IPs for previous events including anthrax and H1N1 pandemic. As of this writing, the AAR is in final draft for the HCV Outbreak, 2012-13.

Following the Hepatitis C outbreak at Exeter Hospital, a comprehensive public report was produced to describe the outbreak, including extensive documentation of the public health response. Reports are helpful to summarize the response, activities, and identify areas for improvements.

## Who should we be most concerned about?

As with any disaster, close consideration should be given to the populations most at risk. Most disasters, and other types of emergencies, whether biological, chemical or radiological do not discriminate but,

rather, affect the entire population. However there are some events, such as emerging infectious diseases or a pandemic, that may affect certain populations disproportionately (such as how H1N1 affected young adults/children). Improving readiness to respond promptly and ensuring responders are trained and their safety and health protected will enhance capacity to better respond to any event whether natural disaster or large-scale outbreak.

## What we are doing

The National Health Security Strategy framework has two broad goals: to build community resilience and to strengthen and sustain health and emergency response systems. To achieve these goals, 10 strategic objectives identify in greater detail what is needed to achieve these goals and the overall vision of national health security:

- Supporting and funding Regional Public Health Networks statewide to convene and facilitate regional public health emergency planning and response activities.
- Publishing hazard vulnerability assessments to identify the priority risks to the health care, public health and behavioral health systems through collaboration with state and regional partners.
- Collaborating with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to ensure integration of health and medical vulnerabilities in state hazard vulnerability and mitigation plans.
- Providing information and training to the public to promote personal and family preparedness.
- Supporting and funding Regional Public Health Networks and health care coalitions statewide to ensure the capability to collect and report situational awareness information to state agencies during emergencies.
- Maintaining the capability of the Health Alert Network (HAN) system to provide electronic information sharing with key partners.
- Providing training and technical assistance to hospital and laboratory users of the HAN system.
- Continuing to develop the capacity to send and receive data electronically using national data exchange standards.
- Maintaining a state plan to rapidly receive and distribute large quantities of vaccine and medication to the public.
- Supporting and funding public health networks to maintain regional mass dispensing plans.

- Demonstrating the ability to receive, manage, and administer vaccines or medications through state and regional exercises.

### Partners working on this priority

- Public Health Networks
- Hospitals and other health care entities
- State Emergency Management and Emergency Services Unit
- Local Emergency Management

### Stories from the Field

On August 6, 2013, the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control received a report of a confirmed case of Hepatitis A infection in a food worker. The food worker worked in two local food establishments in Contoocook. Based upon the epidemiological investigation, a determination to offer prophylaxis to the patrons of those establishments was made by the DPHS Outbreak Team. On August 7, the DPHS IMT was activated, using the Communicator! NXT. All ICS positions were filled within 18 minutes of the notification. The Commissioner within NH DHHS declared a public health incident. The IMT responded to the event, the Capital Region Multi Agency Coordinating Entity (MACE) was activated and within 48 hours, state, regional and local partners mobilized public health clinics. The clinics provided prophylaxis to over 1,100 individuals. On August 28, 2013 a second case of Hepatitis A infection in a food worker employed at one of the same establishments of the initial case was identified. NH state, regional and local responders again mobilized public health clinics held on August 30, 2013 and August 31, 2013 and provided prophylaxis to an additional 109 potentially exposed persons.

### Recommendations for Action\*

The National Health Security Strategy has two broad goals: to build community resilience and to strengthen and sustain health and emergency response systems. To achieve these goals, 10 strategies are provided:

- Foster informed and empowered individuals and communities.
- Develop and maintain the workforce needed for national health security.
- Foster integrated, scalable health care delivery systems.
- Ensure situational awareness.
- Ensure timely and effective communications
- Promote an effective counter-measure enterprise.
- Ensure prevention and mitigation of environmental and other emerging threats to health
- Incorporate post-incident health recovery into planning and response.
- Work with cross-border and global partners to enhance national, continental and global health security.
- Ensure that all systems that support national health security are based upon the best available science, evaluation, and quality improvement methods.

The following are a list of capabilities that are necessary to achieve national health security:

- Community Resilience and Recovery
- Infrastructure
- Situational Awareness
- Incident Management
- Disease Containment and Mitigation

### Community Resilience and Recovery

- Public education to inform and prepare individuals and communities.
- Public engagement in local decision making.
- Local social networks for preparedness and resilience.
- Integrated support from non-governmental organizations.
- Emergency public information and warning
- Post-incident social network re-engagement
- Case management support or individual assistance.
- Reconstitution of the public health, medical, and behavioral health infrastructure.



- Mitigated hazards to health and public health facilities and systems.
- Support services network for long-term recovery.

**Infrastructure**

- Interoperable and resilient communications systems.

**Situational Awareness**

- Risk assessment and risk management.
- Epidemiological surveillance and investigation.
- Animal disease surveillance and investigation.
- Agriculture surveillance and food safety.
- Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) detection and mitigation.
- Monitoring of available health care resources.

**Laboratory testing**

- Near-real-time systems for capture and analysis of health security-related data.
- Information gathering and recognition of indicators and warning.
- Coordination with U.S. and international partners.

**Disease Containment and Mitigation**

- Research, development, and procurement of medical countermeasures.
- Management and distribution of medical countermeasures.
- Administration of medical countermeasures.
- Community interventions for disease control.

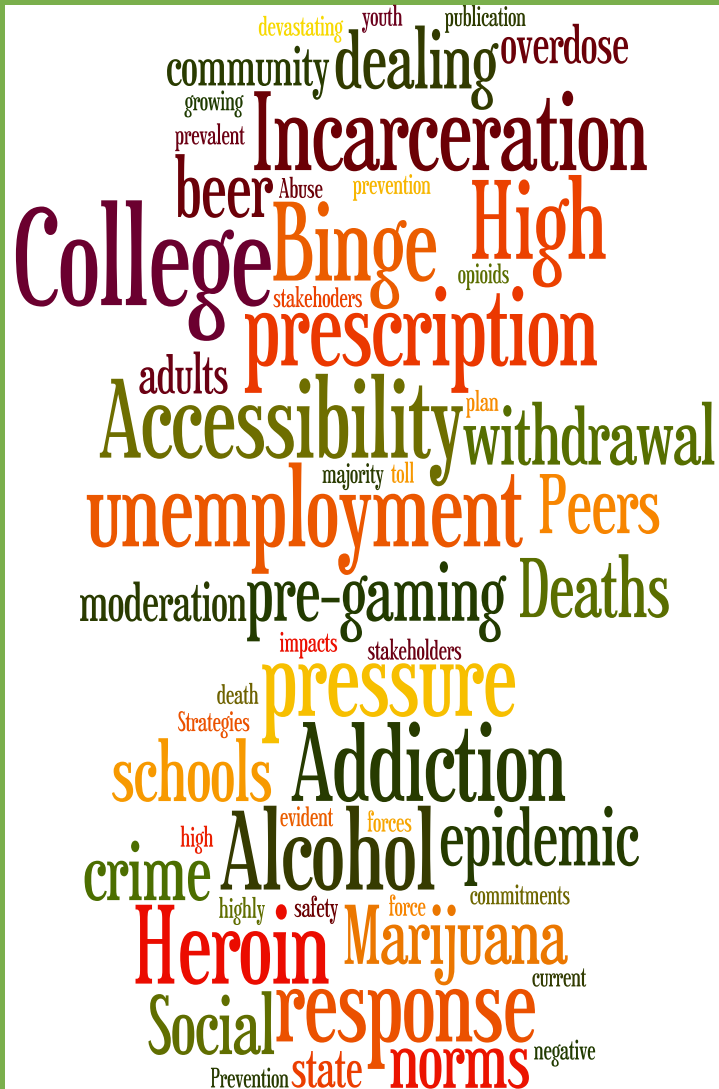
**Disease Containment and Mitigation**

- Research, development, and procurement of medical countermeasures.
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- Administration of medical countermeasures.
- Community interventions for disease control.

Source: The National Health Security Strategy



# MISUSE OF ALCOHOL & DRUGS



# Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs

## Alcohol Use—Binge Drinking in Youth and Adults

Excessive alcohol use is the third leading preventable cause of death in the US<sup>1</sup>. Binge drinking is defined as consuming four or more alcoholic drinks on one or more occasion for women and five or more drinks on one or more occasion for men. More than half of alcohol consumed by adults in the US is in the context of binge drinking. More than 38 million adults nationally binge drink, about four times a month, and the largest number of drinks per binge is eight, on average. New Hampshire ranks sixth highest among states in rate of binge drinking for those 18-25 years old.

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## Marijuana Use

In 2012, marijuana was the most commonly used illicit drug, with 18.9 million users. It was used by 79.0% of current illicit drug users. About two thirds (62.8%) of illicit drug users used only marijuana in the past month.<sup>2</sup> In 2010, there were 364,449 admissions of people into drug treatment programs nationally with marijuana as their primary drug of addiction<sup>3</sup>, a 254% increase since 1992.

## Prescription Pain Medication Use

The death toll from overdoses of prescription painkillers has more than tripled in the past decade, with more than 40 people dying every day from overdoses of opioids like hydrocodone and oxycodone.<sup>4</sup> This epidemic is blamed largely on misuse of prescriptions for nonmedical reasons, but increasing use of drugs for pain control is also a contributing factor. From 1991 to 2009, prescriptions for opioid analgesics almost tripled, to over 200 million. In 2010, about 12 million people age 12 or older nationally reported non-medical use of prescription pain medication in the past year. In New Hampshire, the percentage of individuals entering state-funded substance abuse treatment for oxycodone increased by over 60% between 2008 and 2010, from 11.6% to 18.7%. In 2010, oxycodone became their second most prevalent drug of abuse after alcohol.

New Hampshire's young adults age 18-25 are abusing pain medication at a significantly higher rate (16.78%) than young adults nationwide (11.94%)<sup>5</sup>. New Hampshire's rate is second highest in the nation. In 2011 approximately one in five (20.4%) New Hampshire high school students reported having taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescrip-

tion at least once in their lifetime, while one in ten (10.4%) reported having taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription at least once in the past 30 days.<sup>6</sup>

## Why is this important?

### Binge Drinking

Drinking too much, including binge drinking, causes 80,000 deaths in the US each year. Alcohol consumption and binge drinking can have a wide range of adverse effects – medical, personal and social. These depend on both the overall amount of alcohol consumed and on the pattern of consumption. Medical problems resulting from binge drinking can include brain damage, alcohol poisoning, gastrointestinal tract and skeletal muscle damage, cancer and cardiovascular disease, such as high blood pressure and stroke. In addition, accidents, violence and criminal behavior, poor functioning and performance, and psychological problems, particularly anxiety and neurosis, can all result from binge drinking. Binge drinking in adolescence has been associated with an increased risk of health, social, educational and economic problems continuing into later adult life.

### Marijuana Use

Marijuana addiction can result in health and social consequences, memory and learning problems, problems at home and work, and dose-related impairments of psychomotor performance.<sup>7</sup> For example, marijuana use is linked to cancers of the head and neck.<sup>8</sup> Smoking three or four marijuana joints a day can produce the same risk of bronchitis or emphysema as twenty or more tobacco cigarettes. In addition, the risk of a heart attack is five times higher than usual in the hour following the smoking of a joint.<sup>9</sup> Regular use of marijuana may exacerbate mental health problems.<sup>10</sup> Marijuana smokers are four times more likely to report symptoms of depression—including suicidal thoughts—as compared to those who never used the drug.<sup>11</sup> Pregnant marijuana users risk having children more prone to hyperactivity, impulsivity, inattentiveness, and delinquency.<sup>12</sup>

### Prescription Pain Medication Use

While prescription pain medications are crucial for pain management, their wide availability may also result in increasing opportunities for abuse, as well as a host of serious medical consequences, including addiction. Opioids used in the treatment of pain can be highly addictive. Opioids, used alone or in combination with alcohol or other drugs, can depress respiration and lead to death. In New Hampshire the number of deaths involving overdoses of prescribed

drugs has almost doubled between 2008 and 2009 and the number of deaths resulting from oxycodone has more than tripled since 2000. In 2009, oxycodone became the third leading cause of drug-related deaths in New Hampshire behind methadone and heroin.

