

# TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

**A strong public health system is crucial for protecting and improving the health of Americans.**

## **Make Every Health Dollar Count**

Half of the world's health care dollars are spent in the U.S. But in 2000, the U.S. ranked 25th among all nations in terms of our life expectancy. At the same time, only 1% of federal health dollars are spent on public health efforts that would improve our overall health.

## **Strengthen Public Health Systems**

Now, more than ever, our country needs a vigorous public health response to threats such as bio-terrorism and the growing public health concerns of obesity, violence, and tobacco-related illnesses.

These health concerns cause more than 2 million avoidable deaths in the U.S. every year.

Budget cuts at all government levels have devastated the public health workforce and capacity to respond at the very time that emerging threats to the public's health require advances in public health science, training, and leadership.

Public health needs sustained support for improving the nation's health and preparedness.

### **For more information**

Turning Point  
National Program Office  
6 Nickerson St, Suite 300  
Seattle, WA 98109  
Bobbie Berkowitz, Director  
bobbieb@u.washington.edu  
206-616-8410  
[www.turningpointprogram.org](http://www.turningpointprogram.org)

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## **What is Turning Point?**

Individuals and organizations from different sectors in many communities and states have come together to create a public health system that works smarter and better. Transforming public health so that it achieves the goals of preventing disease and injury, protecting the public from threats to health, and promoting healthy behaviors are efforts at the heart of Turning Point.

At the national level, Turning Point collaborates with other public health organizations to help realize the Institute of Medicine's vision of a strong and effective public health system.

## **How is Turning Point improving public health?**

Turning Point has developed specific models for a more effective and responsive public health system. Through 21 state partnerships of state and local public health and community-based agencies and through five national collaboratives we are:

- Improving the accountability of public health efforts
- Developing a model law to update public health statutes
- Increasing the effectiveness of public health information technology
- Motivating changes in behaviors to promote good health outcomes
- Promoting skills and competencies of public health practitioners and leaders

## **What can Turning Point help you do?**

- Identify the most important health needs of residents in states and communities nationwide
- Create effective and accountable structures to deliver public health services to states and communities
- Develop population data that supports decision-making about public health priorities
- Generate strategies to improve the health status of individuals, families, and communities
- Target the best ways of eliminating health disparities among and within populations
- Provide evidence of effective partnerships that have transformed public health systems

## **Support**

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