

State Public Health Per Capita Funding among Three Organizational Structures of State Public Health Agencies

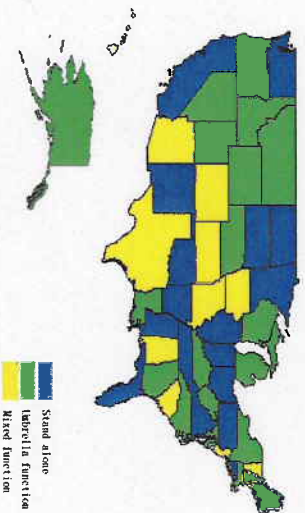
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Introduction

Public health funding plays an important role in ensuring that federal, state, and local governments are able to fulfill their public health mission. Across the country, states vary in their level of public health funding and organizational structure of their public health agencies. There are three primary types of state organizational structures for public health agencies: stand alone, umbrella, and mixed function. The purpose of this study was to evaluate whether funding varies depending on the three types of structures. Figure 1 displays the type of organizational structure for each state.

Figure 1. State Public Health Agencies by Type of Organizational Structure



Stand alone public health agencies are independent from other state government agencies and offer traditional public health services only. There are 18 public health state agencies classified under this category including AR, CA, CT, FL, IL, IN, MN, MS, NM, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SD, TN, VA, and WA.

Umbrella function state agencies are public health divisions/agencies under larger health agencies such as a Department of Health and Human Services. There are 21 public health state divisions/agencies that are classified under this category including AK, DE, GA, ID, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MT, NE, NV, NH, NY, NC, OR, UT, WV, WI, and WY.

Mixed function state agencies are independent public health agencies with a limited number (1 or 2) of other non-traditional public health functions such as Mental Health or Senior Services. The District of Columbia and 11 public health state agencies are classified under this category including AL, AZ, CO, HI, IA, KS, MO, NJ, SC, TX, and VT.

Methods

Secondary data from Trust for America's Health were used to examine fiscal year 2006-2007 public health per capita state funding levels by type of organizational structure (see Table 1). All 50 states and the District of Columbia were included in analyses. Group differences in per capita state funding were examined using log transformed data for ANOVA analysis.

Table 1. State Funding for Public Health FY 2006-2007 Per Capita

State	Per Capita	State	Per Capita
Alabama	\$58.46	Montana	\$25.35
Alaska	\$45.99	Nebraska	\$36.67
Arizona	\$17.95	Nevada	\$3.37
Arkansas	\$27.29	New Hampshire	\$23.03
California	\$84.01	New Jersey	\$34.96
Colorado	\$49.62	New Mexico	\$62.58
Connecticut	\$23.44	New York	\$68.84
Delaware	\$52.54	North Carolina	\$16.31
District of Columbia	\$115.08	North Dakota	\$16.92
Florida	\$29.89	Ohio	\$15.05
Georgia	\$18.33	Oklahoma	\$66.36
Hawaii	\$172.21	Oregon	\$14.49
Idaho	\$78.29	Pennsylvania	\$20.10
Illinois	\$23.47	Rhode Island	\$50.56
Indiana	\$15.40	South Carolina	\$40.96
Iowa	\$19.50	South Dakota	\$28.49
Kansas	\$18.87	Tennessee	\$50.92
Kentucky	\$42.40	Texas	\$15.96
Louisiana	\$48.21	Utah	\$33.71
Maine	\$26.82	Vermont	\$145.23
Maryland	\$38.13	Virginia	\$41.59
Massachusetts	\$65.92	Washington	\$44.53
Michigan	\$21.20	West Virginia	\$76.93
Minnesota	\$16.27	Wisconsin	\$10.51
Mississippi	\$12.64	Wyoming	\$64.19
Missouri	\$8.81		

Results

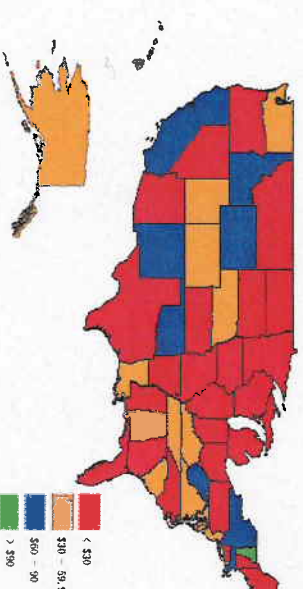
The average per capita state funding in fiscal year 06-07 for all 50 states and the District of Columbia was \$29.31. Mixed function state public health agencies had the highest mean per capita funding of \$38.65 followed by umbrella function public health agencies. Stand alone public health agencies had the lowest mean per capita state funding of \$29.69. However, results from ANOVA analysis did not indicate significant differences in mean per capita state funding among the three organizational types of agencies ($p > 0.05$).

Table 2. Average Public Health Per Capita Spending by Organizational Structure

Type of State Public Health Agency	Mean (\$)	Std Dev	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
Stand alone	29.69	1.78	1.15	22.29	39.56
Umbrella function	31.00	2.16	1.18	21.83	44.03
Mixed function	38.65	2.59	1.32	21.11	70.75
All agencies	29.31	2.18	1.12	23.54	36.31

- Of the 18 stand alone public health agencies, eleven had per capita funding of less than \$30, four had per capita funding ranging from \$30 to \$59.99, and three had per capita funding ranging from \$60 to \$90.
- Among the 21 umbrella function agencies, nine had per capita funding less than \$30, seven had per capita funding ranging from \$30 to \$59.99, and five had per capita funding ranging from \$60 to \$90.
- For the 12 mixed function public health agencies, five had per capita funding less than \$30, four had per capita funding ranging from \$30 to \$59.99, and three had per capita funding above \$90.

Figure 2. State Public Health Funding Per Capita



Conclusion

State public health agency organizational structure does not play a significant role in the amount of state funding it receives. This information is useful to policymakers when considering the establishment or reconfiguration of state agencies. However, further research is needed to determine public health outcomes based on organizational structure and per capita funding.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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