

The Community Guide: Uses and Benefits for Local Health Departments



About the Community Guide

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) encourages local health departments (LHDs) to incorporate evidence-based interventions from *The Guide to Community Preventive Services* (Community Guide) into their work. The Community Guide, a free resource, is the only single source of all recommendations from the Task Force on Community Preventive Services (Task Force) about effective evidence-based programs, practices, and policies to improve health and prevent disease, injury, and disability in communities. The Task Force—an independent, nonfederal, volunteer body of public and prevention experts—bases its findings on systematic reviews led or supported by Community Guide scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Community Guide has many uses because it is based on a scientific systematic review process and answers questions critical to local public health, such as the following:

- What interventions have and have not worked to promote community health?
- In which populations and settings have the interventions worked or not worked?
- How much do the interventions cost? Are they cost-effective?
- Do the interventions lead to any other benefits or harms?
- How can communities develop policies that support community health?

Ways to Use the Community Guide

Using the Community Guide enables LHDs to justify programs, services, and policies and optimize use of often limited resources. LHDs can use the Community Guide for the following purposes:

DEVELOP POLICIES: Advise, advocate, or assist in creating evidence-based policies and support policies and legislation that promote the health of their communities—or change policies and legislation that do not.

PLAN PROGRAMS: Select evidence-based interventions that have been shown to help achieve specific objectives in response to identified community needs, such as increasing physical activity, decreasing obesity, and reducing tobacco use.

OBTAIN FUNDING: Strengthen grant proposals and add credibility to budget requests by incorporating evidence-based recommendations, findings, and supporting materials.

GAIN STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT: Galvanize multi-sector stakeholders to support community health programs, practices, and policies, thereby helping to optimize LHD resources.

COMMUNITY GUIDE TOPICS

- Adolescent Health
- Alcohol
- Asthma
- Birth Defects
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Health Communications
- HIV/AIDS/STI/Pregnancy
- Mental Health
- Motor Vehicle
- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Oral Health
- Physical Activity
- Social Environment
- Tobacco
- Vaccines
- Violence
- Worksite Health Promotion
- More to Come...

[FACT SHEET]

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Stories from the Field: LHD Use of the Community Guide

NACCHO is interested in learning how your LHD uses the Community Guide, which will enable NACCHO to provide better technical assistance to LHDs across the United States. Please share your experience with other LHDs by filling out a short form at www.naccho.org/topics/hpdp/cg_story_add.cfm. To view stories other LHDs have shared or to search by topic, visit www.naccho.org/topics/hpdp/cg_search.cfm.

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MORE RESOURCES

Visit the Community Guide at www.thecommunityguide.org for the Task Force's evidence-based recommendations organized by topic; slides and promotional materials; publications; news and announcements; and information about collaborators and review methods.



NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

www.naccho.org



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

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