



WEBINAR:  
**Environmental  
Risk Factors &  
Health**

**Healthy Connecticut 2020:**  
*A Call to Action*

Connecticut Department of Public Health

# Today's Objectives

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- Present overview of State Health Improvement Plan and planning process
- Provide details about Environmental Risk Factors and Health focus area of the Plan:
  - Areas of Concentration
  - Objectives identified for implementation in Phase 1 (first 3 years) and 2 (next 3-5 years)
- Identify immediate next steps



# Poll

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- What is your affiliation?
- What is your familiarity with HCT 2020: The Connecticut State Health Improvement Plan?





Connecticut Department  
of Public Health

## Healthy Connecticut 2020



2 State Health Improvement Plan

# Plan Overview



# Who

## (Plan Developers)

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- Connecticut Health Improvement Planning Coalition
  - 100+ partners led by DPH
    - State and local health agencies
    - Traditional and non-traditional stakeholders
    - Advisory Council
    - Focus Area Work Groups
  - *Vision: Integrated and focused efforts to improve health outcomes*



# How

## (Principles for Framing the Plan)

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- Health improvement approach
- Evidence-based objectives and strategies
- Balance among scope, relevance, and depth of focus
- Alignment with national frameworks and standards
- Recognize existing initiatives, plans and programs



# How

## (Principles for Framing the Plan)

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- Overarching themes:
  - Health equity =
  - Social and economic determinants of health
- Inspirational *Call to Action*
- Implementation in 2 phases
  - Ph1 = Phase 1



# What (Focus Areas)

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1. Maternal, Infant, and Child Health



