

Colorado Public Health Practice-Based Research Network



**Colorado School
of Public Health**



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

RIA research topic ideas

- Inform implementation of the Colorado Public Health Reauthorization Act of 2008
- **Overview**
- PH Act of 2008
- Pilot project underway
- Topics for RIA funding

Public Health Reauthorization Act (SB08-194)

Objective – *to restructure and update Colorado's public health laws*

Key Principles

- Assuring provision of basic services to every person in Colorado with consistent standard of quality
- State and local collaboration
- Financial feasibility
- Functional regionalization

SB08-194: Public Health Reauthorization Act

Defines power and duties of:

- State Board of Health
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- County Commissioners
- Local Public Health Agencies
- Local Public Health Directors
- Local Boards of Health

Colorado 2008 - the context

- 64 counties
 - 17 urban, 24 rural, 23 frontier (<6 people/sq mile)
 - 4.7 M pop with 81% in 11 counties
 - Demographic/economic variation by county
 - 5.1-38% Hispanic in 11 urban counties
 - 1.5-67.5% Hispanic in rural and frontier counties
- 54 local PH agencies
 - 15 organized health departments
 - 39 public health nursing services

PBRN Pilot Project Description

- Purpose
 - Describe changes that occur after passage of the Public Health Reauthorization Act (SB08-194)
 - Inform future research agenda
 - Provide data for future funding opportunities
- Measurement
 - 2005, 2008, 2010 NACCHO Profiles data for baseline and change
 - Selected items to be added to local health department annual report
 - Build data collection into ongoing reporting mechanism

New developments

- Validation study of selected survey items (NACCHO funding)
- In depth study of partnerships and regionalization (unfunded CCTSI proposal; RWJF Public Health Law proposal)

Pilot Study Focus Areas

- Structure
 - Local Boards of Health
- Budgets
- Workforce
 - Qualifications of Directors
 - Medical Officer
 - Staffing
- Services
- Community Health Assessment
- Health Improvement Planning
- Partnerships

New funding ideas:

Inform Implementation of PH Act

1. What is the optimal infrastructure for local public health agencies in terms of staff, structure and resources?
2. What is the role of the elected official and their impact on public health services and local funding (local boards of health, advisory groups, county commissioners related to networks, power and politics in public health)?

New funding ideas (continued):

Inform Implementation of PH Act

3. What are the essential components of a community health assessment? Does performing CHAs affect health outcomes?
4. What models are associated with a functional LHD in rural areas in terms of jurisdiction/size, staffing, etc?
5. What are strengths and weakness of having environmental health and public health in the same versus different organizations?