



WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH

A brief look at the programs, services, and responsibilities for public health in Whitman County, Washington.

Michael K. Baker, PhD, MSPH, CEHS/RS

Whitman County Public Health
Board of Health Presentation
March 19, 2013
Colfax, Washington



WHITMAN COUNTY



Whitman County

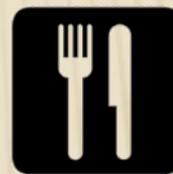
- 10th largest of Washington's 39 counties
- 2,160 square miles
- 45,077 population size (2011 Census Data)
- 0.67% of State Population (OFM)
- Approximately 90% of County residents live within the 16 incorporated communities
- 9 small unincorporated communities
- Deep soils, rolling hills, and moderate temperatures allow for dry land farming (wheat, peas, barley, and lentils)
- Home to Washington State University (GO COUGS!)

Whitman County Residents

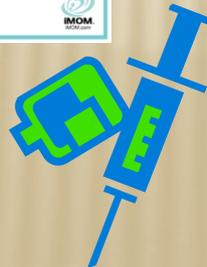
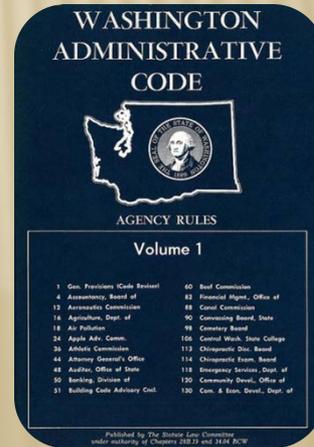
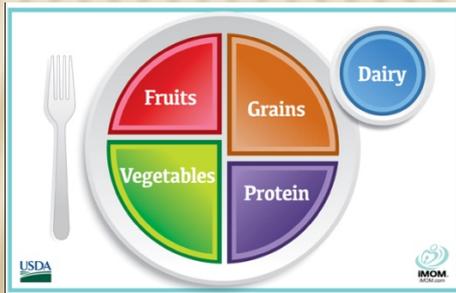
- Median Age- 24.7 years
- +25% of population between 20-24 years
- Educated (+85% at least high school education)
- 88% Caucasian
- Employment Types
 - 46% Government
 - 46% Private wage or salary
 - 7% Self employed
- 45% employed in education, healthcare, or social services
- Median Income-\$28,584



WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH



Depends on who you ask...

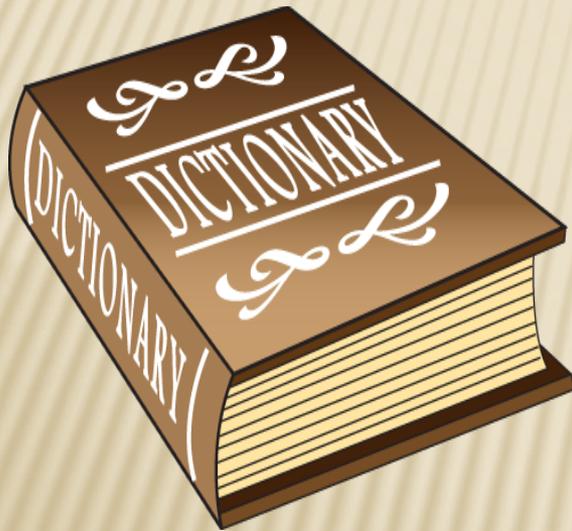




PUBLIC HEALTH DEFINED

The art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices...of society, organizations, public and private, communities, and individuals. **The focus of public health is to prevent disease rather than treating it.**

– Charles Edward A. Winslow (1920)



Activities that society undertakes to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. These include organized community efforts to prevent, identify, and counter threats to the health of the public.

- Bernard Turnock, (2004)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



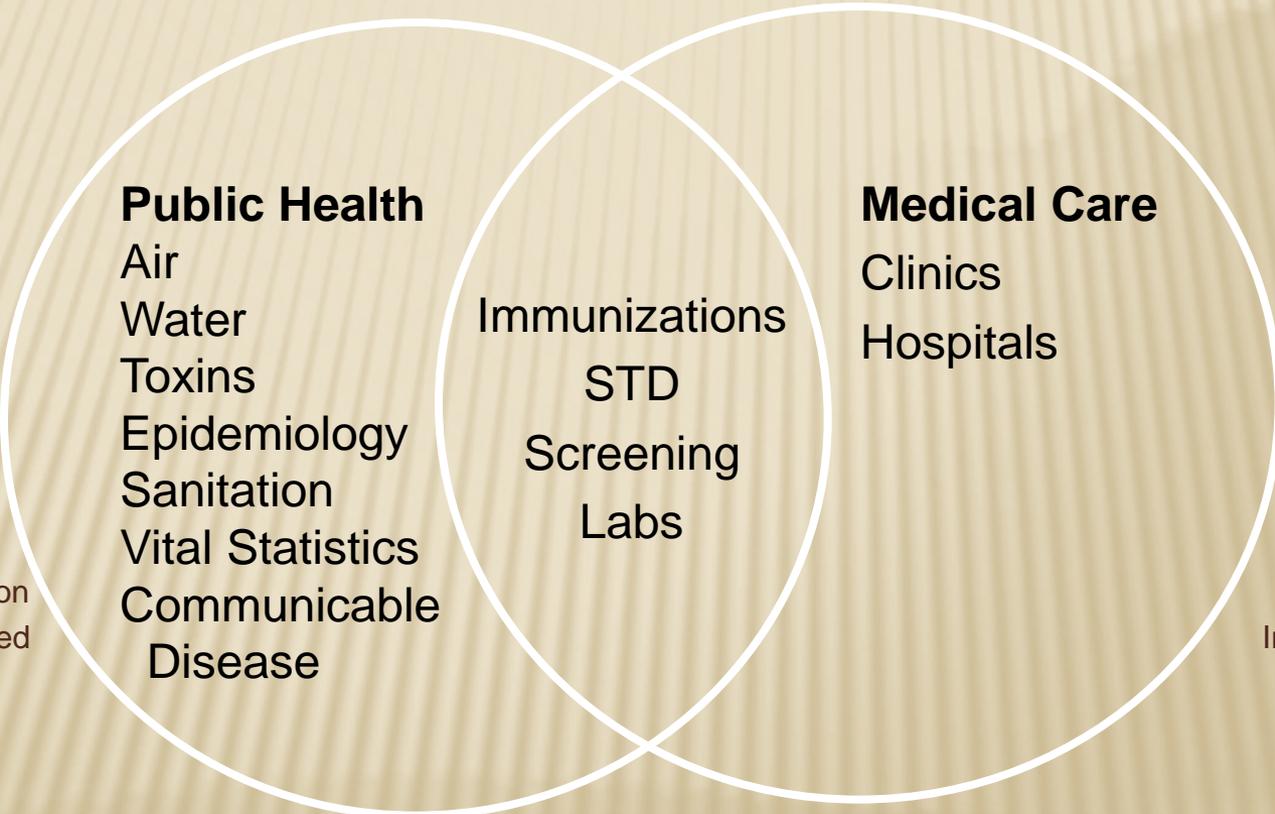


DEFINITION OF HEALTH

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

- World Health Organization (WHO)