## The cost

### Binge Drinking

The cost of excessive alcohol consumption in the US in 2006 reached \$223.5 billion or about \$1.90 per drink<sup>13</sup>. Almost three-quarters of these costs were due to binge drinking. Researchers estimate that excessive drinking cost \$746 per person in the US in 2006. About \$94.2 billion (42%) of the total economic costs of excessive alcohol consumption were borne by federal, state, and local governments while \$92.9 billion (41.5%) was borne by excessive drinkers and their family members.

### Marijuana Use

One of most costly factors of marijuana use is cost related to criminal activity, including police, judicial, and corrections costs. New Hampshire taxpayers spend \$20 million a year for prosecution and incarceration related to marijuana laws<sup>14</sup>. Nationwide, in 2005, the rate of hospital stays for cannabis was third highest (93 stays per 100,000) of all drug hospitalizations, following cocaine and opioid abuse hospitalizations.<sup>15</sup> The National Bureau of Economic Research reports cannabis has a longer mean length of stay than for alcohol, heroin and cocaine discharges. The mean charge per marijuana discharge is nearly twice that of any of the other substances. In 2011, according to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) there were 455,668 marijuana related admissions into hospital emergency rooms, 36.4% of all emergency room visits for illicit drugs<sup>16</sup>.

### Prescription Pain Medication Use

Non-medical use of opioid pain medication costs insurance companies up to \$72.5 billion annually in health-care costs.<sup>17</sup> This includes up to \$24.9 billion annually for private insurers. Individual plans each lose between \$8.6 million and \$857 million a year, depending on the plan's size. Large diversion losses affect both traditional health insurers and workers compensation insurers. Doctor shopping by addicted health-plan members is the largest form of drug diversion, and takes the largest financial toll on insurance companies. Almost half of Aetna, Inc.'s 1,065 member fraud cases in 2006, for example, involved prescription benefits. Most of those were doctor-shopping cases. But insurance costs go well beyond

prescription payments. Insurers also pay for related emergency room treatment, hospital stays, physician office visits, diagnostic tests and rehabilitation.

A typical doctor shopper costs insurers \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year. Behind such cost breakdowns are large add-on expenses. In one study, WellPoint, Inc., the nation's largest publicly traded commercial health insurer, paid \$41 in related medical claims for every \$1 it paid in narcotic prescriptions for suspected doctor-shopper plan members.

Treating substance use disorders is shown to reduce overall healthcare costs, since substance use disorders increase the use of healthcare in general.

In a study published in 2009, total government spending as a consequence of drug use other than alcohol that can be differentiated by substance was estimated at \$18.7 billion nationally.<sup>18</sup> Of that, \$16.4 billion was federal spending: \$7.8 billion in dedicated drug enforcement, \$39.5 million in drug court costs, \$2.6 billion for drug interdiction, \$2.5 billion for prevention, treatment, research and evaluation, and \$3.8 billion in health care costs. Of the \$1.9 billion in state spending, \$336 million was allocated for public safety costs for drug enforcement programs, \$138 million for drug courts, and \$1.5 million linked to illicit and controlled prescription drugs in state spending on Medicaid. \$342.3 million was attributed to local health care spending.

### General Health Care

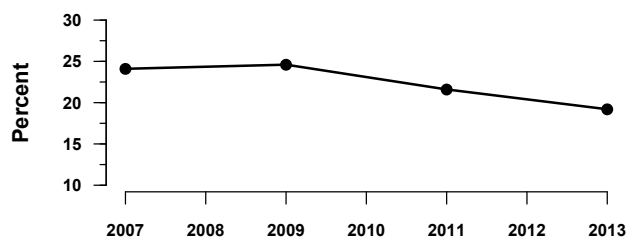
Treating substance use disorders is shown to reduce overall healthcare costs, since substance use disorders increase the use of healthcare in general. For example, a study of California's Medicaid program showed a 30% decline in costs for beneficiaries struggling with a substance use disorder who received outpatient treatment. Outpatient treatment has been shown to have an 11 to 1 ratio of benefits to costs to society. Research also suggests that alcohol and other drug treatment services reduce emergency department visit costs by \$200 per person and decrease inpatient services and mental health service needs. New Hampshire specific research has shown that emergency department use has been increasing for patients with mental health and substance use issues, especially among those aged 15-49.

### Where do we want to be?

- Reduce binge drinking in the 12-20 year old population from 22% (2013) to 17% by 2017.
- Reduce the proportion of 12-17 year olds reporting use of marijuana during the past 30 days from 11.4% (2013) to 7.6% by 2017.
- Reduce the percentage of the NH population, age 12 and older, who report non-medical use of prescription pain medication in the past year from 4.6% (2011-2012) to 3.5% in 2016-2017.
- Reduce the number of drug-related overdose deaths from 201 (2011) to 147 in 2017.

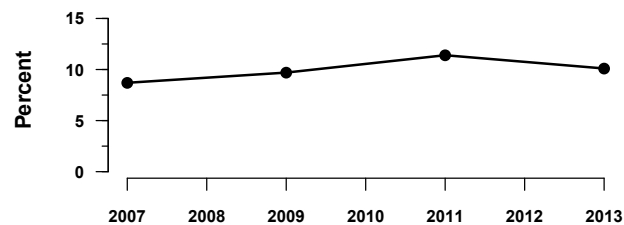
### Where we are

Figure 1. Binge drinking in the 12-20 year old population



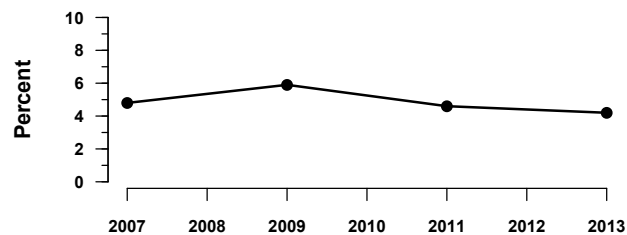
Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Figure 2. 12-17 year olds reporting use of marijuana during the past 30 days



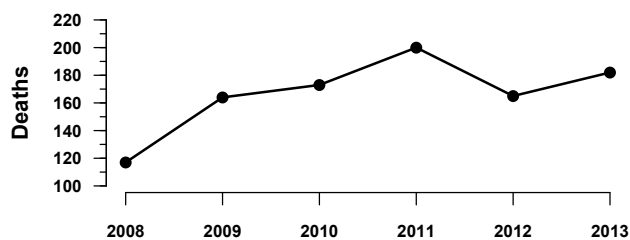
Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Figure 3. Non-medical use of prescription pain medication in the past year



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Figure 4. Drug-related overdose deaths



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

### Who should we be most concerned about?

#### Binge Drinking

Respondents who did not graduate from high school reported the lowest binge drinking prevalence (12.5%). However, non-high school graduates who reported binge drinking had the highest average frequency of binge drinking episodes, at 4.9, and the average largest number of drinks consumed, 7.8.<sup>19</sup>

In contrast, binge drinking prevalence increased with income level and was highest among respondents with annual household incomes  $\geq$ \$50,000 (18.5%). However, binge drinkers with household incomes  $\geq$ \$50,000 reported a significantly lower average number of binge drinking episodes (3.6) and a lower average largest number of drinks consumed (6.5) than those with household incomes  $<$ \$50,000.<sup>19</sup>

Respondents with disabilities had a significantly lower prevalence of binge drinking (14.3%) but a higher average frequency of binge drinking episodes (4.6) and average largest number of drinks consumed (7.2), compared with those without disabilities.<sup>19</sup>

#### Non-Hispanics, and College Graduates, and Higher Income groups

During 1993-2009, the greatest increase in the prevalence of binge drinking occurred among non-Hispanic whites (from 14.8% to 17.5%), college graduates (from 13.5% to 17.4%), and respondents with annual household incomes  $\geq$ \$50,000 (from 13.4% to 18.5%). Binge drinking prevalence also was significantly higher in wealthier states than in poorer states (17.6% and 13.9%, respectively).<sup>19</sup>

#### Pregnant Women

Alcohol use during pregnancy is a leading preventable cause of birth defects and developmental disabilities. Alcohol-exposed pregnancies (AEPs) can lead to fetal alcohol syndrome and other fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs), which result in neurodevelopmental deficits and lifelong disability. Based on their self-reports, an estimated 51.5% of non-pregnant women used alcohol, as did 7.6% of pregnant women. The prevalence of binge drinking was 15.0%



among non-pregnant women and 1.4% among pregnant women. Among pregnant women, the highest prevalence estimates of reported alcohol use were among those who were aged 35–44 years (14.3%), white (8.3%), college graduates (10.0%), or employed (9.6%).

## Elderly

Secondary analysis of the 2005 and 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health was conducted for 10,953 respondents aged 50 years and older. Among respondents, 6,717 were 50 to 64 years of age and 4,236 were ≥65 years. Overall, 66% of male respondents and 55% of female respondents reported alcohol use during the past year. At-risk alcohol use and binge drinking were more frequent among respondents 50 to 64 years of age relative to respondents aged 65 years or older. In the ≥65 years old age group, 13% of men and 8% of women reported at-risk alcohol use, and more than 14% of men and 3% of women reported binge drinking.

Among men, binge drinking was associated with higher income and being separated, divorced, or widowed, while being employed and nonmedical use of prescription drugs were associated with binge drinking among women. Binge drinking was associated with the use of tobacco and illicit drugs. Among women who reported using alcohol, being African American and less educated were associated with binge drinking, but race/ethnicity and educational level were not associated with binge drinking in men who reported using alcohol.

### Stories from the Field

#### Screening and Brief Intervention and Referral

Goodwin Community Health Center in New Hampshire adopted the evidence-based Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) approach for all adolescent and adult patients. Goodwin Community Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center, initiated SBIRT adoption in the spring of 2012 and is currently embedding screening tools into their electronic medical record and training clinicians and medical staff this fall. Their intention is to utilize medical assistants and care coordination teams who will initiate screening of patients 13 and older for alcohol or substance abuse risk. When a patient is screened and identified to have a high risk use threshold, they are provided an opportunity to have their primary care provider discuss their screening outcome within the patient visit and brief counsel on the health implications of high risk use is then provided as well as motivational interviewing to help the patient identify barriers to reducing or ceasing use. If a patient's use history indicates a high level of use, behavioral health staff are integrated into the primary care setting and are able to provide ongoing brief treatment.

## Prison Population

In 2006, an estimated 1.6 million individuals age 18 and over were on parole or other restricted release from state or federal prison and were in the process of reentry and reintegration after having served a prison term of at least one year. These offenders are twice as likely to have used drugs and/or engaged in binge drinking in the past 30 days as members of the general population who were not on parole or other restricted release (55.7% vs. 27.5 percent), and four times more likely to have substance use disorders (36.6% vs. 9.0%).

## Marijuana Use

Marijuana use is disproportionately used and widespread among adolescents and young adults. Marijuana use increased in the past decade among 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-graders, but recently showed signs of leveling off. After four straight years of increasing use among teens, annual marijuana use showed no further increase in any of the three grades surveyed in 2012. The 2012 annual prevalence rates (i.e., percent using in the prior 12 months) were 11%, 28%, and 36% for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, respectively.<sup>20</sup>

Marijuana use may have profound physical or psychological effects especially for the following: individuals engaging in activities that could place themselves and others at risk for personal injury such as operating machinery, use of firearms, swimming, boating, driving, etc.; women who are pregnant or trying to conceive; people who have a family history of chemical dependency (especially children of addicted parents); individuals using other drugs including alcohol and/or prescription medications; individuals who are predisposed to emotional issues and problems; children and adolescents; and individuals who demonstrate some degree of chemical dependency on any substance.

