

Public Health Infrastructure

Healthy Alaskans 2010 Volume I: Targets for Improved Health

Chapter 26: Public Health Infrastructure

The Public Health Infrastructure chapter is addressed in a separate, stand-alone section of Healthy Alaskans 2010 because it addresses issues that affect needs described in every other chapter.

The public health infrastructure supports the planning, delivery, and evaluation of public health activities and practices. This infrastructure makes it possible to respond to public health emergencies, as well as to perform on-going essential public health services. Workforce, information and data systems, and effective organizations are the elements that comprise the infrastructure, providing the capacity to deliver the programs and services that protect and promote the health of Alaskans. These elements are interrelated. Weaknesses in any one element affect the other two.

The mission of the public health system is to fulfill society's interest in assuring conditions in which persons can be healthy. The public health system is a network of public and private organizations and individuals involved in accomplishing this mission. As with the elements of the public health infrastructure, the various partners in the public health system are also interrelated. A deficiency in one sector or jurisdiction affects the entire system.