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



Wellness/Prevention
Community Focused
Government
1%

Illness/Treatment
Individual Focused
Private
99%





INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

- × *Future of Public Health*
 - + Public health in disarray
 - + Lacking infrastructure
 - + Staffing limitations
- × Core Functions
- × Essential Services





CORE FUNCTIONS/ESSENTIAL SERVICES

The Three Core Functions and the Ten Essential Public Health Services

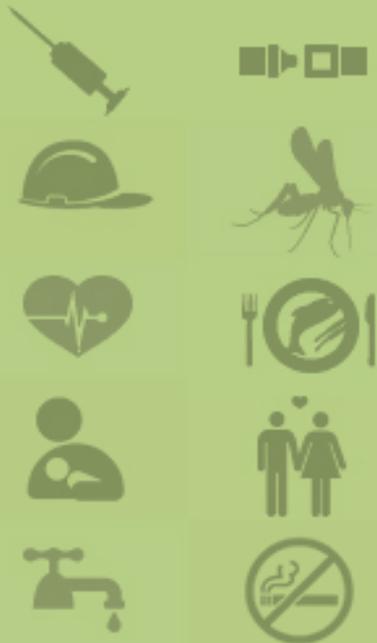


- ✘ Assessment
- ✘ Assurance
- ✘ Policy Development



100 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Top 10 Achievements in Public Health



1. Vaccination
2. Motor-vehicle safety
3. Safer workplaces
4. Control of infectious diseases
5. Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
6. Safer and healthier foods
7. Healthier mothers and babies
8. Family planning
9. Fluoridation of drinking water
10. Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard



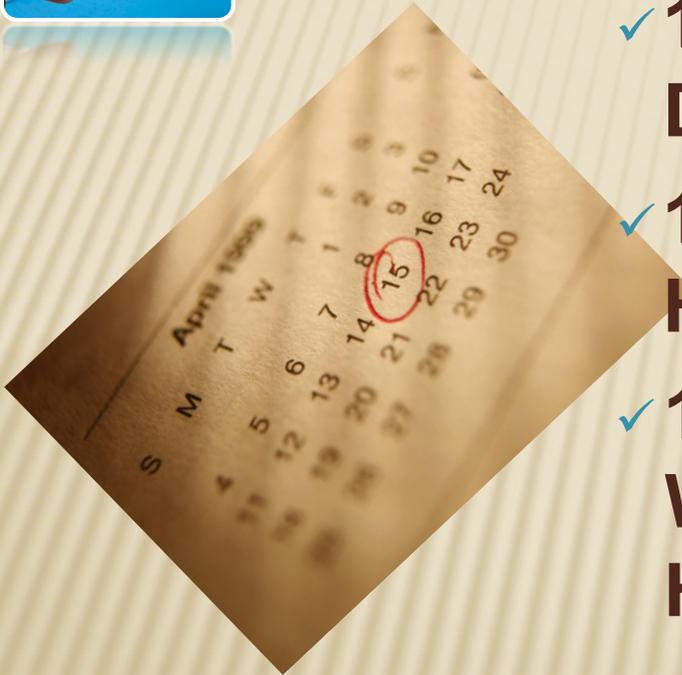
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). Ten Great Public Health Achievements --- United States, 2001--2010



PUBLIC HEALTH IN WASHINGTON

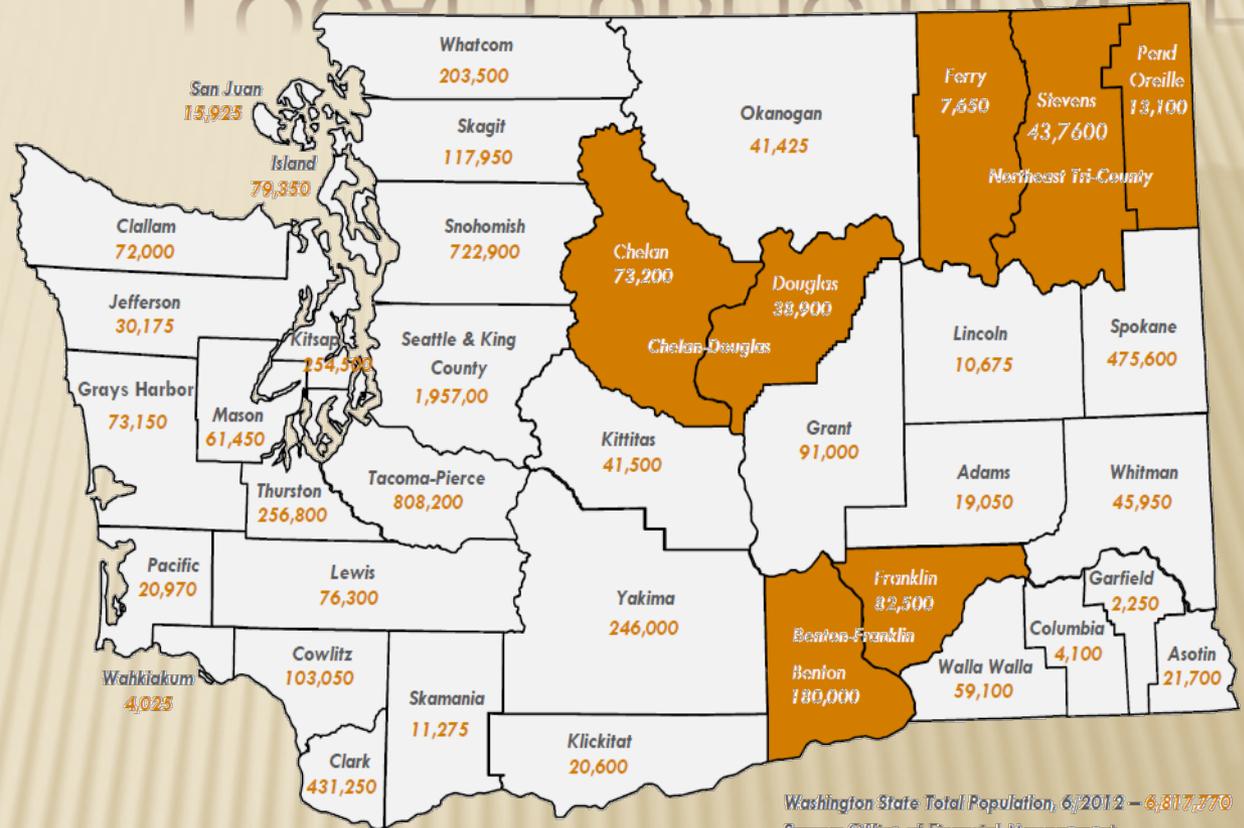


- ✓ 1911- Yakima Health District
- ✓ 1921- WAC establishes Health Department
- ✓ 1925 Whitman County Public Health
- ✓ 1989-Guidance falls to the Washington State Department of Health





LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH



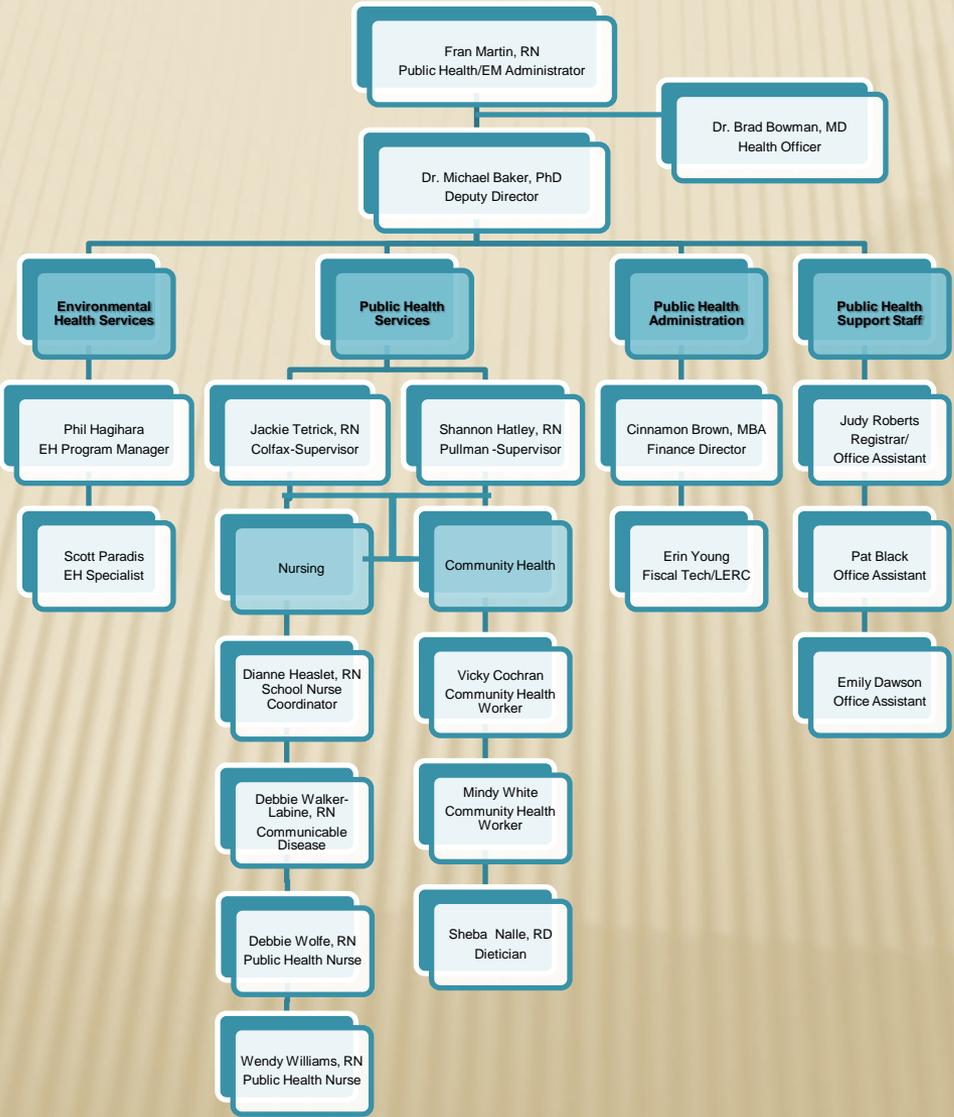
The public health system coordinates at the local, statewide and national level to provide essential services for improving health

Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs):

- + 35 Public Health Departments serving all 39 counties
 - × 20 County Departments
 - × 2 City-County Departments
 - × 10 Single County Health Districts
 - × 3 Multi-County Health Districts



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF





PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- ❑ Public Health
- ❑ Environmental Health
- ❑ Vital Records
- ❑ Public Health Emergency Preparedness



PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Maternal and Child Health

- × Block Grant
 - + Children and youth w/special healthcare needs
 - + Funding cuts and changes
- × Childcare Health Consultants
- × Maternity Support Services



The cost of the Maternal Child health programs is approximately \$43,000 with \$16,000 in local funding.





PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Maternal and Child Health



WIC

- Women, Infants, and Children Food and Nutritional Programs
- 878 Current Clients
 - 117 currently pregnant
 - Over 440 children
 - Additional requests pending with DOH

Program Costs

Maternal and Child Health- \$ 42,230
(\$15,300 local support funds)

WIC -\$ 193,200
(\$48,465 in local support funds)

WIC generated an estimated \$425,000 in food voucher to the local economy. This represents a \$9 to \$1 return on investment for local support funds.

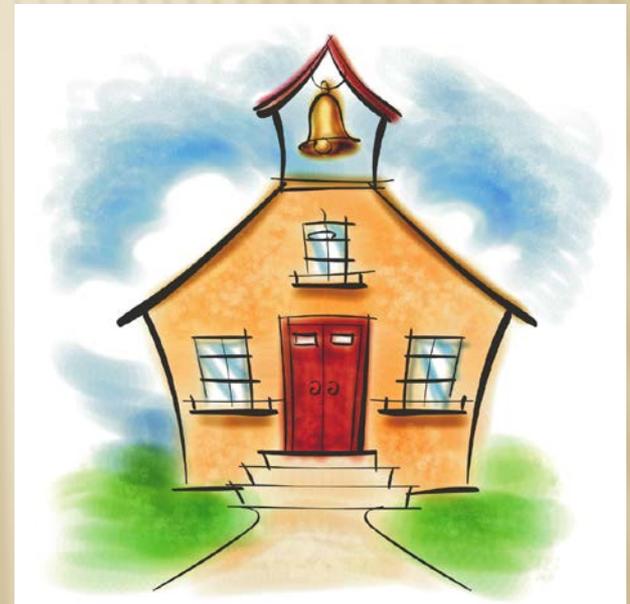


PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



School Nursing

- ✓ Currently contract with 8 Whitman County School Districts and ESD #101
- ✓ Changes in responsibilities due to increases in chronic illness and maintenance
- ✓ The School Health Program cost is \$76,000 with \$16,000 in local funding.



The most effective way to have a healthcare professional in our small and rural communities.



PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



Immunizations

- × Adult and children
- × Vaccine monitoring of HCP
- × Vaccine education



Immunization and disease prevention...the cornerstone of traditional public health services



The program requires \$50,000 in funding with approximately \$20,000 from local support funds. Local services have been cut or reduced due to budget concerns.





PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Dental Health

- ✓ Partnership with ABCD
 - ✓ focuses on preventive and restorative dental care for Medicaid-eligible
 - ✓ children from birth to age six,
 - ✓ emphasis on enrollment by age one.
 - ✓ Starting dental visits early will yield positive behaviors by both parents and children,



The current work of the Dental Program is fully supported through grants and partnerships.





PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Breast Health Program

This program is for women who:

- Are 40-64 years of age
- Have a limited or fixed income
- Are uninsured or have insurance that does not completely cover women's health care services
- Have an insurance plan that requires a deductible or co-payment that she cannot afford
- Live in Washington State



This program operates exclusively on grant funding that is under consideration for additional cuts or elimination.

