

Illinois TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

A strong public health system is crucial for protecting and improving the health of Americans.

Illinois' Public Health

Illinois' ten leading causes of death resulted in more than 84,000 deaths in 2000. Many of those causes, including heart disease, cancer, accidents, diabetes, and liver disease are strongly associated with lifestyle and social factors. As many as one half of those deaths could have been prevented.

The least costly and most effective way to improve health today is to prevent disease and disability before it occurs.

Poor health and early death do not affect all Illinoisans the same. The difference in the rates of premature death between blacks and whites is the largest in the country.

Illinois' efforts to improve health are fragmented among multiple state agencies and across the private and nonprofit sectors. Local level partnerships vary greatly in their resources and capabilities.

The complex issues that underlie preventable health problems in Illinois require a public health system prepared to address the range of issues that most influence community health.

For more information

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What is Illinois Turning Point?

The national Turning Point Initiative aims to transform and strengthen the public health system in the United States by making it more community based and collaborative. In Illinois, Turning Point is known as Public Health Futures Illinois, a partnership of over 50 public, private, and voluntary organizations seeking to improve health through prevention by enhancing community and state public health systems serving the people of Illinois.

How is Turning Point improving public health through Public Health Futures Illinois?

- Engaging a broad range of public health interest groups in partnership to identify and address gaps and weaknesses in the public health system. Partners include representatives from the insurance industry, academia, rural health, the hospital association, and the Red Cross who are committing time and resources to improving the health of Illinoisans.
- Mobilizing collective action to advocate for improved public health policies and expanded public health resources that respond to the unique needs of the people of Illinois.
- Educating the public and policy makers on the complex, primary causes of poor health for Illinois residents and promoting strategies to address them.
- Supporting the development of local community health partnerships to identify and address local health status and health systems priorities through training, technical assistance, and policy development.

What can Illinois Turning Point help you do?

- Engage communities in assessing local public health needs, defining priorities, and supporting them in implementing innovative strategies to address community needs
- Mobilize partners in various sectors to develop and advocate for new policies, including promoting and expanding prevention as a critical strategy for saving public and private health care dollars
- Research and provide relevant statistics on the health status of Illinoisans and related health system issues

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Public Health Futures



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