2. Environmental Risk Factors and Health



3. Chronic Disease Prevention and Control



4. Infectious Disease Prevention and Control



5. Injury and Violence Prevention



6. Mental Health, Alcohol, and Substance Abuse

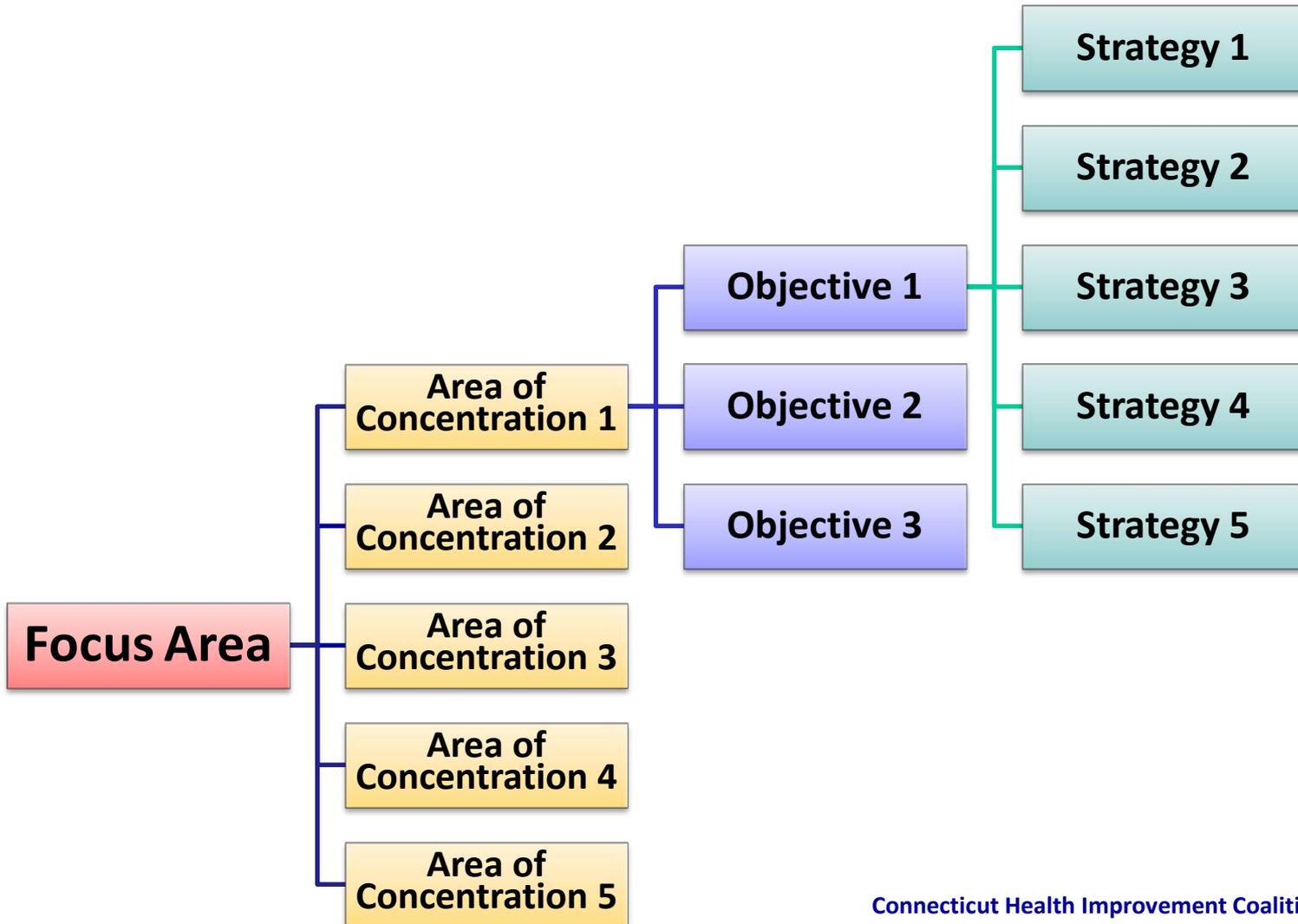


7. Health Systems



# Plan Layout

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# Focus Area 5: Environmental Risk Factors and Health



# Work Group Members

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## Co-chairs:

**Paul Schur**

*UCONN MPH Program*

**Patrick McCormack**

*Uncas Health District*

## Members:

**Suzanne Blancaflor**

CT Dept of Public Health

**Anne Hulick**

Clean Water Action

**Thomas St. Louis**

CT Dept of Public Health

**Andrea Boissevain**

Stratford Health Dept

**Martha Kelly**

CT Coalition for Environ. Justice

**Kate Powell**

S. Central CT Reg. Water Authority

**Judith Dicine**

Chief State's Attorney

**Sharon Lewis**

CT Coalition for Environ. Justice

**Carolyn Wysocki**

Ecological Health Organization, Inc.

**Nadine Fraser**

CHA

**Marco Palmeri**

CT Environmental Health Assoc.

**Edith Pestana**

CT DEEP

**Robert Girard**

CT DEEP



# Goal

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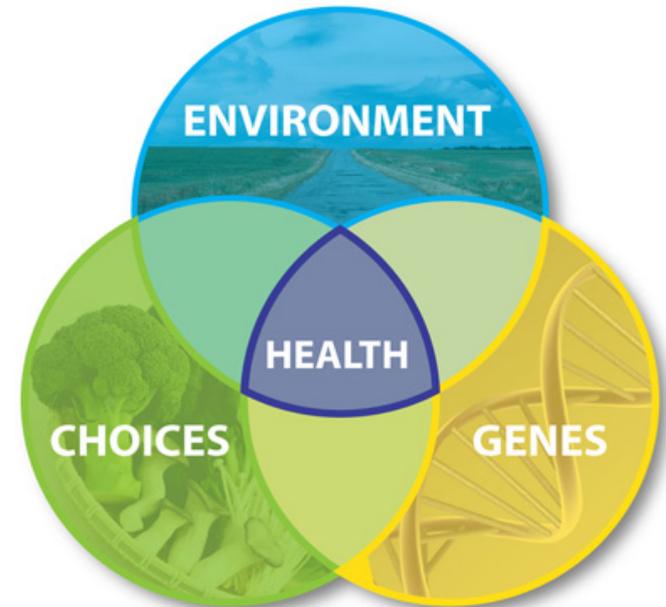
Enhance public health by decreasing environmental risk factors



# Areas of Concentration (8 Objectives)

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- Lead (1)
- Drinking Water Quality (2)
- Outdoor Air Quality (2)
- Healthy Homes (2)
- Healthy Communities (1)



Areas include Phase 1 Objectives



# Lead

## Phase 1 Objective:

*Reduce the prevalence rate of children less than 6 years of age with confirmed blood lead levels at or above the CDC reference value (5 µg/dL)*

- By the numbers
  - Of children screened <6 yrs
    - 2,261 >5 µg/dL (2012)
    - 523 children >10 µg/dL (2012)
  - 30% of CT houses constructed before 1950
    - New Haven: 59% built before 1950 (2012)
    - Bridgeport: 48% built before 1950 (2012)
    - Hartford: 45% built before 1950 (2012)



# Lead

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- Implementation Strategies
  - Provide education materials to high risk families about reducing exposures
  - Leverage existing funds allocated to communities to increase targeted lead poisoning prevention efforts
  - Require medical providers to give guidance to parents with children at or above the reference level
  - Partner with health care professionals
    - to increase their ability to identify, prevent and reduce environmental health threats
    - to improve compliance with mandated lead testing requirements
    - to establish and enhance case management activities to align with CDC recommendations



