

Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday December 22, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Town Hall Office Meeting Space

* * * Meeting Agenda * * *

0. Meeting preliminaries
 - o Open meeting / take attendance
 - o Approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 meeting
1. Mail and Invoices
2. FRCOG inspections / report
3. Meetings / Trainings attended by board members
4. Health and wellness report
5. Review Action Plan
6. Chairperson update
7. Clerk update
8. Unanticipated items of concern that arise after posting
9. Public comments
10. Meeting wrap-up
 - o Next meetings
 - i. January 12, 2026, at 5:00 pm
 - ii. January 26, 2026, at 5:00 pm
 - o Close meeting

Conway Board of Health Ongoing Initiatives

Source: Health Promotion and Health Equity 2025 Training Program, Section on Health Promotion, Planning and Action, Lesson 7

Planning Steps

1. Identify the problem
2. Define the at-risk population
3. Collect data

Implementing an Action Plan

PDSA - Plan, Do, Study, Act

Questions:

1. What are we trying to accomplish?
2. How will we know that a change is an improvement?
3. What changes can we make that will result in improvement?

Action Planning Template

Goal/Outcome	Objectives	Strategies, Action Steps	Partners, Persons Responsible	Timeline	Outcome Indicators	Monitoring, Evaluation

Goal/Outcome	Objectives	Strategies, Action Steps	Partners, Persons Responsible	Timeline	Outcome Indicators	Monitoring, Evaluation

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NACCHO NEWS

■ Submit for the 2026 Model Practice Awards As Soon As Possible

The submission process for the 2026 Model Practice Awards is open, offering a streamlined experience integrated with abstract submissions for the NACCHO360 and PHI*con Conferences. Local health departments and NACCHO affiliate members are invited to submit initiatives that demonstrate innovation, effectiveness, and replicability in public health.

Selected practices will be featured in NACCHO's Model Practice Database, recognized nationally, and considered for presentation and publication opportunities. Submissions are due by December 31, 2025, by 11:59 PM EST via the NACCHO360/PHI*con Abstract Portal. Showcase impactful work and contribute to the advancement of public health nationwide. Submit today and gain recognition for excellence in local public health.

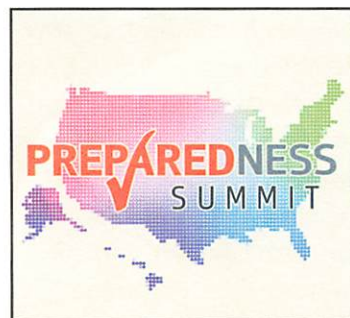
■ Submit Abstracts and Register for NACCHO360 Today



The 2026 NACCHO360 annual conference will take place in Louisville, Kentucky, on July 14-17, and online. The 2026 NACCHO360 theme, *Racing Forward, Swinging Big: United for Public Health's Future*, calls on the public health community to stay focused, swing with purpose, and race toward a future built on innovation, resilience, and access

for all. The abstract submission period for the 2026 conference is currently open. All abstracts must be submitted via the Map Your Show online abstract system no later than December 31, 2025, by 11:59 PM EST. Learn more about submitting an abstract, and register for NACCHO 360 at www.nacchoannual.org.

■ Join the 2026 Preparedness Summit in Baltimore or Virtually



Early-bird registration for the 2026 Preparedness Summit is open through December 31. Don't miss this chance to join the country's first and longest-running national conference on public health preparedness. This conference will be the beginning of an ongoing national conversation focusing on the evolution of the public health preparedness system. Register for the Preparedness Summit—to be held April 13-16, 2026, in Baltimore, MD and

virtually—today. Learn more and register at www.preparednesssummit.org.

