

NJ Association of County & City Health Officials



Public Health Professionals
Are Your:

Family Members

Friends

Neighbors

Community
Volunteers

Children's Coaches
& Instructors

Provide Sustained
Public Health
Funding For:

Emergency
Preparedness &
Response

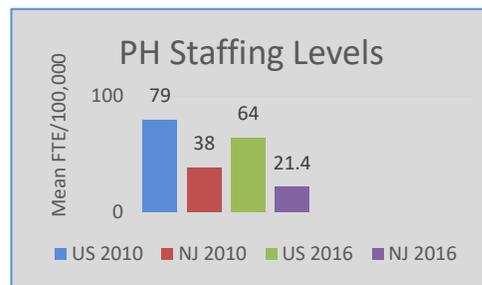
Communicable
Disease
Investigation

Control of
Chronic Illnesses

Essential
Immunization
Programs

COVID-19's impact on local public health will be long-lasting

- New Jersey's local public health infrastructure has always been understaffed and underfunded. This has been magnified during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Local health departments (LHDs) are funded primarily by local government in New Jersey and do not receive consistent, dedicated funding from state government.
- There is a statutory precedent for the State to provide annual funding to LHDs, and our health departments have been without this funding since 2010.
- Long-term, sustained, flexible funding for the local public health system in New Jersey would bolster vital programs and services for the next crisis, such as:
 - Contact tracing and disease case investigation
 - Timely outbreak response
 - Testing and surveillance
 - Community-wide vaccination clinics
 - Provision of trained staff at the local level



Local public health: Tough decisions and limited resources

- Workforce capacity is down
 - LHDs experienced a 21% loss in workforce capacity over the past decade
 - LHDs averaged 5.2 full time staff in 2008, but in 2019, this figure was down to 4.1
 - In 2019, more than 80% of LHDs nationally experienced either a decreased or stagnant preparedness budget, compared to the previous fiscal year
 - Budget shortfalls profoundly affect vital LHD programs and the ability for public health professionals to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and future pandemics
 - When compared with national averages, New Jersey's LHDs are understaffed

Negative effects on other vital public health programs

- Resource shortages and the diversion of existing public health staff to address the ongoing pandemic have negatively affected other critical public health programs like:
 - Childhood lead poisoning prevention
 - Opioid and substance abuse programs
 - Non-COVID communicable disease investigation
 - Vaccination clinics, including those for flu and childhood preventable diseases

The next pandemic *will* come – Please help New Jersey's dedicated public health workforce to be prepared

- New Jersey's local health departments ask that annual dedicated funding, which was eliminated in 2010, be restored. In today's dollars, statewide funding would amount to **\$11.2 million for our local health departments, based on the populations served.**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.