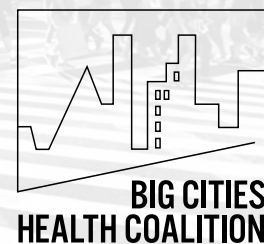




POLICY PRIORITIES



Big Cities Health Coalition members work on the front lines to address a host of critical and chronic public health challenges, from infectious disease outbreaks to drug overdose to natural disasters.

To fully protect the public's health in cities across the nation, we need to...

- ▶ **invest in the infrastructure of the public health system** to promote the health and safety of all.
- ▶ **continue to build an appropriately skilled and resourced public health workforce** on which our communities can rely.
- ▶ **make positive changes to broader structures that affect health** (social determinants of health) and build more equitable communities.
- ▶ **address structural racism.**

THE BIG PICTURE

Increase funding to CDC to support its infrastructure as well as local and state public health activities in communities.

▶ **Public Health Infrastructure**

Public health funding is largely tied to specific diseases or conditions, but in 2022, through the American Rescue Plan Act, Congress invested in cross-cutting capabilities needed for effective public health. These funds expire in November 2027, leaving health departments facing a funding cliff. Increased discretionary annual appropriations are critical to ensuring our governmental public health system is best equipped to protect our communities' everyday health.

▶ **Pandemic Preparedness**

The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) [must be reauthorized](#) for the fourth time to maintain key legal authorities to sustain and bolster our nation's preparedness for public health emergencies, including emerging infectious diseases.

- ### ▶ **Vaccine Access**
- Create and fully fund a Vaccines for Adults program to provide un- and under-insured adults no-cost access to routine and outbreak vaccines that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

▶ **Injury and Violence Prevention**

Increase resources to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support innovative violence and injury prevention practice and data collection at all levels of government.

- ### ▶ **Substance Use**
- Federal funding must emphasize primary prevention, not just respond to overdose crises. Dollars must continue to get local. Localities and states should be free to experiment with promising, innovative harm reduction policy and practice without the threat of federal prosecution.

▶ **Tobacco Flavor Regulation**

Encourage the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to [implement flavor restrictions](#) on all tobacco products. Congress should support efforts to reduce nicotine in cigarettes to minimal or non-addictive levels.

- ### ▶ **Data Modernization**
- Public health data systems require long-term, sustained investment to ensure interoperability and real-time data from communities across the country. Congress must direct CDC to invest in data systems at the local level and publicly report on spending at each level of government.

The Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) is a forum for the leaders of America's largest metropolitan health departments to exchange strategies and jointly address issues to promote and protect the health and safety of their residents. Collectively, BCHC's 35 member jurisdictions directly impact more than 61 million people, or one in five Americans.

▶ Visit bigcitieshealth.org or contact Chrissie Juliano at juliano@bigcitieshealth.org