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Public Health Dispatch Digital Resource Companion



Access additional information on the stories and resources featured in this issue of Public Health Dispatch by scanning the QR code or by visiting the URL below to access the digital resource companion.

https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/PUBLIC-HEALTH-DISPATCH_DIGITAL-RESOURCE-COMPANION_NOVEMBER-2025.pdf

NACCHO Exchange Summer 2025: Data Communication

Recently highlighted in *Newsbreak*, the Summer 2025 issue of *NACCHO Exchange* dives into the art and science of data communication, exploring how visuals, narratives, and strategy come together to make complex information meaningful.

The issue features some of today's data visualization voices to share the principles, practices, and people shaping the field.



NACCHO CEO Shares How Local Health Departments Navigate Through Change and Disruption in Public Health in a Special Q&A Feature With Healthbeat

Lori Tremmel Freeman, NACCHO CEO, was featured in *Healthbeat's* 5 *From the Field* series, which highlights leaders and practitioners in public health.



In the interview, she discussed her recently co-authored journal article emphasizing how local health departments can move forward in today's climate and that rebuilding trust in public health involves having open and honest conversations. She also shared that partnerships between federal, state, and local agencies are critical, especially in national public health emergencies.

Strengthening Local Health Departments For Long-Term Infection Prevention

NACCHO plays a pivotal role in enhancing infection prevention and control (IPC) capacity at the local level. Through targeted funding, technical assistance, and strategic partnerships, NACCHO empowers

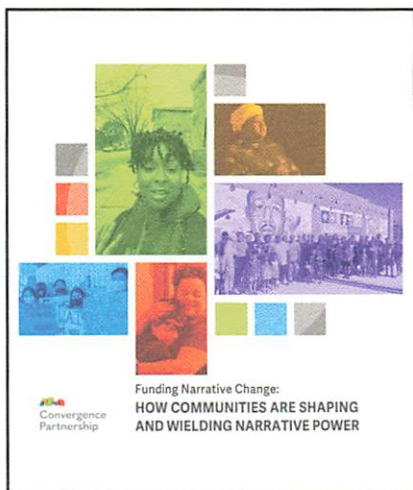
health departments to build sustainable IPC programs, improve coordination with healthcare partners, and train frontline staff. In Nebraska, multi-year support helped Central District Health Department establish foundational IPC roles, develop data-driven prioritization systems, and create a statewide HAI Liaison Network. These efforts led to measurable improvements in outbreak response, antimicrobial stewardship, and workforce development. By embedding lasting systems and fostering collaboration, NACCHO ensures communities are equipped to prevent infections and protect public health.

Christopher J.L. Murray Honored With 2025 Fries Prize for Transforming Global Health

Christopher J.L. Murray, MD, DPhil, has been awarded the 2025 James and Sarah Fries Prize for Improving Health by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation. Recognized for his groundbreaking work in health metrics and policy, Murray has revolutionized how global health challenges are identified and addressed. As founder of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), he led the development of the Global Burden of Disease study, a vital tool for assessing health outcomes worldwide. His innovative frameworks have guided public health strategies across maternal health, infectious diseases, and health systems' performance. Presented at the APHA annual meeting, the \$100,000 Fries Prize celebrates Murray's enduring impact on improving health for millions through data-driven insights and global collaboration.

New Report Reveals What Works in Community Narrative Power Building

In its latest research, the Convergence Partnership examines real-world examples of community-led organizations successfully building and wielding narrative power to drive systemic change through creative storytelling methods including TikTok, documentary courses, community theater and strategic media partnerships.



The report, *Funding Narrative Change: How Communities Are Shaping and Wielding Narrative Power*, offers tangible examples and actionable recommendations to strengthen the long-term work of shifting culture and building a more just world.

Prepare for Seasonal Respiratory Challenges With CDC Guidance

CDC projects that the 2025–2026 respiratory season will bring hospital demand similar to last year's peak levels.

This outlook, grounded in historical data and expert modeling, offers a strategic baseline for public health planning. Updated every two months—or sooner if conditions shift—it supports readiness across healthcare systems. While peak hospitalization rates



are central to this assessment, cumulative burden and potential multiple surges remain key considerations.