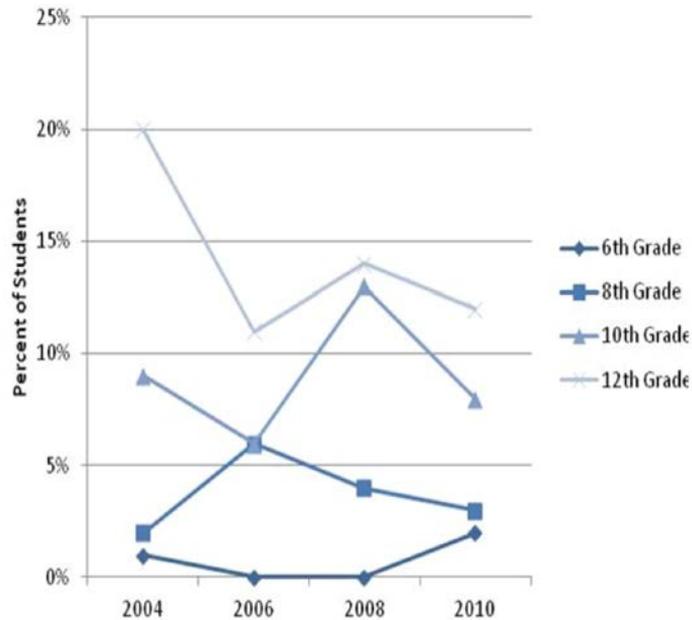




PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Tobacco Prevention

Youth Cigarette use in Whitman County



- To prevent youth access and young adult tobacco use through tobacco retailer education.

- 2010 Healthy Youth Survey of Youth

- Cigarette Smoke

- 2% of 6th graders,
- 3% of 8th graders,
- 8% of 10th graders
- 12% of 12th graders

- Smokeless Tobacco

- 16% of 12th graders,
- 7% of 10th graders
- 2% of 8th graders
- 1% of 6th graders



This program operates on grant funding that is under consideration for additional cuts or elimination.



PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



Jail Health

- × Standard of Care
 - × Interagency Agreement
 - × Federal Agreement
- × Update policies
- × Updates and training for jail staff
- × Mental/Emotional/Physical Health
- × Drug addictions and withdrawals



The cost of the Jail Health Program is approximately \$39,000 with \$16,000 in local funding.

(This cost is expected to rise significantly due to an overall increase in chronic health conditions and the numbers of federal inmates.)





PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

STD/STI Educational Outreach

- Condoms in Bars (5,000)
- Health Fairs
- Training for Healthcare Professionals
- Community Partnerships



The STD and HIV/AIDS programs operate on an annual budget of \$22,000. Approximately \$19,000 is from local funding



PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

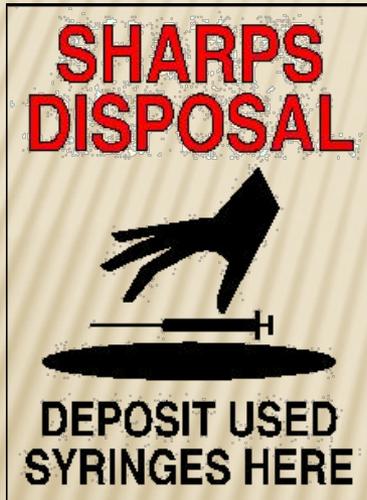


- × HIV/AIDS Testing and Counseling
- × Case Management
- × Community Partnerships



PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

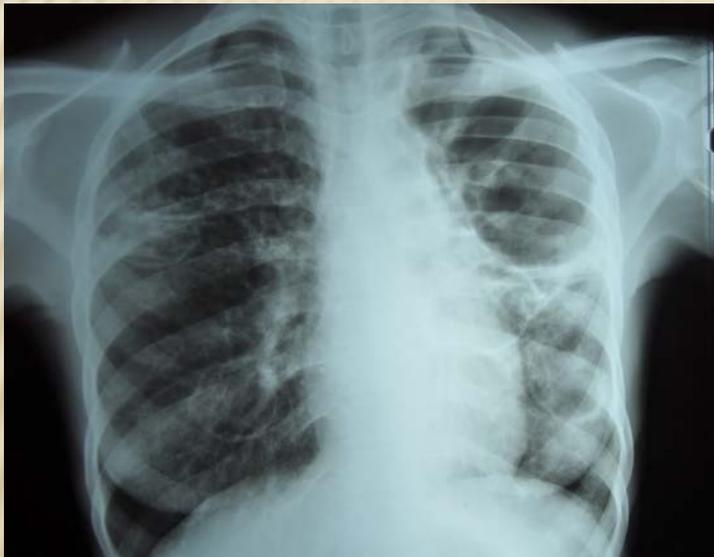
Needle Exchange Program



- × Get clean needles and reduce the spread of disease
- × Properly dispose of used needles
- × Receive information on health services
- × 6,108 Needles exchanged

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Tuberculosis Control



- × Each local health jurisdiction (LHJ) shall assure the provision of a comprehensive program for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis
 - + Chapter 246-170 WAC
 - + RCW Chapter 70.28
 - + WAC 246-101

The cost of the Tuberculosis Control Program is approximately \$13,000 with \$6,400 in local funding.



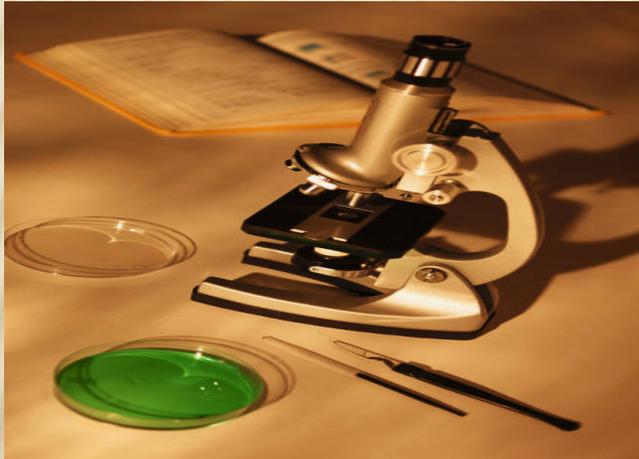
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Communicable Disease and Investigation



Notifiable Conditions

- ✓ Notifiable Conditions for Healthcare Providers
- ✓ Notifiable Conditions for Laboratories
- ✓ Notifiable Conditions for Health Facilities
- ✓ Notifiable Conditions for Veterinarians