## Pain Medication

Since 2008, drug deaths have increased in three age categories: 31-40 yrs, 41-50 yrs, and 51-60 yrs.

### Stories from the Field

#### Creative Funding that Supports Prevention Activities

The town of Moultonboro established a dedicated fund from the town's collection of fines related to alcohol violations, committing a portion of the revenue generated to prevention activities for local youth. Local governments can explore this or other creative strategies to financially support local prevention and early intervention efforts.



More males than females die of drug-related deaths in New Hampshire. Since 2005, however, drug deaths among females have increased by 65% (from 46 deaths in 2005 to 71 deaths in 2010) while drug deaths among males decreased slightly over the same time period. The increased use of opioid painkillers by people older than 65 is associated with an increase in falls and fractures. Opioid painkillers were associated with a four-fold higher risk for falls than non-opioid painkillers.

### What we are doing

- Supporting and funding Regional Public Health Networks to engage local enforcement authorities to reduce access to alcohol among under age youth and binge drinking among youth and young adults.
- Collaborating with the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment to support polices around underage and binge drinking among youth and young adults.
- Collaborating with the Division of Liquor Enforcement to prevent underage access to alcohol.
- Collaborating with New Futures on efforts to reduce underage drinking and binge drinking among youth and young adults.
- Supporting use of evidence-based practice by community health centers (TWEAK, SBIRT) to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs.
- Supporting and funding Regional Public Health

Networks to promote SBIRT practice among primary care providers.

- Promoting collaboration between primary care physicians and alcohol and other drug treatment providers in the treatment of opioid addiction
- Working with Medicaid Care Management to determine feasibility of covering SBIRT benefits for beneficiaries.
- Implementing and sustaining “A Call to Action: Responding to NH’s Prescription Drug Abuse Epidemic” at the state and community levels through permanent take back sites, a prescription drug monitoring program, and prescriber/dispenser education.
- Supporting and funding Regional Public Health Networks to educate the public in securing and proper disposal of pain medication.

### Stories from the Field

#### Prescription Take Back Event

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) facilitates two take back events each year. BDAS Regional Public Health Networks assist with these events at the regional level by educating NH citizens about the dangers of non-prescription drug abuse and the risk of unused prescription drugs left in home medicine cabinets. This is a collaborative effort with local police departments in establishing permanent 24/7 public prescription drop off box for unused prescription drugs. Since September of 2010 the number of collection sites has increased from 50 to 91 across NH. A total of 24,284 pounds of unused medications have been collected.

### Stories from the Field

#### Prevention Targets Older Adults

The Referral Education Assistance & Prevention (REAP) Program seeks to improve the quality of life for older adults in the entire state of New Hampshire through free preventative home and community-based counseling and education services. Founded in 1992 through a unique collaboration between the NH Finance Housing Authority, the NH Bureau of Behavioral Health, and the NH Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, REAP is the only program of its kind in the state working toward helping elders who have problems with alcohol, drugs, mental health problems, or other life changes. Initially offered to people living in low-income senior housing, REAP services were expanded in 2002 to include people over the age of 60 living in their own homes and in 2007 to caregivers of “at risk” elders to educate them on how to intervene if an elder becomes unable or unwilling to accept help.

### Partners working on this priority

- 13 Regional Public Health Network Leadership Teams
- 13 Public Health Advisory Councils
- NH Providers Association
- NH New Futures
- Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment
- Collective Action – Collective Impact 5 year plan
- Governor’s Commission Prevention Task Force
- Center for Excellence/Community Health Institute
- Clearinghouse and Lending Library
- Drug Free NH (Drugfreenh.org)

- NH State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup
- Call for Action – Responding to NH Prescription Drug Plan
- NH Training Institute on Addictive Disorders (NHTIAD)
- Northeast Technical Assistance and Training Resource Team
- Partnership for Drug free New Hampshire
- 11 NH Drug Free Community Coalitions
- Coalition on Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Aging
- Access to Recovery Program and Providers
- NH Medical Society
- Call to Action - Prescription Drug Plan, Implementation Task Force
- Local police departments
- Division of Liquor Enforcement
- NH Division of Public Health Services
- NH Behavioral Health Advisory Council
- NH Charitable Foundation
- NH Chapter of the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- NH Prevention Certification Board
- Injury Prevention Coalition
- Teen Driving Safety Coalition
- Cancer Comprehensive Coalition

## Recommendations for Action\*

### State Governments can:

- Maintain and enforce the minimum legal drinking age of 21 (e.g., increasing the frequency of retailer compliance checks), limit alcohol outlet density, and prohibit the sale of alcohol to intoxicated persons.
- Require installation of ignition interlocks in the vehicles of those convicted of alcohol impaired driving.
- Implement or strengthen prescription drug monitoring programs.
- Facilitate controlled drug disposal programs, including policies allowing pharmacies to accept unwanted drugs.
- Implement strategies to prevent transmission

of HIV, hepatitis and other infectious diseases associated with drug use.

- Expand court diversion to require an educational or service component (e.g., treatment services) to sanctions rather than fines or incarceration.
- Increase the use of other alternative sentencing and graduated license suspension with judge's discretion.
- Enhance the implementation of problem solving courts such as drug courts and mental health courts through common standards and data collection.
- Require drug and alcohol testing with probation and parole (e.g., urine screens) with certain and swift sanctions for failing drug tests.
- Provide critical substance abuse and reentry services for justice-involved, including support services such as housing and employment assistance.
- Establish and enforce DWID law (illegal to drive while impaired by any drug such as over-the-counter medications, not only controlled drugs).

### Businesses and Employers can:

- Implement policies that facilitate the provision of SBIRT or offer alcohol and substance abuse counseling through employee assistance programs.
- Include substance use disorder benefits in health coverage and encourage employees to use these services as needed.
- Implement training programs for owners, managers, and staff that build knowledge and skills related to responsible beverage service.
- Collect and disseminate data on the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on the work place.

### Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians can:

- Identify and screen patients for excessive drinking using SBIRT, implement provider reminder systems for SBIRT (e.g., electronic medical record clinical reminders) and evaluate the effectiveness of alternative methods for providing SBIRT (e.g., by phone or via the internet).
- Identify, track, and prevent inappropriate patterns of prescribing and use of prescription drugs and integrate prescription drug monitoring into electronic health record systems.

- Develop and adopt evidence-based guidelines for prescribing opioids in emergency departments, including restrictions on the use of long-acting or extended-release opioids for acute pain.
- Train prescribers on safe opioid prescription practices and institute accountability mechanisms to ensure compliance. For example, the use of long-acting opioids for acute pain or in opioid-naïve patients could be minimized.
- Adopt policies and practices to integrate primary care, behavioral health and substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment.
- Improve treatment services and access to services by reducing or eliminating wait times, increasing availability of treatment services for adolescents, providing affordable treatment, and providing a comprehensive array of services to general and special populations.
- Increase data analysis and reporting, integrated community action, and cross-disciplinary training relative to the co-occurrence of alcohol and other drug misuse and mental health and suicidality.
- Promote data collection, analysis and reporting relative to the incidence of fetal alcohol syndrome disorders.
- Promote the integration of mental health promotion and alcohol and other drug misuse prevention efforts, including professional development and service delivery.

#### **Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities can:**

- Adopt policies and programs to decrease the use of alcohol or other drugs on campuses, such as athletic and co-curricular policies.
- Implement programs for reducing drug abuse and excessive alcohol use (e.g., student assistance programs, parent networking, or peer-to-peer support groups).
- Promote the expansion of evidence-based education of school-aged youth in alcohol and other drug risks and consequences, with specific attention to education that takes place over multiple years and at key transition periods.
- Collect and disseminate data on alcohol and other drug misuse among school-aged and

college populations, the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on educational attainment, school attachment, and education costs.

- Increase collaboration between schools and colleges and health, mental health, safety and treatment services.

#### **Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations can:**

- Support implementation and enforcement of alcohol and drug control policies.
- Increase youth leadership in preventing alcohol and other drug misuse.
- Educate youth and adults about the risks of drug abuse (including prescription misuse) and excessive drinking.
- Work with media outlets and retailers to reduce alcohol marketing to youth.
- Increase awareness on the proper storage and disposal of prescription medications.
- Increase law enforcement patrols and surveillance (e.g. patrols, sobriety checkpoints).

#### **Individuals and Families can:**

- Avoid binge drinking, use of illicit drugs, or the misuse of prescription medications and, as needed, seek help from their clinician for substance abuse disorders.
- Safely store and properly dispose of prescription medications and not share prescription drugs with others.
- Avoid driving if drinking alcohol or after taking any drug (illicit, prescription, or over-the-counter) that can alter their ability to operate a motor vehicle.
- Refrain from supplying underage youth with alcohol and ensure that youth cannot access alcohol in their home.

\*From the National Prevention Strategy and Collective Action: Collective Impact, NH's Strategy for Reducing the Misuse of Alcohol and Other Drugs and Promoting Recovery 2013-2017

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# Appendix A: State Public Health System Assessment

## Process Summary

### Background

The Essential Public Health Services were developed in 1994 by national public health experts to provide consensus language and definition of the roles of public health.<sup>1</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) is a collaborative effort to enhance the nation's public health systems.

The stated mission of the NPHPSP is to improve the quality of public health practice and the performance of public health systems. Use of the NPHPSP assessment tool can help public health entities to identify areas for system improvement, strengthen state and local partnerships, and assure system capacity to effectively respond to public health issues.

### Methods

In October 2005, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services (DHHS, DPHS), convened a meeting of over 100 health and human service professionals, from both public and private sectors, to assess the performance of the public health system in New Hampshire. Using the NPHPSP State Public Health System Assessment, version 1, participants rated New Hampshire's capacity to carry out the Ten Essential Public Health Services.

Public health partners used the NPHPSP standardized tool to identify areas for system improvement, strengthen state and local partnerships, and assure a strong system that can respond effectively to day-to-day public health issues such as obesity and to public health emergencies such as H1N1.<sup>2</sup>

Following the assessment, in February 2006, the DPHS convened the Public Health Improvement Action Plan Advisory Committee (PHIAP) to guide a process to improve the public health system's capacity to provide essential public health services, with the fundamental purpose of improving the public's health. PHIAP was co-chaired by Dr. James Squires, then President of the Endowment for Health, and Mary Ann Cooney, then Director of the Division of Public Health Services. PHIAP membership included representatives of the public health community and various geographic regions of the state.

## Key Findings

PHIAP members considered the rankings from the NPHPSP assessment along with other past and present public health initiatives and assessments to set six strategic public health priorities aimed at improving New Hampshire's public health system.

Those priorities are:

- Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.
- Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
- Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- Develop a communication plan to convey the importance and value of public health.
- Develop a plan to assure a competent public health workforce.

Six workgroups convened to develop action plans to carry out the six strategic priorities. Key accomplishments of the workgroups are presented below. The full report, New Hampshire's Public Health Improvement Action Plan Progress Report 2011, can be accessed on the Division of Public Health Services' website at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/iphnh/index.htm>.

## Results

### Strategic Priority: Inform, educate and empower people about health issues

The broad aim of this workgroup was to communicate prioritized health promotion messages to the New Hampshire population in a coordinated manner based on evidence of effectiveness.

Key accomplishments were:

- Developed a collaborative process with the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative (CHI), Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee to assure coordination and consistent delivery of health messages.
- Administered a survey to public health partners to inventory health promotion best practices specifically addressing the concerns central to the leading causes of death as cited in CHI's report, A Pound of Prevention. These are: tobacco, alcohol, physical activity and nutrition.



- Created a website that provided access to the data inventory and other PHIAP information.

**Strategic Priority: Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems**

The broad aim of this workgroup was to develop a user-driven, web-based, flexible system that can be used to access relevant public health data.