The forecast is not a precise prediction but a high-level guide to inform preparedness efforts. Uncertainty is expected, but proven methods continue to enhance reliability. Stay informed with the latest CDC guidance and use this outlook to support proactive planning throughout the season.

New Report Offers Strategic Insights To Prevent Overdose Fatalities

NACCHO, in collaboration with the University of North Carolina and Remedy Alliance, participated in a national survey assessing the landscape of drug checking initiatives across local health departments.

The report explores the prevalence, technological modalities, and implementation readiness of these programs, revealing significant gaps in funding, training, and legal clarity. Despite growing interest, many programs face barriers that hinder operational capacity and sustainability.



The findings underscore the importance of institutional support, community engagement, and access to professional networks. NACCHO's involvement facilitated broad distribution and engagement, offering a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities in expanding these services.

This resource serves as a strategic tool for stakeholders seeking to enhance public health infrastructure and reduce overdose fatalities. Explore the full report to examine the findings in greater depth. ■

How Water Systems Can Strengthen Cyber Resilience

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an Emergency Response Plan Guide for Wastewater Utilities, a template for developing an Incident Response Plan, and new checklists to help address how water and wastewater systems across the country respond to cybersecurity incidents.



Training: Extreme Heat and Health - Clinical and Public Health Strategies for Prevention and Action

Extreme heat is affecting communities, and local health departments have a critical role to play in driving awareness and action. This virtual, on-demand training from American Public Health Association and ecoAmerica is accredited for three Continued Education units at no cost for a variety of health professionals and has been reviewed by a panel of experts. With this free training, health leaders can engage colleagues, community, and policymakers to inspire solutions to protect communities from extreme heat and ensure a healthier future for all.

Monitor Emerging Trends With Updated CDC West Nile Virus Data

CDC's latest data show widespread activity across the United States, with 45 states reporting cases as of early November. Over 1,800 total cases have been documented this season, including more than 1,200 involving serious outcomes. These figures reflect current reporting through CDC's national data system and are updated regularly from June through December. While delays may affect national totals, local health departments may have more current information. This snapshot helps inform public health planning and response efforts during peak seasonal months. The data provide a valuable reference point for understanding how conditions are evolving and where resources may be needed most. Explore the latest figures and stay informed as the season continues.

Track Hurricanes With CDC's New Dashboard

Monitor hurricanes before and after landfall using the CDC Hurricane Dashboard, a powerful tool for public health and emergency response planning. The dashboard tracks storm origins and projected paths, assesses impacted populations, and analyzes environmental and health factors.

Users can explore the Federal Emergency Management Agency's flood hazard zones, demographic profiles, and hospital capacity, and near real-time National Aeronautics and Space Administration – flood data. Additional map layers highlight critical facilities such as nursing homes, pharmacies, and wastewater plants, while real-time power outage data supports situational awareness. Share insights easily through links, images, or embedded codes. Access the CDC Hurricane Dashboard to strengthen preparedness and response strategies.

Harnessing Geospatial AI for Public Health: Lessons from Essex County, New Jersey

Essex County Office of Public Health Management uses predictive modeling and location intelligence to anticipate flu outbreaks, mitigate rodent-related risks, and deliver targeted health services. Join NACCHO on December 2 at 2:00 PM EST for an inside look at how Essex County is transforming public health through geospatial artificial intelligence (Geospatial AI). Discover practical strategies for integrating GIS and AI into workflows and prepare to move from reactive to proactive public health management. A recording will be made available at a later date for those unable to attend. ■

New NACCHO Issue Brief: Supporting and Strengthening the DIS Workforce

NACCHO remains committed to highlighting the important role Disease Intervention Specialists play in preventing and managing cases of STIs and other infectious diseases in their local communities. As their workload continues to grow and STI cases surge, it is more important than ever to support and strengthen the DIS workforce. Read NACCHO's recommendations about what this workforce needs to thrive.



