Public Health

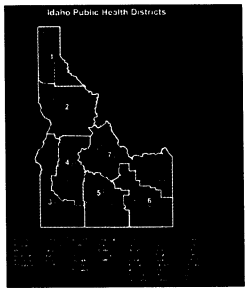
Local Public Health in Idaho

September 19, 2006

Carol Moehrle, District Director

Public Health

Public Health Districts



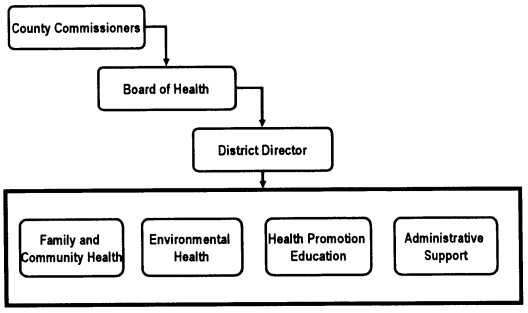
Public Health

Statutory Authority

- The Seven Public Health Districts were established by the 1970 Legislature to insure that preventive public health services are available to all citizens of the state throughout Idaho's 44 counties
- Title 39, Chapter 4, of the Idaho Code documents the consolidated statutes which govern the Health Districts

Public Health

Public Health - Organization



Public Health

Employees

- Nurses
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physicians
- Environmental Health Specialists
- Nutritionists
- Health Education Specialists
- Dental Hygienists
- Information Technology Specialists
- Administrators
- Support Staff
- Planners

Public Health

Idaho Public Health Why It Works So Well

- Local control and oversight
- Timely consideration of local health issues
- Local policy making boards address needs and oversee delivery of services

Public Health

Health District Services

Epidemiology & Surveillance

- Communicable Disease Prevention & Control
- Disease Investigation
- Disease Surveillance
- Disease Education
- Food-borne Outbreaks

Public Health

Health District Services

Health Education

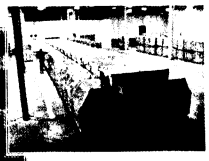
- Diabetes Prevention
- Injury Prevention
- Smoking Cessation/Tobacco Prevention
- Car Seat/Safety Belt Promotion
- Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening

Public Health

Health District Services

Public Health Preparedness

- Emergency Planning
- Health Care Liaison
- Strategic National Stockpile
- Risk Communication



Public Health

What's Missing in Our Current System: PREVENTION

- Integrate Mental HEALTH into primary care.
- There is a role for our medical providers in prevention and early detection.
- Initiate Substance Abuse PREVENTION programs during pregnancy.

Public Health

PREVENTION

- Evidence – based programs that have proven outcomes.
- Ability to get maximum return on investment.
- Ability to PREVENT the cycle from occurring.

Public Health

Public Health's Role

- Monitor MH/SA indicators
- Inform and educate the public
- Mobilize community partners
- Link people to needed services
- Assure a competent Public Health workforce to identify and refer clients.