Key accomplishments were:

- Agreed on key contributors to illness and death as initial data inventory indicators including: tobacco, alcohol, physical activity and nutrition.
- Agreed to use the County Health Rankings indicators and social determinants of health as a basis to select health indicators.
- With funds from the CDC Assessment Initiative, New Hampshire HealthWRQS, a web reporting and querying system, (nhhealthwrqs.org) developed a library of reports and some health data queries.
- A state health profile was developed and published in 2011 to serve as the key data resource that could be expanded and built upon.

**Strategic Priority: Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems**

The broad aim of this workgroup was to improve the effectiveness and collaboration of community coalitions/partnerships to deliver essential public health services.

Key accomplishments were:

- Developed, piloted, and evaluated a survey to inventory coalitions and community partnerships, and gather information about partnerships, local community needs and priorities.
- The Public Health Improvement Service Council endorsed a document, A Call to Action, which recommended the support of long-term, broad-based partnerships rather than single focused coalitions.
- The Division of Public Health Services began funding prevention initiatives through Public Health Networks.

**Strategic Priority: Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts**

The broad aim of this workgroup was to institutionalize a public health improvement planning process.

Key accomplishments were:

- Researched what other states have done to institutionalize public health improvement planning.

- Developed Regional Health Profiles to show variability in state communities and to identify disparities in health status.
- Completed capacity assessments of the 15 public health networks to show current local or regional public health planning processes/improvement processes.
- Secured funding from the Endowment for Health, the Centers for Disease Control and the Multi-State Learning Collaborative to assist in sustaining the planning process.
- Monitored and made recommendations regarding the public health regionalization initiative to build local public health infrastructure, through the Public Health Improvement Services Council.

**Strategic Priority: Develop a communication plan to convey the importance and value of public health**

The broad aim of this workgroup was to communicate the importance of public health to various audiences to improve the public's health.

Key accomplishments were:

- Conducted focus groups across the state to assess perceptions of public health in New Hampshire.
- Reviewed national market research through the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and others.
- Identified public health providers as partners to spread the message when materials are developed.
- Funding obtained to develop communication materials and place in newspapers and radio.
- Logo, tag line, ads, posters and PowerPoint presentations developed and disseminated.
- Campaign launched in the fall of 2009.

**Strategic Priority: Develop a plan to assure a competent public health workforce**

The broad aim of this workgroup was to develop a public health workforce development plan to assure a competent workforce to address public health needs.

Key accomplishments were:

- Staffing needs of a regional public health workforce were partially identified through the public health regionalization plan.
- Agreed to encourage the use of TRAIN, a web-based public health education system, to coordinate public health trainings offered throughout New Hampshire.

## Challenges & Successes

Several challenges were noted during the course of assessing state public health system capacity and implementing action plans to address priority gaps. First, since the NPHPS is based on input from public health system partners, any limits to participation in the assessment could have influenced the results. For example, participants who attended one breakout could not participate in another breakout that occurred at the same time. Challenges were also noted in terms of sustaining work groups over time, especially since this depended on efforts in areas where additional resources were not readily available.

Despite these challenges, workgroup successes have improved the capacity of New Hampshire's public health system. For example, materials created to promote the importance of public health are still available on the New Hampshire Public Health Association's website. The State Health Profile and Regional Profiles have provided essential information about the status of our population's health. Workforce efforts have provided a foundation for current work by the New Hampshire Public Health Training Center, the New Hampshire Institute for Health Policy and Practice, the Citizens Health Initiative and others.

Reassessment, using the NPHPS State Public Health System Assessment, version 3, occurred through three meetings in May, June and July of 2013. The results of this assessment are currently under analysis and will further inform implementation of the State Health Improvement Plan.

The original NPHPS assessment results, the 2005 Public Health Improvement Action Plan, and the 2011 PHIAP Progress reports can all be found at the following webpage: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/iphnh/publications.htm>.

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# Appendix B: State Health Assessment

## Process Summary

### Background

The Health Status Assessment is one of the four Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) assessments. It is designed to analyze the health status, quality of life and risk factors in the population. Information gathered from this assessment defines the key health issues facing the population and identifies health disparities. Data contained in this assessment can serve as a baseline for health improvement efforts.

### Methods

Planning for the health status assessment began in December 2009, when a State Health Report group was formed to guide the process. The group used the Public Health Accreditation Board definition of community health assessment and the County Health Rankings methods as a framework for planning. The purpose of the assessment was to describe key public health indicators to drive the improvement of health outcomes in our state. One main goal was to integrate various key indicators that are tied to the most significant public health challenges.

The State Health Report group met several times during the spring of 2010. They reviewed a variety of other states' health status reports, and discussed all aspects of the assessment, from indicator selection to report production and dissemination. The following core principles were adopted to guide the development of the assessment. The group determined that the health status assessment should:

- Show the inter-relationship between health outcomes, health behaviors and key social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic status and education level;
- Show the health status differences in local geographic areas, or show that there are no differences and, therefore, no need to present regional or local level data;
- Offer interpretation and guidance for our public health constituents;
- Build a bridge between administrative data sets and other sources, such as survey, claims, and screening data; and
- Describe the state of the public's health, be easy to grasp, and tell the story of the public's health in New Hampshire.

The State Health Report group developed a comprehensive list of possible indicators for inclusion in the assessment. With direction from Dr. Jose Montero, Director of the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), it was decided to keep the focus on the social determinants of health that had been incorporated into the previous New Hampshire state health assessment. Main areas for inclusion were injury prevention, maternal and child health, chronic and infectious diseases, access to care, and social/environmental influences.

By September of 2010, the State Health Report group had finalized the indicator list, created an outline of the report, made assignments for the writing and analysis of each health area, determined the layout for text and graphics, and created a style manual with instructions on submitting content and graphics. On September 17, 2010, a meeting was held to brief staff on their assignments for the project and set in motion the process that would result in a new NH State Health Report. Between September and December, DPHS content experts and epidemiologists worked on their sections of the New Hampshire State Health Profile.

Overall responsibility for planning and coordinating the New Hampshire State Health Profile rested with the Bureau of Public Health Statistics and Informatics (BPHSI) under the direction of Brook Dupee, Bureau Chief. Dr. Montero and Joan Ascheim, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Public Health Systems, Policy and Performance, provided strategic direction. Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, State Epidemiologist, was responsible for working with DPHS programs to write the indicators and present the data. Karla Armenti oversaw day-to-day coordination of the report, and data analysis was completed by BPHSI staff and other DPHS epidemiologists. Creative direction and design were executed by Laura Holmes with graphic support by Christin D'Ovidio. Michael Laviolette prepared graphs and charts. Maps were prepared by Tylor Young. Publication management was managed by Tina Piaseczny.

## Key Findings

### Results

The key health factors identified in the 2011 New Hampshire State Health Profile as requiring further attention were:

1. Obesity among adults and children and behaviors that may lead to it, such as lack of fruit and vegetable consumption

2. Smoking among adults and high school students
3. Alcohol and illicit drug use (including abuse of prescription drugs)
4. Seatbelt and bike helmet use

The key health outcomes that were identified as targets for future efforts were:

1. Late diagnosis of breast and colorectal cancer
2. Asthma
3. Unintentional injuries
4. Youth suicide

In addition, the data indicated that people living in the northern part of the state face significant barriers to better health, which warrants attention. We recognized gaps in the report relative to mental and oral health that need further exploration. Additional analysis by public health region was also identified as a gap, leading to the subsequent publication of regional profiles.

In the “At-a-Glance” section of the 2011 New Hampshire State Health Profile, several health topics were reviewed to identify any improvement over time. The following topics did not show an improvement; in fact they showed a statistically significant change toward the negative. (Figure 1)

In some areas, there were no statistically significant changes, but when we reviewed our rank against the other 50 states in the nation, our rank was very low. (Figure 2)

Lastly, there are areas where New Hampshire’s rates are high, even though there has been a statistically significant positive change. (Figure 3)

### Challenges & Successes

Identifying barriers to a process and opportunities for improvement in future initiatives is essential to a learning organization. To gather feedback on the state health assessment process, staff members involved in the overall development and production of the New Hampshire State Health Profile were asked, “What were the challenges found while creating the 2011 New Hampshire State Health Profile report?” Themes identified included the staffing plan and operational process, data analysis, information management, time constraints, methodological procedures, and report production.

These challenges led to improvements both during the creation of the report and afterward. For example, a revised staffing plan was implemented midway through the process, which freed data analysts to spend more time on data preparation. Another improvement was streamlining the flow of information - it worked best for the data and analysis to be provided to program staff before they wrote

their narratives. Additionally, a change in Health Statistics and Data Management Section processes has resulted in code-based procedures that eliminate most manual editing and provide a complete record of methods used, which has reduced errors and improved efficiency.

Perhaps the most significant improvement resulting from the state health assessment process has come in the form of a new approach to data

Figure 1

Key Indicators	NH Trend		
Acute Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (per 100,000 population)	2000	626.4	
	2007	681.1	
Obese (percent of adults) <sup>3</sup>	2000	18.1%	
	2009	26.4%	
All persons in poverty (percent) <sup>1</sup>	2000	6.5%	
	2009	8.5%	
Emergency dept. discharges for mental health (per 100,000 population)	2000	12.7	
	2007	14.3	
Specialty hospital discharges for mental health (per 100,000 population)	2003	3.1	
	2007	3.3	
Substance abuse related inpatient discharges (per 100,000 population)	2000	310.1	
	2007	468.8	
Substance abuse related emergency dept. discharges (per 100,000 population)	2001	481.0	
	2007	764.3	
Pap test in past 3 years (percent of women 18 or older) <sup>3</sup>	2000	90.0%	
	2008	87.1%	
Ever told blood pressure was high (percent of adults) <sup>3</sup>	2000	22.8%	
	2009	28.9%	

Figure 2

Key Indicators	NH Trend		
Youth current smoking (percent) <sup>4</sup>	2003	19.1%	32
	2009	20.8%	
Always use seatbelt (percent of adults) <sup>3</sup>	2002	63.8%	48
	2008	66.4%	
New cancer cases, all types (incidence) (age adjusted, per 100,000 population) <sup>9</sup>	2000	499.3	39
	2006	493.1	
Current asthma (percent of adults) <sup>3</sup>	2000	8.3%	46
	2009	10.3%	

Figure 3

Key Indicators	NH Trend		
Emergency dept. discharges for unintentional injuries (per 1,000 population)	2003	114.2	
	2007	109.4	
Chronic Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (per 100,000 population)	2000	641.2	
	2007	602.9	

across the Division. DPHS has always recognized its leading role in providing information on health indicators to guide policies, plans and actions at the state and community levels. However, providing this data in timely and efficient way has been challenging. Access to population health data has been inadequate and requires the use of multiple data source siloes, many of which have limited information and require repeated, labor-intensive data analysis. In addition, demands on DPHS to improve the delivery and impact of public health services have grown in recent years. This has created a need for easy access to comprehensive information that will integrate different data sources to provide a 360-degree picture of the population's health, including the role DPHS programs play in measuring and improving it.

To meet this need, DPHS is creating a new Web-based Interactive System for Direction and Outcome Measures, or NH Health WISDOM, which will vividly illustrate the health status of our communities, the actions DPHS is taking toward improving the health of the population, and provide resources for communities to improve their health status. This will mark a fundamental shift in how DPHS uses data to develop health indicators that either inform or measure healthy choices at the community and individual levels, and will permanently change how the DPHS plans for, develops, markets, and tracks the use of its health indicators.

The full 2011 New Hampshire State Health Profile can be found on the following webpage:  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/documents/2011statehealthprofile.pdf>



# Appendix C: What Forces of Change are Impacting New Hampshire?

## Process Summary

### Background

The Forces of Change Assessment is one of the four Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) assessments. It is designed to help identify what is occurring or might occur that affects the health of a state, and what specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences. This information defines the context within which the public health system must operate to effect improvements in health outcomes.