Save the Date: Help Advance Accreditation With MAPP 2.0

Join the MAPP Learning Community Session on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, from 1:00–2:30 PM EST to explore how communities are leveraging MAPP 2.0 to meet Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards.

**MOBILIZING
FOR ACTION**
— THROUGH —
**PLANNING &
PARTNERSHIPS**
MAPP 2.0

This 90-minute virtual event features peer success stories and a deep dive into NACCHO's MAPP 2.0 and PHAB Version 2022 Crosswalk. Gain practical insights to strengthen public health planning and accreditation efforts. Registration opens December 8, 2025 — secure a spot and stay ahead in community health strategy.

Risk Management Training for Rural Health Professionals

The Cornell Health Impacts Core (CHIC), a program of Cornell Public Health, has launched a new Risk Management Training tailored for rural public health professionals. The practical, web-based content focuses on applying community-led and trust-based approaches to risk management, which are critical in rural communities.

The course is filled with practical approaches, realistic examples, and useful templates for effective emergency management and risk communication.

New Resource: Strategic Skills Training Guide for Public Health Professionals

This new guide from CHIC is designed to help public health professionals who are looking to strengthen strategic capabilities in rural, urban, or tribal settings. Lead with confidence and clarity utilizing *Enhancing Public Health Strategic Skills: A Guide to High Quality Trainings* as a practical, accessible resource.



Evaluate Job Offers With Confidence Using NACCHO's Market Data Tool

This NACCHO tool enables local health department staff to assess job offers against current compensation benchmarks. This resource provides access to real-time salary data and allows for a comprehensive comparison of total compensation packages, including pay, benefits, and incentives. By offering clear insights into market standards, the tool supports informed decision-making and strengthens negotiation strategies. Public health professionals can use this data-driven approach to ensure employment offers reflect the value of their expertise and responsibilities. Utilize the tool to make evidence-based evaluations of job opportunities in the public health sector.

Join NACCHO's New Chemical Preparedness Virtual Community

ChemPrep Connect Virtual Community is a dedicated community designed to empower local health departments in preparing and responding to chemical incidents. It is open to all local health department staff. ChemPrep Connect offers local health department staff a secure platform to collaborate and discuss monthly topics with one another, share best practices and resources, seek peer advice, and raise questions to a network of public health professionals who understand the unique demands of chemical incident planning.



Continuity of Care: Sheltering, Standing Up, and Repopulating Health Care Facilities After Disasters

Issue 21 of *The Exchange* from the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) focuses on the many ways health care provided continuity of care after Hurricane Helene from the local, state, and health care system perspectives. Another article covers the recovery and reopening process after a fire decimated Signature Health in Brockton, Massachusetts.



Best Practices for Communicating Tracking Data During Infectious Disease Emergencies

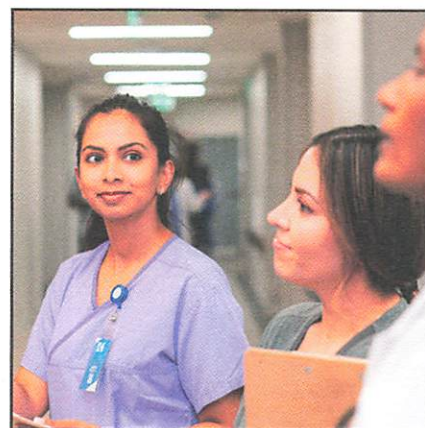
This webinar in the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials' *INSPIRE: Readiness* webinar series featured Amanda Simanek, PhD, MPH discussing best practices and lessons learned around communicating about data, tracking, and forecasting during infectious disease emergencies.

Mission Critical – How One Hospital Maintained Operations and Protected Patients and Staff After Hurricane Helene

This Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response webinar featured Hospital Corporation of America representatives who shared how leadership made key decisions to sustain operations, secure essential resources, ensure patient and staff safety, and expand support to the surrounding community during and after Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

How the Public Health Workforce Works

Explore this collection of factsheets spotlighting nine different workforce groups represented in the 2024 Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS) data.



