



## **Climate Change:**

**Our Health in the Balance**

**Michigan's Public Health Week  
April 14 - April 22, 2008**

## **Recognizing Public Health in Michigan**

Public health addresses the health of the whole population, as compared to medical health care, which focuses on treatment of the individual ailment. According to the Institute of Medicine, the mission of public health is defined as “fulfilling society’s interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy.”

- *Public Health is always working to promote healthy lifestyles*
- *Public Health is always working to prevent illness, injury and death*
- *Public Health is always working to protect families and communities*
- *Public Health is always working to eliminate health disparities*
- *Public Health is always working for a healthier economy*
- *Public Health is always working to guard and protect against threats*

### **LOCAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

**Michigan Department of Community Health**  
[www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch)

**Michigan Association for Local Public Health**  
[www.malph.org](http://www.malph.org)

**Michigan Environmental Council**  
[www.environmentalcouncil.org](http://www.environmentalcouncil.org)

**Michigan Public Health Association**  
[www.mipha.org](http://www.mipha.org)

**Michigan Public Health Institute**  
[www.mphi.org](http://www.mphi.org)

**Michigan State University**  
[www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)

**University of Michigan School of Public Health**  
<http://www.sph.umich.edu/>

## **10 Great Public Health Achievements (1900-1999)**

- Vaccination has resulted in the eradication or control of diseases such as smallpox, polio, and diphtheria.
- Motor Vehicle Safety has reduced fatal injuries through improvements in engineering, highway and behavior.
- Safer workplaces have resulted in a 40% reduction in fatal occupational injuries through greater knowledge of risks and control of exposure.
- Control of infectious diseases has resulted from cleaner drinking water and improved sanitation the first half of the century, as well as the discovery of antibiotics.
- Decline in deaths from heart disease and stroke the second half of the century have resulted from risk factor reduction (e.g., smoking, high blood pressure) coupled with improved access to early detection and treatment.
- Safer and healthier foods have resulted from less microbial contamination and better nutritional content early in the century; food fortification programs have nearly eliminated major nutritional deficiency diseases in the U.S.
- Healthier mothers and babies have resulted from better hygiene and nutrition, access to healthcare and technologic advances. Since 1900, infant and maternal mortality has decreased by 90%.
- Family planning and contraceptive services have allowed for greater planning of childbirth and a reduction in sexually transmitted diseases.
- Fluoridation of drinking water benefits children and adults by preventing tooth decay and reducing tooth loss, regardless of access to care or socioeconomic status.
- Recognition of tobacco as a health hazard has resulted in changes in social norms to prevent onset of smoking and promote cessation. Since the U.S. Surgeon General's report in 1964 on the risks of smoking, the prevalence among adults has decreased.

### **Partners in Planning**

- ☼ Michigan Department of Community Health ☼
- ☼ Michigan Association for Local Public Health ☼
  - ☼ Michigan Environmental Council ☼
  - ☼ Michigan Public Health Association ☼
  - ☼ Michigan Public Health Institute ☼
  - ☼ Michigan State University ☼
- ☼ University of Michigan School of Public Health ☼

