

# Building Public Health Capacity throughout Cumberland County

C4PH

May 18, 2007

# What is Public Health?

**Accumulating  
River Sludge  
Threatens Bay**

*Harford Dam Could Become  
Too Full to Confine Muck*

**U.S. HIV Cases Soaring  
Among Black Women**

*Social Factors Make Group Vulnerable*

**New York Weighs Plans  
To Deliver Medicines  
After Terrorism Attack**

**Pentagon  
Boosts Plan  
For Anthrax  
Inoculations**

*Emergency Provisions  
Invoked to Revive Use*

**Health Agency  
Warns of Fever  
After Tsunami**

**Task force urges  
older smokers  
get ultrasound**

**Pope Hospitalized With Flu Complications**

# Public health keeps you safe and healthy.



- Contamination of drinking water is a cause of deadly infectious diseases, including cholera, dysentery, and typhoid fever.
- It remains a problem in undeveloped countries, and during natural disasters, such as when the 2004 tsunami wiped out sanitation systems in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, and here at home in 2005 with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

# Public health or health care?

- The nation's public health system continues to provide proper waste disposal and safe drinking water.
- These are prime examples of how public health, which takes care of entire communities, is different from personal health services, which take care of one person at a time.
- Public health works to keep entire populations healthy, and when it fails, entire populations suffer.

# Public health keeps your food safe.

- Public health regulates the safety of your food supply.
- We also teach and promote safe food handling practices that kill bacteria and help you and those who handle your food from contaminating it.





## Public health keeps restaurant food safe.

The public health system has established sanitation standards for restaurant kitchens and health departments inspect them. They close down restaurant kitchens that aren't up to code. We can all be reasonably sure that our lunch won't make us sick because of public health.

# Outbreak Investigation

- Public health tracks down the causes of disease outbreaks and stops them.
- Public health is preparing for bioterrorism and new diseases, like bird flu.



# Public health prevents childhood disease and death.



- The public health system works to make sure that children are fully immunized, so that they cannot catch or transmit measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, polio, or other childhood diseases that are killers when they go to school or child care.
- We are all too young to remember a time early in the 20th century when tens of thousands of children died or were permanently disabled by these diseases.
- These days, the numbers of people who contract vaccine-preventable diseases are 95 to 100% fewer than before the vaccines were available.
- It takes a continuous effort to make sure that all infants and school children get their shots. We monitor vaccination rates, provide outreach, and offer shots in our clinics. Recent pertussis outbreaks here in Maine and mumps in Iowa show what happens when immunization rates decline.

# Public health saves money.

Safety belts save more than 12,000 American lives annually.

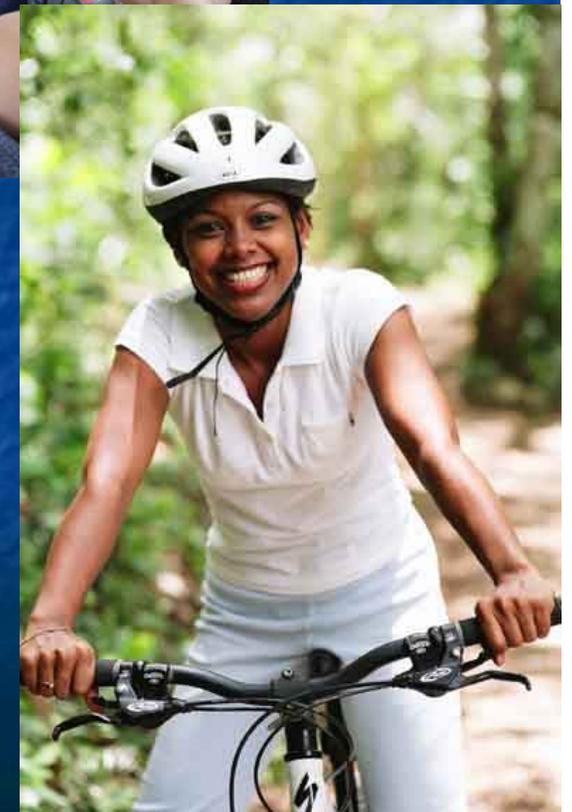
(U.S. Department of Transportation, 2001)

Child safety seats reduce the risk of death by about 70% for infants and by about 55% for toddlers ages 1 to 4.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2002)

Bicycle helmets reduce the risk of serious head injury by as much as 85%.

(CDC, 2002).

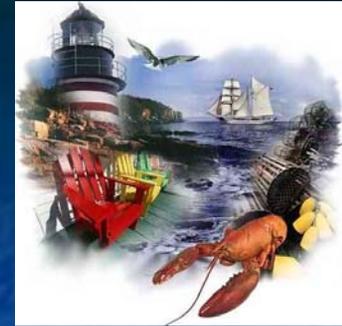




## Public health reduces tobacco use.

Decades of public health research and action have led to our knowledge that tobacco use kills and to many actions designed to reduce smoking, including clean indoor air regulations.

# How are public health services delivered in Maine?



- STATE: The Maine CDC has oversight over all public health issues, and employs health inspectors, public health nurses, epidemiologists, etc.
- TOWNS: Each town is supposed to have a Local Health Officer; towns also provide numerous diverse services
- Portland Water District

# What are the gaps?



- No local/regional coordination of services
- No interface between state-level policy and programs and local needs
- Inefficient use of resources
- Inconsistent delivery of services
- Threats to safety and economic health

# How would a county-wide public health agency address those gaps?

- Ensure coordination of services targeted to local priorities
- Increase efficient use of scarce resources
- Assure consistent delivery of services to all parts of Cumberland County

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