Each offers a snapshot of challenges, strengths, and opportunities experienced by the workforce group, helping leaders and decision makers better understand and support the people behind the work. Explore the collection and view the factsheet specific to the emergency preparedness workforce. ■



Historic Government Shutdown Causes Strain on Public Health and Nutrition Programs

The recent federal government shutdown was the longest in U.S. history, lasting 43 days from October 1 to November 12. The 2025 government shutdown was caused by a congressional stalemate over appropriations legislation. Competing stopgap funding bills were voted down by September 30, which prompted the government shutdown. Knowing that there could be disruptions to federal funding, NACCHO successfully advocated federal employees who support grant distribution to be considered essential staff as part of shutdown protocols at federal agencies.

The shutdown significantly impacted federal programs and agencies. CDC staffing was reduced to essential functions only, and many CDC employees were RIF'd, though ultimately all federal employees who received layoff notifications during the shutdown were reinstated. During the shutdown, a U.S. District Court injunction blocked some layoffs after finding the administration had exceeded its authority and failed to follow legal requirements for reductions in force.

Most notably, nutrition assistance programs such as SNAP and WIC faced severe strain. WIC benefits were threatened during the 2025 government shutdown due to the potential for a funding lapse, but the program continued to operate because of federal and other measures. For example, USDA provided \$300 million in unused tariff funds to support WIC temporarily. There was also significant confusion around SNAP benefits with some states able to issue partial payments and other states providing the full amount. According to NACCHO's most recent Profile Study, 64% of local health departments provide WIC benefits. NACCHO activated its Congressional Action Network, asking members to let their federal officials know that Congressional action was needed to ensure WIC benefits continued.

On November 9, senators voted 60–40 to advance a temporary funding measure that would keep parts of the government operating until January 30 and provide full-year FY2026 funding for other agencies. On November 12, the House of Representatives returned to Washington, DC to pass the bill and the President signed it into law that evening, reopening the federal government. The continuing resolution for federal health agencies is tied to a three-bill FY2026 appropriations bundle for: Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Related Agencies; and the Legislative Branch.

Throughout the shutdown, NACCHO monitored negotiations and provided updates in News from Washington and NACCHO Voice as the situation developed. NACCHO Government Affairs will continue to monitor FY26 appropriations negotiations and advocate for resources to support local health departments.

- By Anjeli Shankar, Government Affairs Intern

UPCOMING EVENTS



Preparedness Summit

April 13-16, 2026

Baltimore, Maryland



NACCHO 360

July 14-17, 2026

Louisville, Kentucky



Streamline Access With Denton County's Community Resource Hub

Denton County Public Health, in collaboration with municipal partners, launched FindHelp Denton County—an online resource hub designed to improve access to essential services. This centralized platform replaces outdated print directories and manual tracking systems, offering real-time updates and streamlined navigation across domains such as housing, food, transportation, and medical care.

The site features mobile-friendly access, multilingual support, and secure referral tools for community-based organizations. Since its launch in November 2023, over 3,000 programs from more than 2,300 organizations have been listed, with nearly 23,000 interactions initiated by over 18,000 users. Analytics reveal housing and food as the most searched categories, guiding targeted outreach and resource allocation.

Denton County Public Health leads ongoing engagement with community organizations, offering technical assistance, quarterly data reports, and training sessions. The platform has expanded to include embedded referral tools for mental health navigation, WIC services, and emergency shelter coordination. A dedicated internship program supports outreach in high-need areas identified by the CDC Social Vulnerability Index.

The hub's infrastructure enables responsive updates to program hours, eligibility, and availability, ensuring accurate information is accessible across devices. Community feedback highlights the convenience and autonomy the platform provides, reinforcing its role in advancing equitable access. FindHelp Denton County exemplifies collaborative innovation, leveraging technology to meet evolving community needs. The initiative continues to evolve, with plans to integrate a social care assessment tool for more personalized resource matching.

About NACCHO

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

Dispatch Supporters

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