Public Health
Not just for Nurses
Public Health Policy in North Dakota

Outline
- Public Health Infrastructure in ND
- Current Scope per NDCC
- Legislative Changes or New Bills
- Public Health Advocacy in ND
Public Health:
The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities, and individuals
- C. Winslow, 1920

Health:
Not only the absence of illness, but the presence of wellness. - WHO

History of Public Health in ND

- This year (2023) we celebrate 100 years of Public Health in ND
- 1923 State Department of Health was formed

- 1862 Dakota Territory passed a law prohibiting “adulteration of food or drugs”
- 1873- local public health agencies were put in place until statehood
- 1889- State Board of Health Established
- 1923 State Department formed with divisions including
  • Vital statistics
  • Preventable disease
  • Child hygiene
  • Nursing
  • Engineering

Yanktonai women, Standing Rock, 1923
Health Equity

Health equity is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health. Achieving this requires focused and ongoing societal efforts to address historical and contemporary injustices; overcome economic, social, and other obstacles to health and healthcare; and eliminate preventable health disparities. - CDC, 2022

Social Determinants of Health:
The conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. - Healthy People 2030
NDHHS Health Equity

- Community Engagement Subsection
  - Director
  - Assistant Director
  - 2 Community Engagement Specialists
  - 2 CDC Public Health Associates (grant program)
  - Includes 4 Tribal Health Liaisons
  - 4 Graduate Assistants
- In 2022 a Health Equity Committee was formed to oversee the Community Engagement subsection of the Public Health Division with professionals from all over the state

Infrastructure Change: NDDHHS

- September 1, 2022 two departments (NDDOH and NDHS) merged to create the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
- 1 Department with 8 Divisions
  - Behavioral Health
  - Communications
  - Finance
  - Human Resources
  - Human Services
  - Legal
  - Medical Services
  - Public Health
Org. Chart as of Nov 2022

North Dakota Department of Health & Human Services

Infrastructure Change: NDDHHS

- Services Include:
  - Adult, Children, Community Health
- Public Health Division 5 Sections
  - Disease Control & Forensic Pathology
  - Healthy & Safe Communities
  - Health Response & Licensure
  - Laboratory Services
  - Health Statistics & Performance

Public Health Division Goals (2022):

- Create Healthy & Vibrant Communities
- Enhance & Improve Systems of Care
- Strengthen Population-Based Health interventions
- Promote Public Health Readiness & Response
Though departments merged, Health Units and Human Services Zones are DIFFERENT, and will remain so.

Health Units are defined by NDCC 23-3.

North Dakota has 28 independent Health Units that fall under 5 structure types:

- City/County Health Department
- City/County Health District
- Multi County Health District
- Single County Health Department
- Single County Health District
Health Units vs. Service Zones

**Health Units**
- Independent & created through NDCC 23-35

**Human Service Zones**
- Governed by NDHHS

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**Health Units: The 5 Structures**

- **City/County Health District**

  Barnes County chose to switch from a City/County department via North Dakota Century Code 23-35-04 in 1992. Rather than county or city commissioners, Barnes County (known as City-County Health District) answers to the District Board of Health for both city and county issues.

- Departments are governed by either city or county commissions
- Districts are governed by boards of health (that can be appointed by commissioners)
Health Units: The 5 Structures

City/County Health Units:
- **Fargo/Cass (FCPH)**
  - Fargo contracts with Cass County
  - Board is only advisory
  - Governed by Fargo City Commission under Home Rule Charter
- **Grand Forks (GFPH)**
  - Board of Health members are appointed by GF Mayor and confirmed by city council
- **Bismarck/Burleigh (BBPH)**
  - Bismarck Contracts with Burleigh county
  - Separate boards of health appointed by their respective commissions
  - Boards of health are advisory

• Single County Health Department
  - Steele
  - Richland
  - Foster
  - Lamoure
  - Pembina
  - Ransom

There are six County Health Departments in North Dakota. These counties have boards of health that are appointed by County Commissioners. Boards in these counties include at least one County Commissioner and a practicing physician as a Health Officer for the county.
Health Units: The 5 Structures

• Single County Health District
  • These county districts are not associated with city health departments and have their own governing board (rather than a board appointed by a city or county commission). However, county commissioners may be on the health board.

  Cavalier
  Dickey
  Emmons
  Kidder
  McIntosh
  Rolette
  Sargent
  Towner
  Traill
  Walsh
  Wells

Health Units: The 5 Structures

Multi-county Health districts
  • Custer Health Unit (name change upcoming)
  • Southwestern District Health Unit
  • Upper Missouri District Health Unit
  • First District Health Unit
  • Lake Region District Health Unit
  • Central Valley Health Unit
  • Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit
Current Health Unit Scope

Per NDCC 23-35
• Health Unit formation
  • District Formation
  • District Merger
  • District Dissolution
• Wastewater and Septic
• Nuisance Abatement
• Boards of Health Powers
• Budgeting
• Duties of Local health Officers

Also included in the Manual:
• Communicable Disease Confinement (23-07)
• HIPAA (23-01)
• Food & Lodging (23-09)
  • Possible new changes to the century code
• Home Rule Charter
  • Cities (40-05)
  • Counties (11-09)
SB 2153: 5 Core Functions

1. Communicable Disease Control
   - Conduct disease surveillance
   - Assure community programs
   - Recognize & respond

2. Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

3. Environmental Health
   - Prevent hazards
   - Assure services & response

4. Maternal, Child, & Family Health
   - Assessment maternal health
   - Implement programs

5. Access to Clinical Care
   - Collaborate with healthcare systems
   - Facilitate care coordination

- Signed into law 3/28 by Gov. Burgum
- Amends NDCC23-35-02 Public Health Units

ND Executive Budget 2023-2025

- $55 million for a new Public health and Environmental Quality lab
- $3 million for Public Health Emergency Response and Preparedness
- $3 million to Public Health and Wellbeing (HHS)
- $3.3 million to Public Health State Aid
- A recommended supplemental appropriation $25 million of Special Funds to DHHS for extension of public health emergency and Medicaid enrollment
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Questions/Comments/Feedback?

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Thank you