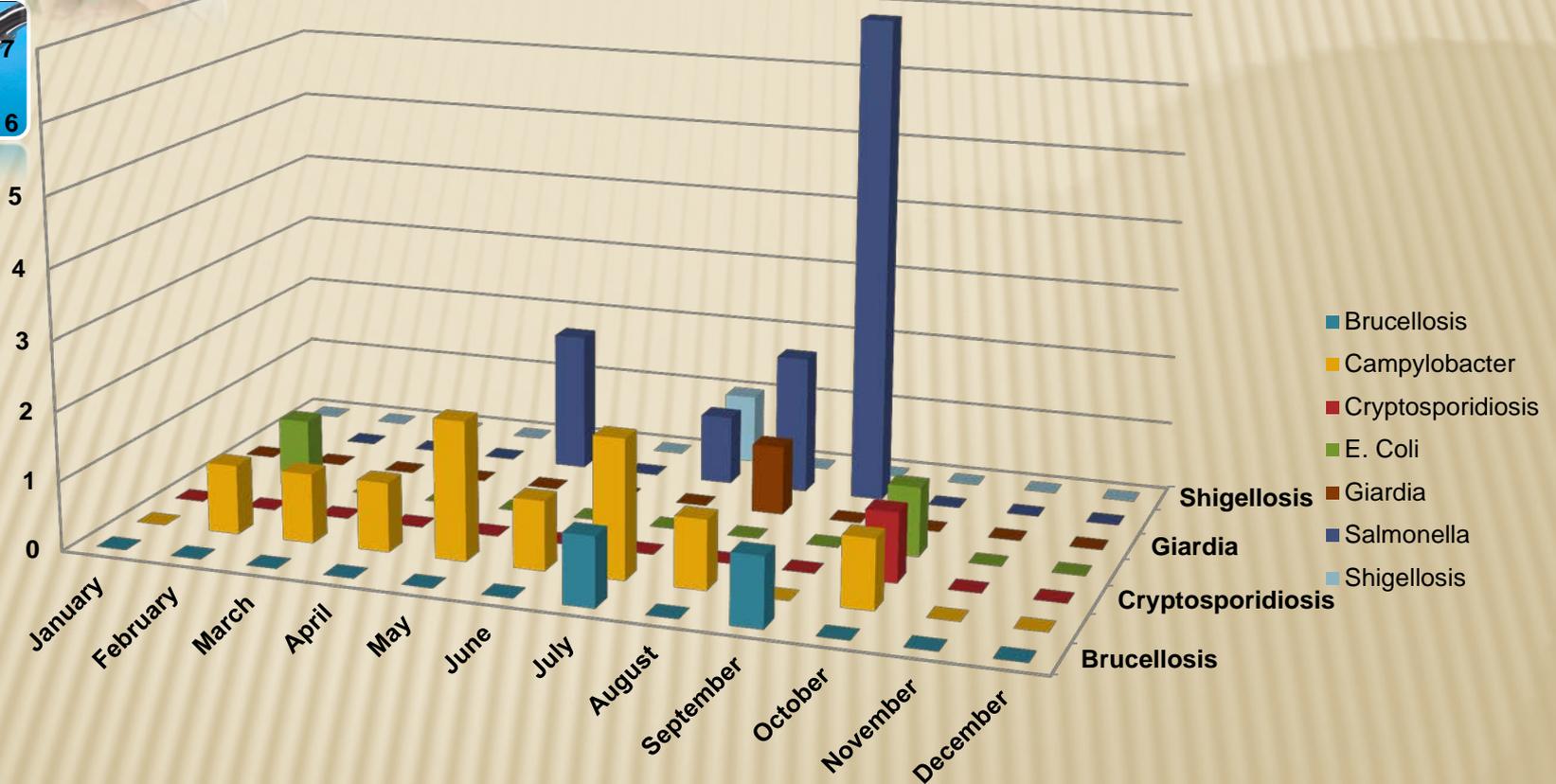
Reported and Investigated Cases

- × 295 Communicable disease reports
- × 172 Chlamydia
- × 27 Gonorrhea
- × 10 Herpes
- × 2 Syphilis
- × 1 Pertussis
- × 1 Meningococcal Disease
- × 1 Mumps
- × 1 Tb
- × 4 Pertussis
- × 10 Hepatitis B
- × 18 Hepatitis C (Chronic)
- × 18 Latent Tb
- × 11 Campylobacteriosis
- × 11 Salmonellosis
- × 3 Shiga Toxins (E. coli)
- × 1 Brucellosis
- × 2 Giardiasis
- × 1 Vibriosis (non cholera)
- × 1 Cryptosporidiosis



EPIDEMIOLOGY

2012 Interviewed Reportable Conditions by Month



This program operates on 100% of local funds.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Food Protection Program

- × Approximately 250 licensed facilities
- × Temporary event and farmers' markets
- × Focus on continuing education for staff and operators;
 - + Food Advisory Committee
 - + Food Handlers' Cards
 - + ServSafe
 - + FDA Standardization
 - + Training Manual for new staff completed



The program requires \$102,000 in funding, primarily from permit and inspection fees. Approximately \$15,000 from local support funds.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Drinking Water



- ✘ Technical assistance and surveys for public water system and private well owners
- ✘ Group B Regulations and Changes
- ✘ The program is maintained through the use of local funds at a cost of \$1,200.00 .



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Onsite Sewage

- ✓ Updated permit and application process
- ✓ Database and tracking of permits
- ✓ Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Program
- ✓ OSS Advisory Committee



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The program requires \$50,000 in funding; primarily from permits and application fees. Approximately \$25,000 comes from local support funds.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Living Environment

- Chemical/Physical Hazard Education
- Asbestos Education
- Water Recreation Facilities





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Healthy Housing Concerns

Whitman County Public Health
has **2** certified Healthy Home
Specialists on staff!

Greek Life



Landlord/Tenant Issues

The program requires \$15,000 in funding; primarily from permits and inspection fees. Approximately \$3,000 comes from local support funds.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Solid Waste



- ✘ Permitting of county landfill/transfer station
- ✘ Permitting of small/individual landfills
- ✘ Department of Ecology liaison

The solid waste program operates on a matching grant and fee for service/permit fees.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Solid Waste

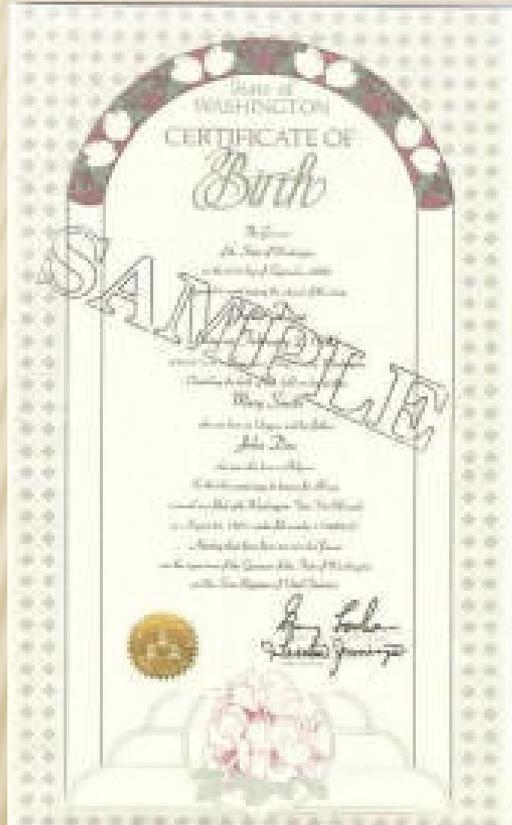


- Respond to complaints
- Work with IT to develop methods of tracking and identifying solid waste health concerns
- Updates to policies that impact communities

This program operates on a 75% matching funds basis and is under consideration for cuts or elimination.