# Drinking Water Quality

## Phase 1 Objective (Developmental):

*Reduce the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks due to consumption of contaminated drinking water for all ground water based, small community public water systems following an emergency situation*

- 350 small community public water systems each serving under 1,000 people
- Implementation Strategies
  - Provide TA for development of emergency and asset management plans
  - Continue to offer low interest loans for system infrastructure and emergency generators
  - Increase compliance of small community public water systems



# Outdoor Air Quality

## Phase 1 Objectives (2):

*Reduce the average number of days/year the Air Quality Index exceeds 50, and increase public awareness of the presence and risks*

### ■ Air Quality Index (AQI)

- Unhealthy for sensitive groups
  - 24 days (2012)
- Unhealthy
  - 4 days (2012)



### ■ Implementation Strategies

- Reduce the number of cars on the road during poor air quality days
- Increase awareness of 3 minute vehicle idling law
- Ban outdoor wood burning on poor air quality days
- Increase use of green technologies
- Target communication to at-risk populations



# Healthy Homes

## Phase 2 Objectives (2):

*Increase enforcement of minimum housing code standards (developmental), and increase Healthy Homes inspections*

- Healthy Homes
  - No measurement of “sub-standard housing”
  - No minimum statewide housing or property code
  - Initial Healthy Homes Assessments: 45 (2012)
- Implementation Strategies
  - Develop a minimum statewide housing and property code
  - Adopt and use a standardized Healthy Homes Assessment tool
  - Communication and education of policies and standards



# Healthy Communities

## Phase 2 Objective (Developmental):

*Increase the number of local planning agencies and others that incorporate a “health in all policies” approach*

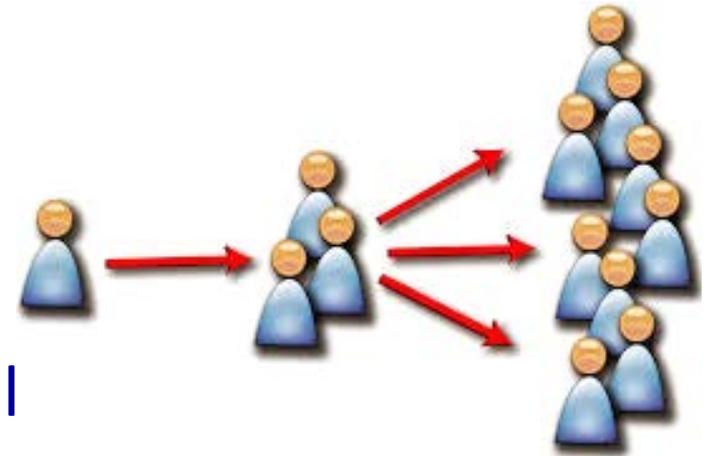
- Implementation Strategies
  - Create Healthy Community Model Guidance and Blueprint
  - Identify evidence based tools for connecting planning and health
  - Explore best practices for towns to adopt the Model



# What Next?

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- Communicating the Plan
  - Speakers Bureau
  - Focus Area Webinar Series
- Implementation Advisory Council
- Identify a mechanism to share information and communication among the Coalition members



# What Next?

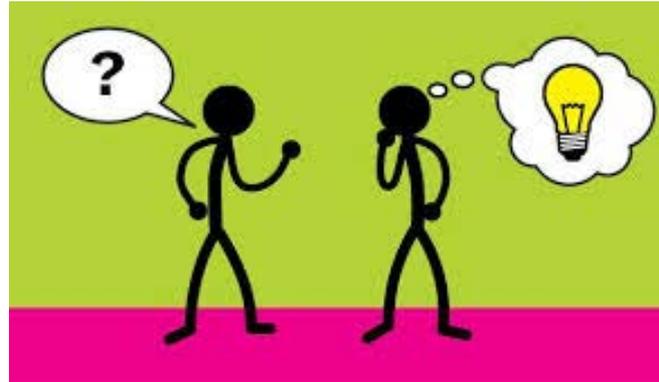
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- **What you or your organization can do:**
  - Bring Speakers Bureau to your group
  - Develop partnerships in your communities
  - Identify the priorities or objectives for your organization and consider *taking the lead!*
  - Identify policy changes needed to improve health
  - Help grow the Coalition



# THANK YOU!

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## Questions and Additional Comments

e-mail:

**HCT2020@ct.gov**



# Poll

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- Are there objectives in this Focus Area that your organization will work on or are already working toward?
- Are there objectives in this Focus Area for which your organization might consider taking the lead?



# DPH Statewide Priorities

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- High blood pressure, heart disease, stroke
- Obesity
- Vaccine-preventable infectious disease
- Falls
- Preconception health, interconception care/  
premature/preterm births, and low birthweight
- Poor housing conditions
- Unhealthy community design

