



BENEFITS OF LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT INTEGRATION

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Integration of Connecticut's 72 Local Health Departments and Districts is expected to result in many benefits to residents, municipalities, and the state's overall public health:

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Increases municipal eligibility for state per capita and federal preventive health and health services block grant funding
- May increase eligibility for state and federal funding, bringing new dollars to the local level
- Increases the capacity to bill for clinical services through third party billing
- Allows municipalities to offset their district contribution by the total revenue received by the district from grants, fees, permits and licenses, inspections and clinical services
- Reduces costs through coordination of resources across more towns
- Reduces state Medicaid expenditures on emergency room visits by providing preventative health services to residents

After consolidation of local health districts in Ohio, the total per capita expenditures decreased by more than 16%, while county health officials found that local public health services improved during the same time (Hoornbeek, et al., American Journal of Public Health, 2014).

MUNICIPAL BENEFITS

- Improves availability of services: 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for emergencies
- Ensures a sustainable framework for service delivery by making Districts separate agencies of their constituent municipalities
- Gives member towns ability to pool staff, resources, and services in times of need
- Improves efficient delivery of local level services and increases DPH's ability to provide oversight, technical assistance and training
- Improves municipal ability to address cross-border public health problems by employing a regional approach to services
- Improves access to a professional local health department staffed with trained, certified personnel with expertise in a wide variety of public health areas

LHDs covering a wider jurisdiction with larger population sizes (i.e., greater than 500,000 population) are more likely to ensure access to care, including medical and behavioral services (Luo, et al., American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2013).

PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS

- Every Connecticut resident will have access to full-time local public health services
- Provides for uniform enforcement of state laws, regulations, codes and ordinances
- Promotes health equity throughout Connecticut
- Increases the capacity to conduct a community health assessment (CHA), community health improvement plan (CHIP) and strategic plan to address health disparities within the district

For every 10 percent increase in LHD funding, there is nearly a 7 percent decrease in preventable infant deaths as well as other improvements (e.g., reduced deaths from heart disease, diabetes, and cancer) (Mays & Smith, Health Affairs, 2011).