VITAL RECORDS



- × Birth Certificates
 - + Birth certificates since 1936.
 - + Records back as far as 1875
- × Death Certificates
- × Genealogy Research

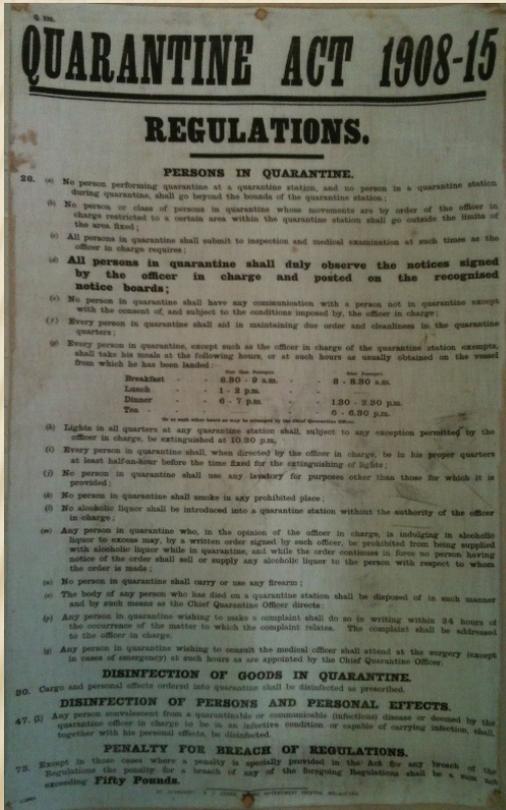


The program requires \$33,000 in funding, primarily from certificate and application fees. Approximately \$17,000 from local support funds.





PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



- ✗ WCPH works with local, regional, and state partners to be prepared in the event of catastrophic event, both natural and man-made.
- ✗ Traditionally, first responders were thought to be fire, law enforcement, EMS, and hospitals. Recent events have show the critical response now includes public health.
- ✗ WCPH has led and participated with our partners in several exercises at the local, regional, and state levels.

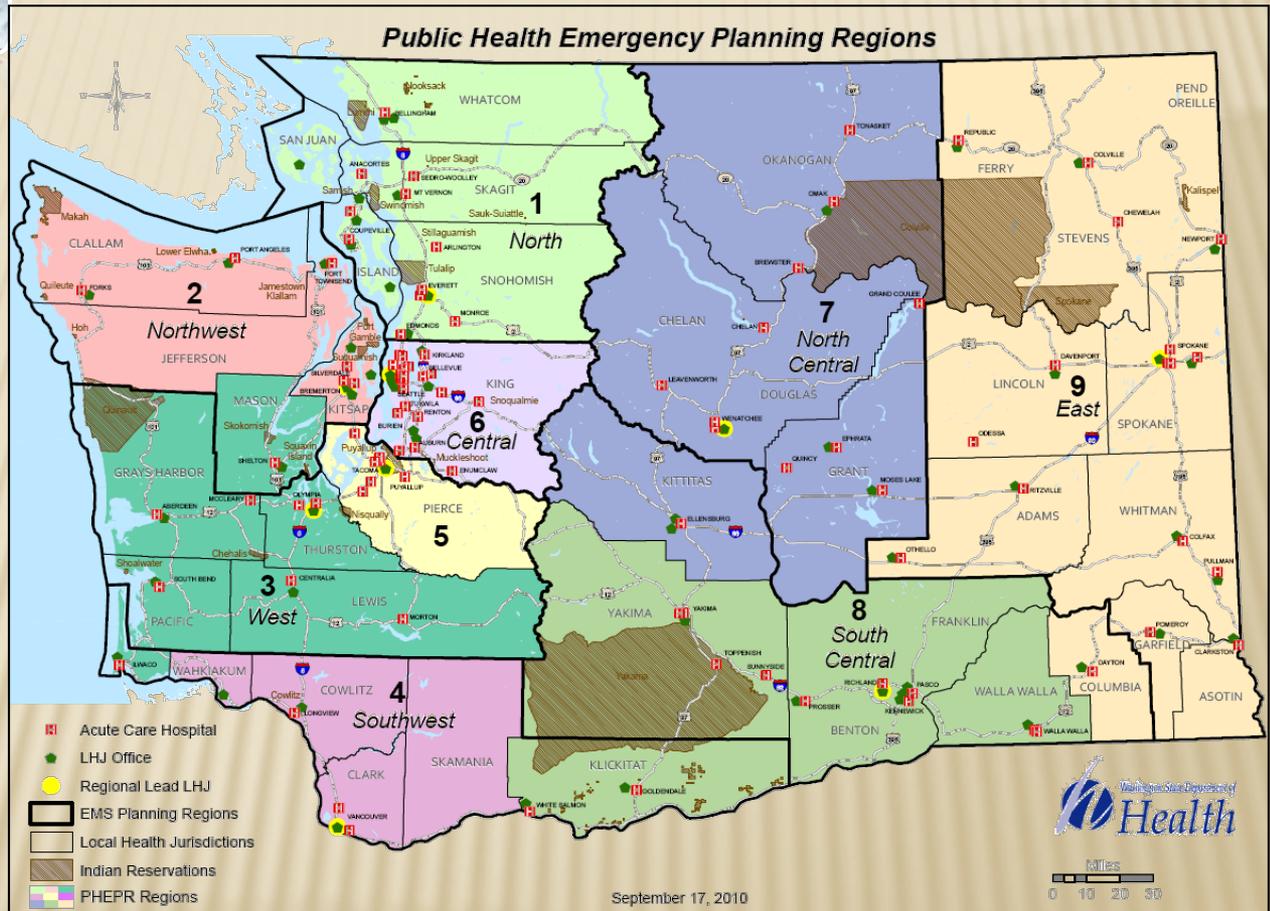


The PHEPR Program operates with grant funding that has been reduced and is under consideration for further cuts.





EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REGIONS





EMERGENCIES

What is a “public health” emergency?

Any event, either natural or manmade, that creates a health risk to the public.

Biological Threat (deliberate or accidental)

- Anthrax
- Small pox
- Cholera
- Pneumonic plague
- Others

Chemical Threat (deliberate or accidental)

- Form of a gas, solid, and/or liquid
- Household chemical
- Hazardous materials waste

Radiological Threat

- Nuclear power plant emergency
- Bomb



Natural disasters

- Severe weather:
 - storms, heavy rains,
 - lightning strikes
- Tornado
- Blizzard
- Flood
- Hurricane

Disease Outbreaks

- Influenza outbreak
- Botulism
- Salmonella
- West Nile virus
- SARS
- Contaminated Drinking Water





STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE (SNS)

National repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies, and medical/surgical items.

