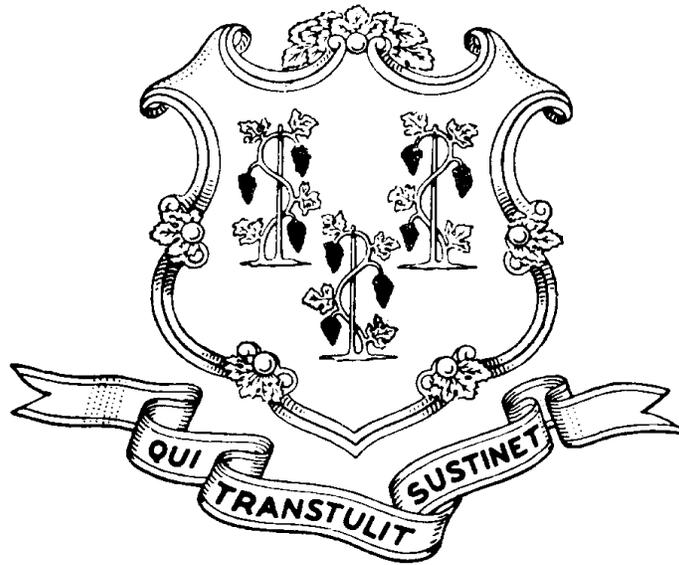


LOOKING TOWARD 2000

AN ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH STATUS AND HEALTH SERVICES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

February 1, 1999

Dear Colleague:

In January of 1998, the Department of Public Health published a working draft of *Looking Toward 2000 - An Assessment of Health Status and Health Services* to comply with Sec. 19a-7a, C.G.S., requiring the Department to determine public health priorities for the state of Connecticut. The *Assessment*, based on data-driven analyses of the health status and health service needs, presented 25 public health priorities which promote the life expectancy and quality of life for state residents.

Over copies of the draft were distributed to legislators, commissioners, local health officials, community agencies, health care providers, and consumers. We held a series of six public hearings across the state during the Spring of 1998 and solicited feedback from the health professionals and the community at large.

The comments we received during the past year supported our efforts to provide a comprehensive data resource for evaluating Connecticut's health status, health services, and public health infrastructure. The final document is now complete and includes an expanded infrastructure section, an update of the discussion on managed care programs, a new Appendix produced by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and most significantly, Connecticut's public health priorities are now rank ordered within the categories of health status, health services, and essential public health programs.

Connecticut needs to focus its resources now on those areas of activity that will have the most significant impact on the health of the state. Beyond our commitment to adequately maintain essential public health programs, DPH feels that its policy and program development should emphasize those health conditions that are the most significant for our residents: cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease, cancer, unintentional injuries, and the modifiable risk factors associated with them: tobacco use, diet and cholesterol, physical inactivity, and the control of hypertension. The priorities described in this *Assessment* can be condensed into four main focus areas for public health action in the next biennium: Cardiovascular disease, Cancer, Injuries, and Surveillance and monitoring.

I am happy to now present you with the final *Assessment of Health Status and Health Services*.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Harriman
Commissioner

LOOKING TOWARD 2000

AN ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH STATUS AND HEALTH SERVICES

January 1999

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^a Appendix P contains a complete color set of maps found in the text.