### Methods

Two brainstorming sessions, facilitated by Joan Ascheim, then Chief of the Bureau of Public Health Systems, Planning and Performance, New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, comprised the Forces of Change Assessment. One session was held with DPHS staff on July 9, 2012. An additional session was held with Public Health Improvement Services Council (PHISC) members on October 18, 2012. The groups were asked to focus on what was occurring or might occur in New Hampshire that affects the state public health system and our goal to undertake a public health improvement planning process. Input from these sessions was synthesized and overarching forces of change themes were identified.

## Key Findings

### Results

#### Demographic Trends

New Hampshire's population is aging. The state's overall population grew 6.5% to 1.3 million people between 2000 and 2010, making it the region's fastest growing state over the last decade. It also became one of the oldest—the state's median age jumped from 37 to 41, two years older than the median age in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and a year older than Connecticut.<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire residents had the 4th highest median age of all states in the 2010 Census.

New Hampshire's population is becoming more diverse. The 2010 census showed that New Hampshire's minority populations grew over the last decade, increasing from 4% of the population in 2000 to 6.2% in 2010. The state's Hispanic or Latino population jumped by close to 80% in this time period, the Asian population rose by 76% and the number

of African-Americans climbed 66%.<sup>2</sup> This increasing diversity is also apparent in New Hampshire births. For example, on 16.6% of New Hampshire resident birth records in 2010 one or both parents reported their race as other than white, non-Hispanic. This is an increase from 7.6% in 1998 birth records.<sup>3</sup>

These demographic changes are projected to continue, changing New Hampshire's population, its health status and its public health needs. The effects will be seen across many sectors, including health-care, the labor force, and housing. Forces of Change assessment participants identified New Hampshire's transportation system as a potential challenge for older citizens and saw identifying new strategies to address the needs of an aging population as a crucial issue. Participants felt there were opportunities as well to develop new services and new ways to deliver them.

#### Economic Climate

The state of the economy has been an issue of national interest since the 2008 recession. In New Hampshire, unemployment claim filings had increased in almost all industries by the fourth quarter of 2008.<sup>4</sup> Increasing caseloads were seen for several years across the human services sector, such as the Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) programs. However, this trend has slowed. By December 2012, New Hampshire's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.7% compared to the national rate of 7.8%.<sup>5</sup> Although the recovery has not been strong, it has continued to move forward. But while economic indicators continue to show New Hampshire's recovery from the Great Recession, the prospect for government budgets—both national and state—continue to be of concern to many.

In the Forces of Change assessment, participants noted that the economic climate could produce major changes in public health program efforts, with reductions in funding at both the federal and state levels. Some DPHS programs, such as the childhood lead poisoning prevention program, have already seen funding reductions. This can create a false sense that an issue is resolved and requires a closer look at targeting intervention strategies. Reductions will require public health partners to do more with less, and may create challenges in maintaining partnerships within communities.

Opportunities identified were developing new ways to deliver services, thinking creatively about new sources of funding, and creating efficiencies to decrease the cost of public health services. For example, the DPHS NH Health WISDOM system, once implemented, will provide accessible, up-to-date health data online, changing the focus of work for Division epidemiologists. Clarifying choices and tracking the impact where dollars are added or reduced will be essential in navigating budgetary changes. In addition, using New Hampshire's central location and expertise toward regionalizing functions can be capitalized on as a significant strength of our public health system.

### Political Landscape

The Forces of Change Assessment was completed in October of 2012, with national, state and local elections less than a month away. At that time, New Hampshire's Legislature was predominantly conservative and long-time Democratic Governor, John Lynch, was not seeking re-election. President Barack Obama was seeking a second term, but the polls were not projecting a clear victory for the incumbent. Uncertainty about these elections, and the potential impacts on public health policy, was a central issue during the Forces of Change discussions.

Discussions focused on the prospect of changing priorities in new administrations. Concerns included whether public health issues would be supported and whether resources would be reallocated, resulting in reductions in important public health areas. Other identified challenges were information technology advances, such as the shift to electronic medical records, and the trend toward smaller government.

Participants also spoke of several opportunities that could occur in the wake of the elections. A changing political landscape forces public health partners to be sharper and work to educate legislators and the public about public health and the impact of prevention. Other opportunities that were discussed included: the belief that increased efforts can improve efficiency and the ability to address public health needs; the potential to continue with people-focused policy; and the prospect of people of differing political viewpoints finding new ways to work together.

### Health System Transformation

The signing of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in March of 2010 signaled a new chapter in the history of American healthcare delivery. Heralded as an unprecedented opportunity to transform healthcare in our nation by some, and a travesty by others, the future of the ACA was uncer-

tain at first. However, the Supreme Court ruling that the individual mandate may be upheld on June 28, 2012 was a significant step forward in assuring the law's implementation.

Concurrently, in New Hampshire, the transformation of the State's Medicaid program to a care management system is underway. In response to growing Medicaid expenditures, SB 147 (Chapter 125, Laws of New Hampshire 2011) was passed in 2011. This law directed DHHS to develop a comprehensive statewide care management program for all Medicaid enrollees which would focus on improving the value, quality, and efficiency of services, stimulate innovation, and generate savings for the Medicaid Program.

Participants discussed the widespread changes expected with the ACA and Medicaid care management implementations, the opposition to ACA provisions, and the federal focus on systems development in the face of health care reform. Identified challenges included uncertainty about whether Medicaid expansion would occur in New Hampshire and concerns about ongoing support for direct services. Some questioned whether clients would be able to receive the same level of care with the same providers when Medicaid care management is implemented and worried that access to health care services could decrease if providers become reluctant to accept Medicaid patients.

Opportunities identified were the ability to further develop local level systems, to expand comprehensive insurance coverage across the state and to improve care management services. With more people covered by insurance and better coordination of care, participants felt that the population's health status could increase.

### Limited Public Health Capacity and Ability to Respond to Emerging Issues

The limited capacity of governmental public health agencies was articulated in the Institute of Medicine's 2002 report, *The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century*.<sup>6</sup> The report noted that "the governmental public health infrastructure has been neglected, and an overhaul of its components (e.g., workforce, laboratories, public health law) is needed to ensure quality of services and optimal performance". Investments in public health infrastructure were made in the wake of this report, but these investments have declined in recent years. Since July 2008, state health agencies have implemented a variety of cost-saving strategies to cut expenses and reduce layoffs. Strategies used most frequently are travel restrictions, delayed hires, hiring freezes and cutting vacant positions. State and local health depart-

ments have cut more than 45,700 jobs across the country since 2008.<sup>7</sup> Erosion of capacity affects the public health system's ability to assure the health of the population.

Forces of Change Assessment participants identified flu pandemic, disaster response, and radiologic emergency response as issues where public health capacity is a critical factor in safeguarding the health of the population. Pandemic situations are resource intensive, tax staff and can preclude participation in other Division initiatives. Other issues identified in important, if more routine, public health work included: managing requests for data and responding to funding opportunities with limited staff; challenges to survey work due to the decrease in land lines; the need for accessible county-level data; and the need to streamline some DPHS administrative processes. Opportunities to work in different ways were identified, such as cross-training staff to assist with investigations, and developing web-based applications to survey younger populations. Public health regionalization was also noted as a positive, as communication between the state and regional levels has improved.

#### References

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2. 2010 Census
3. NH DHHS, MCH, unpublished data
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# Appendix D: Themes and Strengths Assessment Summary

## Process Summary

### Background

The Themes and Strengths Assessment is one of the four Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) assessments. It is designed to provide information about what is important to a community and what assets are available that can be used to improve community health. This assessment results in a strong understanding of community issues and concerns, perceptions about quality of life, and community assets.

### Methods

Two brainstorming sessions, facilitated by Joan Ascheim, then Chief of the Bureau of Public Health Systems, Planning and Performance, New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, comprised the Themes and Strengths Assessment. One session was held with Division of Public Health Services staff on July 9, 2012. An additional session was held with Public Health Improvement Services Council (PHISC) members on October 18, 2012. The groups were asked two questions:

1. What do you see as assets of our state that contribute to a strong public health system and will help move forward a strong state public health improvement plan?
2. What are some issues or events that have brought communities together successfully to improve the health and quality of life in our state and that we can learn from as we move forward in a planning process?

Input from these sessions was synthesized and overarching themes and strengths of New Hampshire's statewide public health system were identified.

## Key Findings

### Results

Three main themes were identified that participants perceived contribute to the strength of our public health system. They are:

- partnerships;
- the strength of the current public health infrastructure; and
- state characteristics, such as the size of the state and health of its population.

### Partnerships

Participants noted the strong community partnerships that exist in New Hampshire and the good working relationship between private and public health systems. This includes partnerships within communities as well as between the DPHS and local communities. Improvement in coordination across systems was mentioned as well. Other strengths of New Hampshire's public health system were the investments made by private funders and a history of multi-sectoral approaches to community health improvement. In addition, the State health department was seen as effective at working in partnership with communities, as well as having strong connections to national resources.

Strengths of the current Public Health System The expertise and commitment of public health partners was viewed as the biggest strength of the system. This was noted in terms of a strong State health department as well as the expertise among faculty from the University of New Hampshire, the Institute for Health Policy and Practice and other academic public health programs. Participants felt that partners understand the value of public health systems. Another strength noted was the presence of a fledgling public health infrastructure through the State's Public Health Networks and the new alignment of public health and substance misuse prevention networks. It was noted that preexisting multi-stakeholder organizations are a critical element of public health work. Another asset mentioned was an improved data capacity. Finally, participants felt that declining resources encourages collaboration across the system.

### State Characteristics

New Hampshire is a small state of only 1.3 million residents. It has a small and healthy population, and is often at the top of the national rankings in terms of health. The size of the state allows for close relationships among stakeholder groups and makes for accessibility in terms of public health system partnerships.

Participants discussed many issues and events that have brought New Hampshire communities together successfully to improve the health and quality of life in our state. Notable situations in which this has occurred included: working to build the regional public health infrastructure; addressing specific health issues; and, currently, responding to health system transformation.

## **Building on Public Health Infrastructure**

Work done on Community Health Assessments in the public health regions showed our capacity to bring communities together. The growth of a public health emergency preparedness movement and newly recognized threats brought a new recognition among the public and partners, including elected and appointed municipal officials, of public health's central role in mitigating and responding to emergencies. The infrastructure built since 9/11 in terms of capacity and communications was capitalized on and became public health opportunities. Events that previously had not been seen as public health issues have become so, such as with the ice storm of 2008 and the need for safe sheltering alternatives.

## **Addressing Health Issues**

One example of addressing emerging health issues is prescription drug abuse, which has brought people together across sectors to address it and has resulted in an active state plan. Alcohol, tobacco and other substance misuse prevention efforts have been institutionalized using a public health approach. The Healthy Eating Acting Living (HEAL) initiative is another example of multi-sectoral partners coming together to address a health issue. The Oral Health Coalition has been active for several years to address oral health concerns and work on priorities of the state oral health plan. Infectious disease threats such as West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Hepatitis C and fungal meningitis have shown the need for connections between traditional medicine, public health, and emergency response. Finally, the HIV/AIDS infrastructure and work to address lead poisoning in Manchester were noted as examples of the system's success.

## **Responding to Health System Transformation**

The Affordable Care Act, participants noted, helped health care providers think about how we deliver health care outside of traditional health systems. The escalating cost of health insurance helps people understand the importance of prevention in cost reduction.



# Appendix E: How Health Priorities Were Determined

## Process Summary

### Background

The *New Hampshire State Health Profile 2011* provided information about the health status of New Hampshire's residents. The data presented was intended for use by the Division of Public Health Services and public health partners to plan and implement a public health agenda for New Hampshire. Especially in resource scarce environments, prioritizing goals is essential so that public health efforts are focused and result in a greater impact on the population's health.