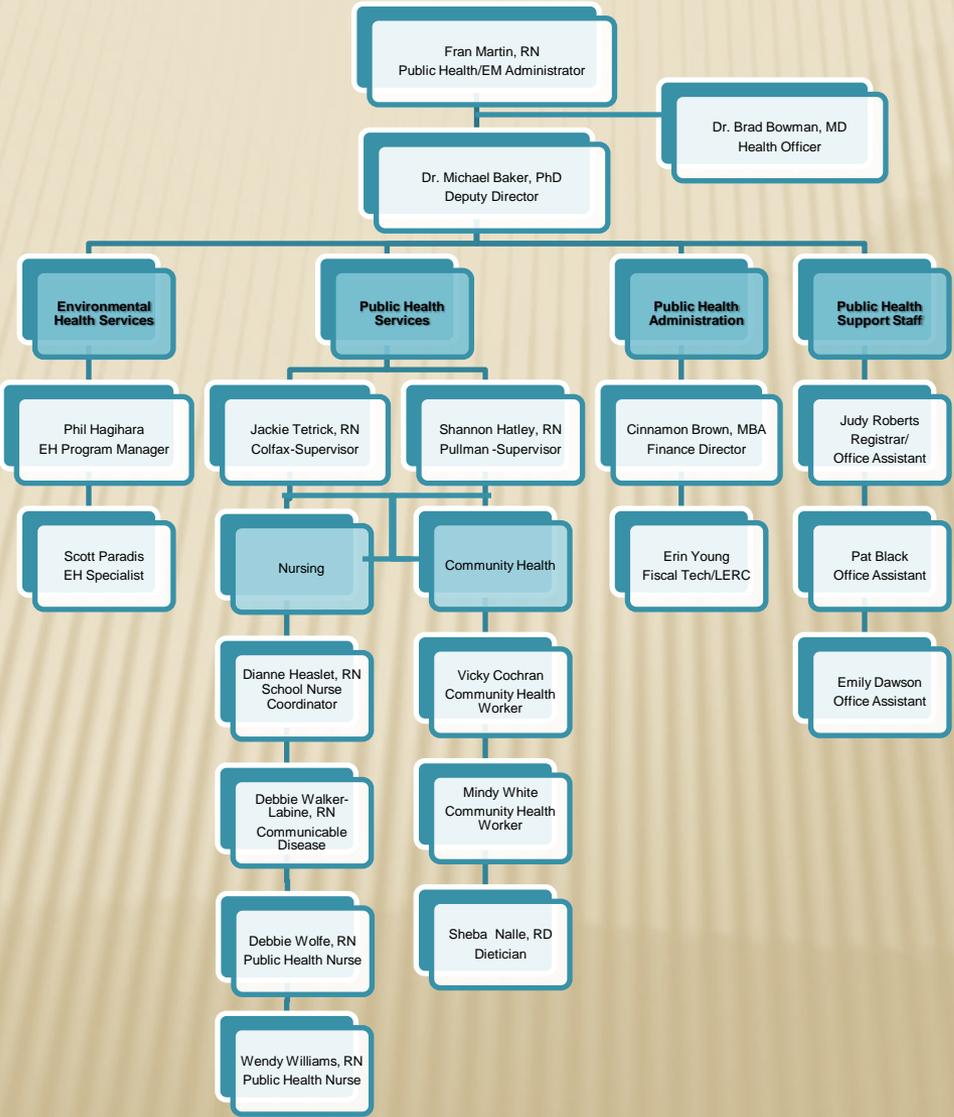
12-hour Push Packages

Vendor managed inventory (VMI) supplies

Requesting SNS



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF





PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

What is a Public Health System?



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

N A L B O H
National Association of Local Boards of Health





BOARD OF HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Enforce state public health statutes, rules and regulations
- 2) Supervise health and sanitary measures to protect the public health
- 3) Enact local rules to preserve promote and improve public health
- 4) Control/prevent contagious disease
- 5) Prevent and control nuisances detrimental to the public health
- 6) Make required reports to the State Board of Health and Department of Health
- 7) Establish fees authorized by statute and the State Board of Health
- 8) Appoint a Health Officer



HEALTH OFFICER

Broad responsibilities of the Health Officer (RCW 70.05.070)

“Inform the public as to the causes, nature and prevention of disease and disability and the preservation, promotion and improvement of health”

“Take such action as is necessary to maintain health and sanitation”



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.





PUBLIC HEALTH RCWs

Title 70 – Public Health and Safety

- ✓ 70.05 - Local Health Departments, Boards, Health Officers
- ✓ 70.08 - Combined City-County Health Departments
- ✓ 70.46 - Health Districts
- ✓ 70.12 – Public Health Funds
- ✓ 70.28 - Control of Tuberculosis
- ✓ 70.30 - Tuberculosis Funding
- ✓ 70.24 - Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections(STIs)
- ✓ 70.02 - Health Care Information Access.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.





PUBLIC HEALTH RCWs (cont)

- ✓ 70.58 - Vital Statistics
- ✓ 70.90 - Water Recreation Facilities
- ✓ 70.118 - Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems
- ✓ 70.119 - Public Water Systems
- ✓ 70.155 - Minors Access to Tobacco
- ✓ 70.160 - Clean Indoor Air Act
- ✓ 70.95 - Solid Waste Management
- ✓ 70.54 - Miscellaneous Health Provisions



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



PUBLIC HEALTH WACs



- ✓ 246-100 - Communicable Disease and Immunizations
- ✓ 246-110 - Contagious Diseases in Schools and Day Care Centers
- ✓ 246-170 - TB Prevention, Treatment and Control
- ✓ 246-136 - HIV/Occupational Exposure
- ✓ 246-138 - Testing of Good Samaritans for Infectious Diseases
- ✓ 246-215 - Food Services
- ✓ 246-217 - Food Worker Permits
- ✓ 246-260 - Water Recreation Facilities



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.





PUBLIC HEALTH WACs (cont)

