

2016 Public Health Modernization Assessment Findings

In 2016, state and local public health authorities completed [an assessment](#) of our existing public health system, as required under House Bill 3100. This assessment was intended to answer two questions: To what extent is the existing system able to meet the requirements of a modern public health system? What resources are needed to fully implement public health modernization?

Gaps in current public health system

The assessment found gaps between our current public health system and a fully modernized system that meets the health protection, prevention and promotion needs of Oregonians in every part of the state.

- In more than one third of Oregon communities, foundational public health programs are limited or minimal.
- Oregon ranks 31st in public health investment: Idaho spends \$94.70 per capita on public health, and Oregon spends \$26.60.

State	State Per Capita Investment in Public Health	National Ranking
Idaho	\$94.70	7th
California	\$56.20	10th
Washington	\$38.20	23rd
Oregon	\$26.60	31st

Priorities for a modern system

Based on findings from the public health modernization assessment, OHA recommends the following priorities for the 2017-19 biennium:

- **Communicable diseases.** Detect and respond to traditional and emerging infectious disease.
- **Environmental health.** Limiting environmental risks to human health.
- **Emergency preparedness.** Prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other catastrophic events.
- **Health equity.** Ensure that every state and local public health authority has the capacity to engage communities that experience an excess burden of disease.
- **Population health data.** Ensure that every state and local public health authority has access to timely, accurate and meaningful data needed to understand the health of the community and drive decision-making.
- **Public health modernization planning.** Ensure ongoing support to state and local public health authorities to identify strategies to build an equitable and efficient public health system while developing a workforce equipped to fulfill future needs.

In order to begin the first phase of public health modernization, Oregon would need a baseline investment of \$30 million in the 2017-19 biennium.

This is the first step in funding a system that continues to evolve and modernize. This has been a tremendous collaborative effort across the 34 local health authorities, the public health division, and the Public Health Advisory Board. By committing to building a modern public health system, we demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that a healthy life is within reach for everyone in Oregon.