### Methods

In August of 2011, the Division of Public Health Services' Director, Dr. Jose Montero challenged DPHS leadership to develop a plan for addressing the most significant health issues facing our state, which had been identified in the 2011 New Hampshire State Health Profile. Led by Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, State Epidemiologist, the Division developed the Goals and Objectives (GO) Plan to identify the Division's goals, objectives and priorities. The GO Plan process was held between September 2011 and June 2012 and included 4 steps:

1. Identify the overarching broad goals for the Division: DPHS senior managers and its strategic planning team developed eight broad goals to improve population health in New Hampshire. These were:
  - Broad Goal 1: Reduce the Burden of Chronic Diseases
  - Broad Goal 2: Reduce the Transmission and Impact of Infectious Diseases
  - Broad Goal 3: Assure Optimal Response to Public Health Emergencies
  - Broad Goal 4: Prevent Injury and Disability
  - Broad Goal 5: Improve Health Across the Lifespan
  - Broad Goal 6: Promote Health Equity
  - Broad Goal 7: Support a Healthy Physical Environment
  - Broad Goal 8: Strive to be an Effective and Efficient Leadership Organization
2. Identify specific goals for each broad goal. A workgroup was created for each of the broad goals and included DPHS management and staff from

different Division's bureaus. DPHS workgroups met frequently over several months, developing logic models that detailed how to reach each goal. Workgroups outlined what we should be doing to address the goals and identified health outcome based objectives for the areas. Examples of specific goals for Broad Goal 1 included improve healthy food choices and consumption, improve physical activity, reduce tobacco use and exposure, reduce obesity, reduce cardiovascular disease etc.

3. Gap analysis: each workgroup examined the gaps between the work we should be done based on the logic model discussion and the work that is being done. Gaps identified in that process were brought to a strategic planning team discussion and reconciliation.
4. Prioritization process to identify the health outcomes that require emphasis in the years ahead. The top health objectives best suited to make the most significant impact on our health issues was culled from the GO Plan results. The result was a list of over 90 possible health objectives. DPHS leaders met in June 11th and 12th, 2012 and prioritized these through a weighted voting system.

The following criteria were used in the prioritization process:

#### **Criterion #1: Problem/Issue has severe health Consequences**

This means that the problem identified could result in severe disability or death.

#### **RATING SCALE:**

- 1=Problem is not life threatening or disabling to individuals or community
- 2=Problem is not life threatening but is sometimes disabling
- 3=Problem can be moderately life threatening or disabling
- 4=Problem can be moderately life threatening but there is a strong likelihood of disability
- 5=Problem has a high likelihood of death and disability

#### **Criterion #2: Large Number of Individuals are Affected by the Problem**

This criterion considers the absolute number of people (the maternal and child health population) affected. It includes the concept that targeting a

problem affecting a large number of individuals could have a greater impact on the health of the community than one affecting a relatively small number of people. This criterion is intended to provide a balance for a situation in which a few occurrences of a particular problem in a small group can result in a high rate but in reality the condition may only affect a few individuals in the community, e.g., a geographic area with a very small population and few births that has one teenage pregnancy will result in a high teen pregnancy rate for that geographic area.

**RATING SCALE:**

- 1=Relatively few individuals affected
- 2=Moderate number of individuals affected in particular subgroups
- 3=Moderate number of individuals affected across the entire population
- 4=Large number of individuals affected in particular subgroups
- 5=Large number of individuals affected across the entire population

**Criterion #3: Disproportionate Effects among Subgroups of the Population**

This means that one or more population subgroups as defined by race, ethnicity, income, insurance status, gender or geography have statistically significantly worse indicator values of illness or condition when compared to another group

**Criterion #4: Problem Results in Significant Economic/Social Cost**

If problem is not addressed the result will be increased monetary costs, e.g., health care and/or social services costs to society and costs to employers, and or loss of productive individuals because of chronic illness, disability or premature death.

**RATING SCALE:**

- 1=Economic/ societal cost is minimal
- 2=There is some potential increased costs
- 3=There is likely to be moderate increased costs
- 4=There is likely to be substantial increased costs
- 5=There will be great economic and societal cost

**Criterion #5: Problem is Cross-Cutting to Multiple Issues/Life Span Effect**

Problem at one life stage has long-term impact in later life and/or problem is a proxy for a set of other related behavioral or social problems.

**RATING SCALE:**

- 1=Problem limited to one life stage and is not associated with other problems
- 2=Problem minimally impacts entire life course and is associated with multiple problems
- 3=Problem moderately impacts entire life course and is associated with multiple problems
- 4=Problem severely affects either entire life course or is associated with multiple problems
- 5=Problem severely impacts entire life course and is associated with multiple problems

**Criterion #6: Feasibility**

How feasible is it that efforts can impact this problem? Factors to consider are cost, other resources and political climate.

**RATING SCALE:**

- 1= Not feasible
- 2= Not very feasible
- 3= Moderately feasible
- 4= Feasible
- 5= Very feasible

DPHS staff completed an Objective Priority Tool for each health outcome based objective, providing data that addressed each criterion. (Figure 1, next page)

Data from the Objective Priority Tools was synthesized into a matrix format where information on all health outcome objectives and criteria could be easily viewed (Figure 2, next page).

The DPHS Management Team and Strategic Planning group attended a retreat in June of 2012 where the objectives were reviewed based on the prioritization criteria. The group rated each criterion for each objective to obtain a weighted score for the objective.

**Key Findings**

Figure 3 shows the objectives and their weighted scores.

The ranked objectives were then grouped into the following 10 priority areas, becoming the basis for the State Health Improvement Plan.

- Tobacco
- Obesity and Diabetes
- Heart Disease and Stroke
- Healthy Mothers and Babies
- Cancer Prevention
- Asthma

- Injury Prevention
- Infectious Disease
- Emergency Preparedness
- Misuse of Alcohol and Drug

After these priority areas were chosen, DPHS subject matter experts further defined the key objectives. In July 2012, we announced the priority objectives and initiated feedback sessions with DPHS staff and public health stakeholders to identify community themes and strengths, forces of change, partners and existing initiatives focused on the priority objectives. In order to be consistent with national objectives, we used the National Prevention Strategy to guide the choice of strategies for the SHIP. Other national standards and evidence-based activities were also considered, such as the CDC’s Community Guide, Bright Futures, and Healthy People 2020.

**Figure 1. GO Plan DPHS Objective Priority Tool**

**GO Plan DPHS Objective Priority Tool -**

**Focus Area: Adult Tobacco Use**

**Objective**

**HP 2020 TU-1.1** Reduce cigarette smoking by New Hampshire adults from 16.9 % to 14% in 2015 and 12% in 2020.

**Provide data for the following criterion**

Adults who are current smokers:	<b>16.9% (2010)</b>
Male:	18.0%
Female:	15.8%
Pregnant women who currently smoke cigarettes:	<b>15.0% (2009)</b>
Women covered by Medicaid	39.0%
Teens	36.0%

**Criterion Name: Problem has serious health consequences**  
Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease. Based on 2010 BRFSS survey an estimated 173,900 New Hampshire adults smoke cigarettes. Smoking harms nearly every organ in the body and half of all long-term smokers die prematurely from smoking-related disease.<sup>1</sup> The negative health consequences of cigarette smoking have been well-documented and include cardiovascular disease, multiple cancers, pulmonary disease, adverse reproductive outcomes, and exacerbation of other chronic health conditions.<sup>2</sup> Cigarette smoking is an addictive behavior and it requires implementation of multiple evidence based strategies and best practices to promote cessation.

**Figure 2: GO Plan Indicator Matrix (segment of a larger document)**

Topic	Priority Objective	Nat'l ranking poor	Serious health consequences	# of individuals affected
<b>Tobacco Use</b>				
Tobacco Adult	Reduce cigarette smoking by New Hampshire adults from 16.9% to 12% by 2020.	20th	Single most preventable cause of death and disease. Harms nearly every organ, CV disease, multiple cancers, pulmonary disease, adverse reproductive outcomes,	# est. 173,900 NH adults smoke 16.9% of NH adults. Rated 9th or 20th in US
Tobacco Youth	Reduce the initiation of tobacco use among youths who smoked cigarettes before age 13 from 8.9% to 4.2% by 2020	32nd	80% of adult tobacco users start when young leading to all the above consequences and premature death. If current patterns persist 31,000 children	NH: #1700 kids under 18 become smokers each year. 19.9% (#12,686) of high school students smoke 27.9 %
	Reduce tobacco use by adolescents (Tobacco products) (past 30 days) from 27.9% to 19% by 2015			

Figure 3: Rating Using Prioritization Criteria

<b>Figure 3: Rating Using Prioritization Criteria</b>							
C1 below corresponds to Criterion #1 above, C2 to Criterion #2, etc. The agreed upon weights are shown in the line below each criterion number.							
Problem/Issue	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	Total Score
	3	2	2	1	3	1	
Obesity - child	4	5		5	5	4	54
Diabetes	5	5	4	5	4	3	53
Obesity - adult	4	5	4	5	5	3	53
Tobacco - adults	5	4	4	4.5	4	3	50.5
Cardiovascular disease	5	4	4	4	4	3	50
Tobacco - youth	5	4	3	5	4	3	49
Preterm births	4	3	4	4	4	3	45
Tobacco - pregnancy	4	3.5	3.5	4	4	3	45
HIV	4	2	4	4	4	4	44
Childhood immunizations	4	4	3	3	3.5	4	43.5
HIV Care Program	4	2	4	4	4	3	43
Colorectal cancer	4	4	3	4	3	3	42
Breast cancer	5	3	2	3.5	3	4	41.5
Melanoma	4	4	3	3	3	3	41
Asthma	3	3	3	4	4	3	40
ASD	3	3	3	4	4	3	40
Suicide - all	5	2	3	3	3	3	40
Injuries/deaths from falls (≥ 65 years)	3.5	4	3.5	4	2	3	38.5
Radon related lung cancer	3	3	3	3	4	2	38
HepC	4	2.5	3	3	3	3	38
Teen pregnancy	3	2	3	4	4	3	38
Breastfeeding	3	3	3	3	3.5	3	37.5
Sexual violence in adolescents	3	3	3	3	3	3	36
Oral health - adults	3	3	3	3	3	3	36
Oral health - children	2	4	3	3	3	4	36
Cervical cancer	3.5	2	3	2	3	4	35.5
Crash related deaths	3.5	3	2	3	3	3	35.5
ETS	3	3	3	3.5	3	2	35.5
Work related injuries	3	3	3	3	3	2	35
Lead exposure - children	3	2	3	3	3	3	34
Emotional abuse: adolescents in school	2	4	3	2	3	2	33
Injuries/illness from PH emergencies	3	3	2.5	3	2	4	33
Adult flu vaccine	3	3	3	3	2	3	33
Suicide - adolescents	3	2	2.5	2	3	3	32
Chlamydia	2	2	3	2	3	4	31
Adult pertussis (Tdap) vaccine	3	2	2	2.5	2.5	3	30
Injuries from sports	2.5	2	2	2.5	3	2	29
Lead exposure, work - adult	3	2	2	2.5	2.5	2	29
Adolescent injuries/deaths from falls	2	2	2	3	2	3	26
Foodborne illness	2	3	1	2	2	3	25
Unintentional poisonings							0

# Appendix F: Community Input

## Process Summary

### Background

Obtaining public and partner input key to any planning effort. Community partners can influence or help to implement strategies identified in a plan. Partners who are invested in a course of action have a stake in what will be done with the results. Public support lends credibility to activities promoting community change. For the State Health Improvement Planning process, it was crucial to obtain community input into the health priority areas.