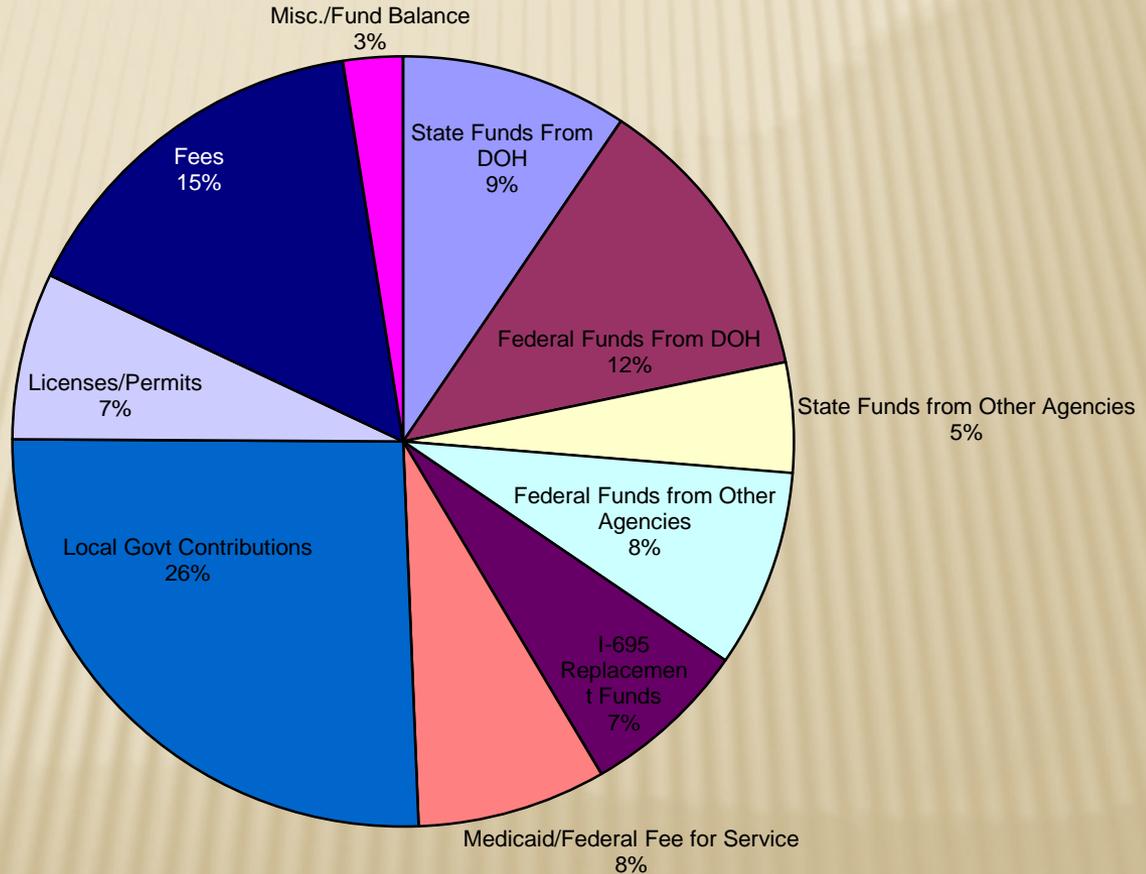
- ✓ 246-272 - Onsite Sewage Systems
- ✓ 246-290 - Public Water Supplies
- ✓ 246-291 - Group B Public Water Systems
- ✓ 246-366 - Primary and Secondary Schools
- ✓ 246-376 – Camps
- ✓ 246-280 - Recreational Shellfish Beaches
- ✓ 246-203 - General Sanitation
- ✓ 246-205 - Decontamination of Illegal Drug Lab Sites





PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

Public Health Funding



FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- × Quality Improvement
- × Regionalization
- × Emergency Response
- × Healthcare Reform
- × Behavior
- × Healthcare Systems
- × Funding
- × Emerging and Remerging Diseases
- × Staffing



PUBLIC HEALTH ACCOUNTABILITY



- **Accreditation**
Public Health Accreditation Board
- **Standards**
Public Health in Washington State



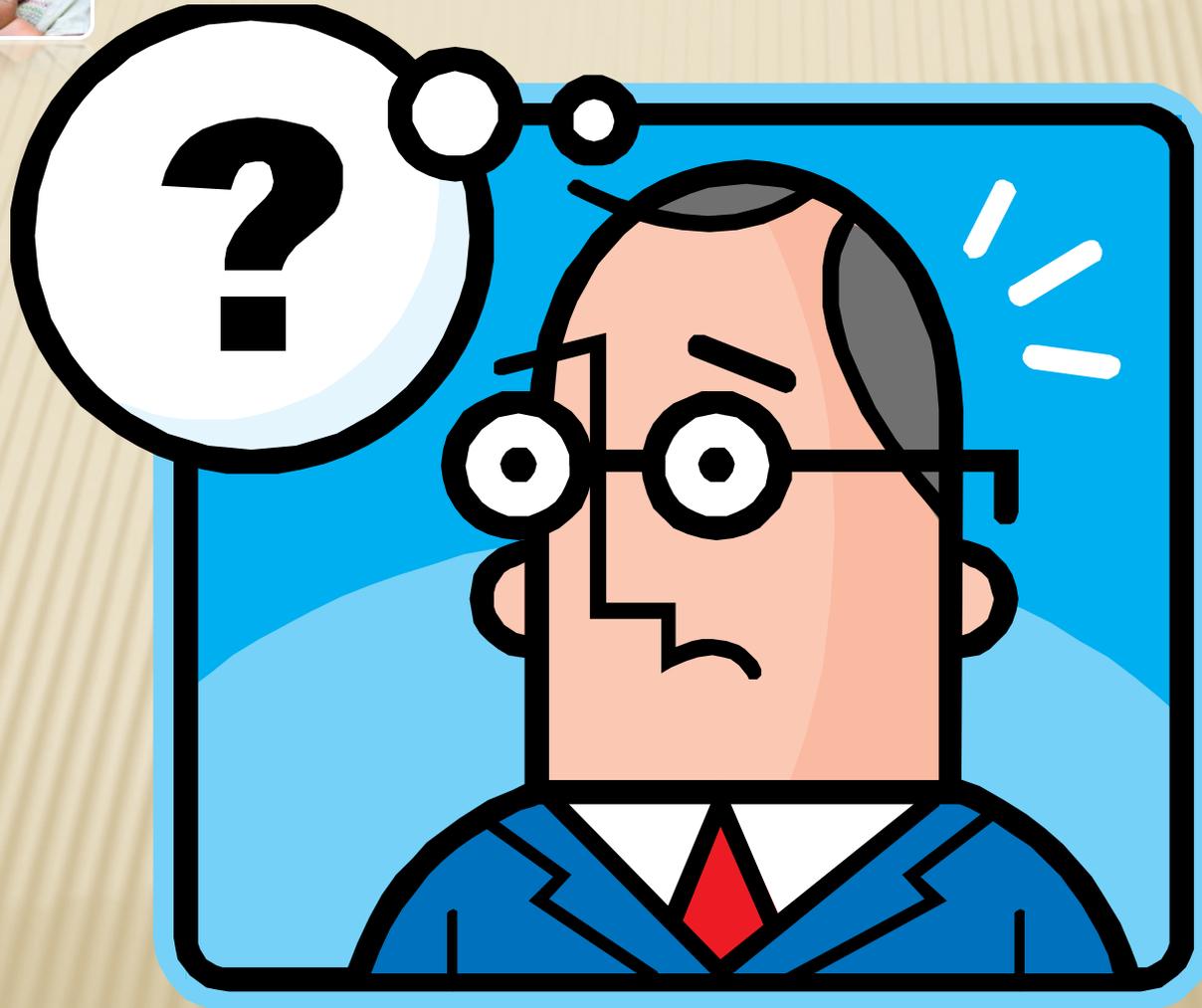


CONCLUSION

Public health is one of the few public services that will have both a direct and indirect impact on your daily life.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.





WHITMAN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Colfax Office:
310 N. Main Street
Public Service Building
Colfax, Washington 99111
509-397-6280

Pullman Office:
1205 SE Professional Mall Boulevard
Suite #203
Pullman, Washington 99163
509-332-6752



“We Are Public Health”