### Methods

The Community Health Institute (CHI) was contracted by the DPHS to assist with the development, implementation and evaluation of a coordinated chronic disease strategic plan, and to enhance partnerships for a healthy communities coalition. One component of this work was to develop and implement a process to gather public and partner input into the draft Coordinated Chronic Disease Prevention Strategic Plan as well as the State Health Improvement Plan.

The CHI/DPHS team conducted five community meetings in five separate regions of the state to provide feedback on the key state priorities that have been identified for addressing public health and their impact to the health of New Hampshire's citizens. Feedback and buy-in by community partners would help to mobilize community action on these public health priorities, a critical component for New Hampshire to succeed in improving the public's health. The meetings served two purposes. First, they provided an opportunity to determine the root causes of the identified public health priorities. Second, partners were given an opportunity to provide public input regarding possible strategies for each priority area.

The first steps in planning the community meetings included researching the best practices for engaging stakeholders in the priority setting process. A literature review (Model Practices on Stakeholder Engagement to Obtain Feedback on Public Health Priorities Literature Review) was conducted and presented to the New Hampshire Public Health Improvement Services Council (PHISC). A further review was conducted to isolate best practices for public deliberative sessions. The meeting agenda, interactive polling and breakout session questions were developed based on this foundational research.

The Division of Public Health Services provided the team with a matrix of selected strategies that are related to the NH SHIP priorities, from the National Prevention Strategy: America's Plan for Better Health and Wellness<sup>1</sup>, and those strategies currently being employed by DPHS programs.

Meetings were planned for regions of the state that had not previously conducted a similar assessment in recent months and/or stood out in the state for one or more of the public health priorities. Similar assessments had already been conducted in the North Country, Nashua area and Lakes Region. Details of these meetings are outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Community Meetings

Date	Location	Region	Breakout Session Priorities
8/8/2012	Frisbee Memorial Hospital	Strafford Public Health Network	Cancer Prevention, Injury Prevention, Obesity and Diabetes
9/4/2012	Sunapee Safety Complex	Greater Sullivan Public Health Network	Asthma, Healthy Mothers and Babies
9/6/2012	Franklin Regional Hospital	Franklin Bristol Public Health Network	Emergency Preparedness, Heart Disease and Stroke, Tobacco
9/17/2012	Manchester Health Department	City of Manchester	Heart Disease and Stroke, Infectious Disease, Tobacco
9/18/2012	Audubon Society	Capital Area Public Health Network	Cancer Prevention, Obesity and Diabetes, Tobacco

Participants represented a broad spectrum of community members. It is important to note that the meetings ranged in size from about 12 participants to about fifty. Some breakout sessions had as few as three or four participants plus DPHS experts as resources. The results of the breakout sessions are qualitative in nature, similar to those results captured during focus groups.



Each community meeting consisted of a video presentation, information on the priority setting process, interactive components and breakout sessions. The CHI/DPHS team made the same presentation at each community meeting. During the interactive segment, the team used an Audience Response System (ARS) to poll the audience regarding the priorities. Each community meeting also included two or three breakout sessions; each session focused on a different priority. Some priorities were pre-selected to ensure that all of the priorities would be discussed within the span of the five forums. For those that were not pre-selected, the breakout session topics were based on the results of the ranking scores from the interactive polling with the ARS. In addition, a Wordle was created from the meeting notes. A Wordle is a computer generated graphic representation of words where the placement and size of the words is determined by frequency and, therefore, relative importance to the discussion.

### Key Findings

When asked to rank the State Public Health Priorities for individual communities, four of the community groups were asked to rank all ten priorities. In the first community meeting, in Strafford, the group was not asked to rank the Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs priority. This was corrected in the subsequent meetings; however, this difference does impact the results. Figure 2a and 2b represent the summary weighted rank order set by the four groups given all ten choices.

Individually, all community meetings, except Sullivan, chose Obesity/Diabetes as the number one priority for their regions. Sullivan chose Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs as the number one priority with Obesity/Diabetes as second. For all of the groups, except Sullivan, Asthma was the lowest priority in the rankings. For Sullivan, Asthma ranked 8th, followed by Infectious Disease and Emergency Preparedness, respectively.

### References

1. National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council, June 2011

Figure 2a: Combined rankings by order of importance (4 meetings)

Rank	Priority	Percent Ranking
1	Obesity/Diabetes	15.40%
2	Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs	11.70%
3	Heart Disease and Stroke	11.50%
4	Tobacco	11.00%
5	Healthy Mothers and Babies	10.70%
6	Cancer Prevention	10.70%
7	Infectious Disease	8.20%
8	Injury Prevention	7.60%
9	Emergency Preparedness	6.60%
10	Asthma	6.50%

Figure 2b: Combined rankings by order of importance (5 meetings)

Rank	Priority	Percent Ranking
1	Obesity/Diabetes	15.20%
2	Heart Disease and Stroke	11.70%
3	Tobacco	11.10%
4	Healthy Mothers and Babies	10.80%
5	Cancer Prevention	10.70%
6	Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs	10.30%
7	Infectious Disease	8.50%
8	Injury Prevention	8.00%
9	Emergency Preparedness	7.10%
10	Asthma	6.70%

# Appendix G: Alignment with Healthy People 2020 Objectives

New Hampshire Priority Area Targets	Healthy People 2020 Targets
<b>Tobacco</b>	
Reduce cigarette smoking by adults from 19.4% in 2011 to 16.0% by 2015 and 12.0% by 2020	TU-1.1 Reduce cigarette smoking by adults to 12.0% by 2020
Reduce the initiation of tobacco use among children from 8.9% in 2011 to 8.0% by 2015 and 5.7% by 2020	TU-3.1 Reduce the initiation of tobacco use among children, adolescents aged 12 – 17 years to 5.7% by 2020
Reduce tobacco product use by adolescents (past 30 days) from 27.9% in 2011 to 27.0% by 2015 and 21.0% by 2020	TU-2.1 Reduce tobacco product use by adolescents (past month) to 21.0% by 2020
Reduce the number of women who report smoking cigarettes during pregnancy from 13.6% in 2011 to 12% by 2015 and 10% by 2020	SIMILAR HEALTHY PEOPLE OBJECTIVE: TU-6 Increase smoking cessation during pregnancy to 30.0 by 2020
Increase the number of public and private places that prohibit smoking from 4 to 6 by 2015 and 7 by 2020	SIMILAR HEALTHY PEOPLE OBJECTIVE: TU-13 Establish laws in States, District of Columbia on smoke-free indoor air that prohibit smoking in public places and worksites
<b>Obesity/Diabetes</b>	
Reduce the proportion of adults considered obese from 25.5% to 24% by 2015 and 23% by 2020	NWS-9 Reduce the proportion of adults who are obese to 30.5% by 2020
Reduce the proportion of children considered obese from 18.1 % to 17.2% by 2015 and 16.2% by 2020	NWS 10.4 Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents age 2to 19 who are considered obese to 14.5% by 2020
Maintain diabetes-related emergency department admissions below 15 per 10,000 population (baseline 13.5 per 10,000 population in 2007)	No comparable Healthy People 2020 objective
Maintain diabetes-related hospitalizations at below 150 by 2015 and 2020 (baseline 141.1 per 10,000 population in 2007)	No comparable Healthy People 2020 objective
<b>Heart Disease and Stroke</b>	
Reduce the percent of adults with high blood cholesterol from 39 % to 35% by 2015 and 30 % by 2020	HDS-7 Reduce the percent of adults with high blood cholesterol levels to 13.5% by 2020
Reduce the percent of adults with high blood pressure from 29% to 26% by 2015 and 22% by 2020	HDS-5.1 Reduce the proportion of adults with hypertension to 26.9% by 2020
Reduce coronary heart disease deaths from 102 deaths per 100,000 population to 100 by 2015 and 98 by 2020	HDS-2 Reduce coronary heart disease deaths to 100.8 deaths per 100,000 population by 2020
Reduce stroke deaths from 33 deaths per 100,000 population to 32 by 2015 and 28 by 2020	HDS-3 Reduce stroke deaths to 33.8 deaths per 100,000 population by 2020
<b>Healthy Mothers and Babies</b>	
Reduce preterm births in NH from 9.9% to 9.1% by 2015 and 8.9% by 2020	MICH-9.1 Reduce preterm births to 11.4% by 2020
Reduce the unintended birth rate among adolescent females from 15.7 births per 1,000 to 15.0 by 2015 and 14.0 by 2020	SIMILAR HEALTHY PEOPLE OBJECTIVE: FP-8.1 Reduce pregnancies among adolescent females age 15 – 17 years to 36.2% by 2020
Increase the percentage of young children who are screened for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental delays by 24 months of age from 18.1 % to 19% by 2015 and 20.1% by 2020	MICH-29.1 Increase the proportion of young children who are screened for an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental delays by 24 months of age to 24.9% by 2020
Reduce the percent of third grade students with dental caries experience in their primary and permanent teeth from 43.6% to 41.4% by 2015 and 39.2% by 2020	OH 1.2 Reduce the proportion of children aged 6 to 9 years with dental caries experience in their primary or permanent teeth to 49.0% by 2020
<b>Infectious Disease</b>	
Increase the percent of children aged 19 to 35 months who receive the recommended doses of DTaP, polio, MMR, Hib, hepatitis B, varicella and PCV vaccines from 73.8% to 80% by 2015 and 85% by 2020	IID-8 Increase the percentage of children aged 19 to 35 months who receive the recommended doses of DTaP, polio, MMR, Hib, hepatitis B, varicella and PCV to 80.0% by 2020

Reduce the number of healthcare associated infections by 50% or to 0.50 of the standardized infection ratio by 2015 and by 75% or to .25 of the standardized infection ration by 2020	HAI-1 Reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections to 0.25 SIR or 75 percent reduction by 2020
Increase the percent of initiated investigations of reported cases of foodborne illness within 24 hours of report from 73% to 75% by 2015 and 80% by 2020	No comparable Healthy People 2020 objective
Increase the percentage of adults who are vaccinated annually against seasonal influenza from 44% to 60%* by 2015 and 80%** by 2020	IID-12.5 Increase the percentage of noninstitutionalized adults aged 18 to 64 years who are vaccinated annually against seasonal influenza to 80.0% by 2020
Increase the percentage of children (6 months - 18 years) who are vaccinated annually against seasonal influenza from 51% to 65% by 2015 and 80% by 2020	IID-12.1 – 12.4 Increase the percentage of children aged 6 mon – 17 years who are vaccinated annually against seasonal influenza to 80.0% by 2020
<b>Cancer Prevention</b>	
Increase the percent of adults age 50 and older who report being screened for colorectal cancer from 75.2% to 80% by 2015 and 82% by 2020	C-16 Increase the proportion of adults who receive a colorectal cancer screening based on the most recent guidelines to 70.5% by 2020
Increase the percent of women between the ages of 40-64 who had a mammogram in the past year from 80.4% to 82% by 2015 and 84% by 2020	C-17 Increase the proportion of women who received a breast cancer screening based on the most recent guidelines to 81.1% by 2020
Reduce the melanoma cancer death rate from 3.1 deaths in 2007 to 2.8 by 2015 and 2.5 by 2020	C-8 Reduce the melanoma cancer death rate to 2.4 deaths per 100,000 population by 2020
Reduce the lung cancer death rate from 49.8 to 47.8 by 2015 and 45.5 by 2020	C-2 Reduce the lung cancer death rate to 45.5 deaths per 100,000 population by 2020
<b>Asthma</b>	
Increase the percent of adults with current asthma who have well-controlled asthma from 54.7% to 61.9% by 2015 and 69% by 2020	SIMILAR HEALTHY PEOPLE OBJECTIVE: RD-7.1 Increase the proportion of persons with current asthma who receive appropriate asthma care according to National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) guidelines to 36.8% by 2020
Increase the percent of children with current asthma who have well-controlled asthma from 66% to 74.5% by 2015 and 83% by 2020	No comparable Healthy People 2020 objective
<b>Injury Prevention</b>	
Prevent an increase in poisoning deaths caused by unintentional or undetermined intent among all persons to 10.6 deaths per 100,000 population by 2015 and 2020	IVP-9.3 Prevent an increase in poisoning deaths caused by unintentional undetermined intent among all persons to 11.1 deaths per 100,000 population by 2020
Prevent an increase in fall-related deaths among adults age 65 years and older to 66.7 deaths per 100,000 population by 2015 and 2020	IVP-23.2 Prevent an increase in fall-related deaths among adults age 65 years and older to 45.3 deaths per 100,000 population by 2020
Reduce the rate of emergency department discharges due to motor vehicle crashes in 15-19 year olds from 1925.4 per 100,000 population in 2009 to 1906.1 by 2015 and 1837.0 by 2020	No comparable Healthy People 2020 objective
Reduce the suicide death rate for all persons from 11.6 suicide deaths per 100,000 population to 11.0 by 2015 and 9.0 by 2020	MHMD-1 Reduce the suicide rate to 10.2 suicides per 100,000 population by 2020
Reduce the number of suicide attempts by adolescents (self-inflicted hospitalizations as a proxy) from 0.624 per 100 population in 2009 to 0.617 by 2015 and 0.570 by 2020	MHMD-2 Reduce the number of suicide attempts by adolescents to 1.7 suicide attempts per 100 population by 2020
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	
Increase the score for the CDC Medical Countermeasure Distribution and Dispensing (MCMDDD) composite measure from 71 in 2013 to 90 by 2015 and to 95 by 2020.	No comparable Healthy People 2020 objective
Increase the number of infectious disease physicians, hospitals, infection control practitioners, the PH Networks, statewide responders and health officers that are notified by the Health Alert Network System from 3,000 in 2013 to 4,000 by 2015 and to 6,000 by 2020.	No comparable Healthy People 2020 objective
Increase the proportion of key community organizations that engaged in a significant public health emergency preparedness activity. from 74% in 2012 to 80% in 2015 and 85% in 2020.	No comparable Healthy People 2020 objective

<b>Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs</b>	
Reduce binge drinking in the youth population from 24% to 20% by 2017	SA-14.4 Reduce the proportion of persons engaging in binge drinking during the past 30 days adolescents aged 12 to 17 years to 24.4% by 2020
Reduce the proportion of adolescents reporting use of marijuana during the past 30 days from over 28% to 24% by 2017	SA13.2 Reduce the proportion of adolescents reporting use of marijuana during the past 30 days to 6.0% by 2020
Reduce the percentage of NH individuals age 12 and older who report non-medical use of prescription pain medication in the past year from 5.91% in 2009 to 5% in 2013-14	SA19.1 Reduce the past year non-medical use of pain relievers (Informational only – no Healthy People 2020 target)
Reduce the number of drug-related overdose deaths from 174 in 2010 to 147 in 2014	SIMILAR HEALTHY PEOPLE OBJECTIVE: SA-12 Reduce drug induced deaths to 11.3 deaths per 100,000 population by 2020

## Appendix H: NH SHIP Implementation Cross-Walk: Links to Statewide Plans

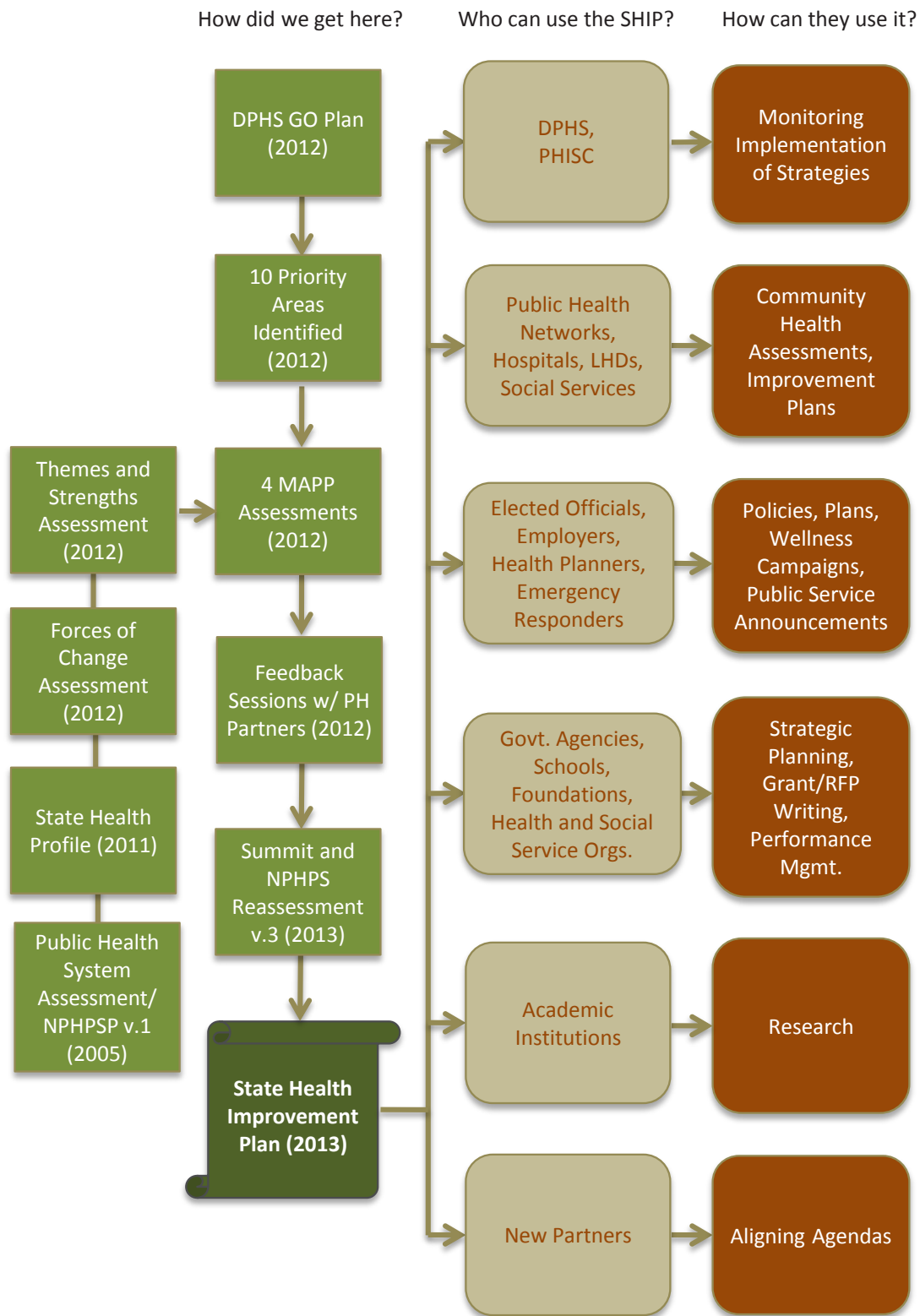
SHIP Priority	Related State Level Plan	Weblink	Date Created	Expected Revision	Lead Entity for the Plan	Lead Program
Tobacco	NH Comprehensive Cancer Plan	<a href="http://www.nhcancerplan.org/images/downloads/nhcancerplanbook.pdf">http://www.nhcancerplan.org/images/downloads/nhcancerplanbook.pdf</a>	2010	2014	NH CCC	Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Obesity & Diabetes	NH HEAL Action Plan	<a href="http://www.healnh.org/images/pdffiles/HEALactionPlan.pdf">http://www.healnh.org/images/pdffiles/HEALactionPlan.pdf</a>	2008	2014	HEAL NH	Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Section
	NH Action Plan for Diabetes	<a href="http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdpc/diabetes/documents/action-plan.pdf">http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdpc/diabetes/documents/action-plan.pdf</a>	2006		DPHS	Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, Diabetes Section
Heart Disease and Stroke	No current plan					Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program
Teen Pregnancy	Supporting New Hampshire Youth Moving toward a Healthier Future	<a href="http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/bchs/mch/documents/adolescenthealth.pdf">http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/bchs/mch/documents/adolescenthealth.pdf</a>	2005	2013	DPHS	Family Planning Program Manager
Preterm Birth	No Current Plan					Maternal and Child Health Section
Autism	NH Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder Findings and Recommendations 2008	<a href="http://iod.unh.edu/pdf/NHCommissionOnASD_FinalReport.pdf">http://iod.unh.edu/pdf/NHCommissionOnASD_FinalReport.pdf</a>	2008		Autism Commission	Maternal and Child Health Section
Oral Health	NH Oral Health Plan: A Framework for Action	<a href="http://nhoralhealth.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/FrameworkforAction.pdf">http://nhoralhealth.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/FrameworkforAction.pdf</a>	2003	2014	Oral Health Coalition	Oral Health Program
Immunization	No Current Plan					Immunization Program
HAI	State of New Hampshire Healthcare-Associated Infections Plan	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/stateplans/nh.pdf">http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/stateplans/nh.pdf</a>	2009	2014	DPHS, HAI Technical Advisory Workgroup	HAI Program
Food Protection	Emergency Action Plan for Retail Food Establishments	<a href="http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/fp/documents/emergency.pdf">http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/fp/documents/emergency.pdf</a>	2007		DPHS	Food Protection Section
Cancer Prevention	NH Comprehensive Cancer Plan	<a href="http://www.nhcancerplan.org/images/downloads/nhcancerplanbook.pdf">http://www.nhcancerplan.org/images/downloads/nhcancerplanbook.pdf</a>	2010	2014	NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration	Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Asthma	NH State Asthma Plan	<a href="http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdpc/asthma/documents/state-plan.pdf">http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdpc/asthma/documents/state-plan.pdf</a>	2009	2014	DPHS	Healthy Homes Program
Injury Prevention	NH Injury Prevention Strategic Plan	In progress. Will be available on the Injury Prevention Program webpage, <a href="http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/bchs/mch/injury.htm">http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/bchs/mch/injury.htm</a>	2013	2017	Injury Prevention Advisory Council	Injury Prevention Program
	NH Suicide Prevention Plan	<a href="http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/bchs/mch/documents/state-suicide-prevention-plan-2013.pdf">http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/bchs/mch/documents/state-suicide-prevention-plan-2013.pdf</a>	2013	2015	Suicide Prevention Council	Injury Prevention Program



# APPENDIX H

SHIP Priority	Related State Level Plan	Weblink	Date Created	Expected Revision	Lead Entity for the Plan	Lead Program
	NH Strategic Highway Safety Plan	<a href="http://www.nhdtz.com/news-events/download/information/21">www.nhdtz.com/news-events/download/information/21</a>	2013	2015	Department of Transportation, Driving Towards Zero Coalition	Injury Prevention Program
Substance Misuse	Collective Action/Collective Impact	<a href="http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcbcs/bdas/documents/collectiveaction.PDF">http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcbcs/bdas/documents/collectiveaction.PDF</a>	2013	2018	Governor's Commission, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services	DHHS Prevention Services, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
Emergency Preparedness	Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan	Plan unavailable online. To contact the Community Health Development section, visit: <a href="http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/cphd/contact.htm">http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/cphd/contact.htm</a>	2008		Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness and Security Advisory Board Subcommittee	Community Health Development Section, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control
Coordinated Chronic Disease	Coordinated Chronic Disease Strategic Plan	<a href="http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdpc/index.htm">http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdpc/index.htm</a>	2013			
Behavioral Health	Addressing the Critical Mental Health Needs of NH's Citizens A Strategy for Restoration	<a href="http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcbcs/bbh/documents/restoration.pdf">http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcbcs/bbh/documents/restoration.pdf</a>			NH DHHS, NH Hospital, Bureau of Behavioral Health, the Community Behavioral Health Association	Bureau of Behavioral Health

# Appendix I: Flowchart of the NH SHIP Process



2013-2020 State Health Improvement Plan  
NH Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/index.htm>

December 2013 (revised)