

NACCHO Press Kit

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For more information about NACCHO, please contact David Egner, Chief, Marketing and Communications, at degner@naccho.org.

To schedule an interview with an expert on local health departments and public health, please contact Jacqueline Bond, Burness, at jbond@burness.com.

For additional resources, visit NACCHO's Press Room at www.naccho.org/press.

To read more about NACCHO's advocacy efforts, visit www.naccho.org/advocacy.



NACCHO is the Voice of Local Health Departments



How do local health departments protect the public's health?

Local health departments make it easier for people to be healthy and safe. They collaborate with community and private-sector partners to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe. Local health departments are a critical part of every community's first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies, and acts of terrorism. They educate the public and combat the rising cost of healthcare due to ailments like diabetes and heart disease. These government agencies report to a mayor, city council, county board of health, or county commission.

What is NACCHO?

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the approximately 2,800 local health departments including city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal agencies across the country. NACCHO resources help local health department leaders to develop public health policies, programs, and services to ensure that people in their communities are protected from disease and disaster.

NACCHO's nearly 40 advisory groups, comprising experts from the field, provide on-the-ground perspectives on public health practice issues in the areas of community health, environmental health, emergency preparedness, and public health infrastructure and systems.

FAST FACT: NACCHO is the national non-profit association representing the approximately 2,800 local health departments in the United States, including city, county, metro, district, and tribal agencies.

NACCHO Provides Expertise in Public Health Programs

NACCHO provides leadership, up-to-date information, subject matter expertise, stories from the field, spokespeople, and other resources on the issues listed below.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Chronic and infectious disease prevention; maternal, child, and adolescent health; injury prevention; disability; tobacco control; and building healthier communities



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Clean air and water; food safety and defense; public health effects of climate change; lead poisoning prevention; environmental public health tracking; and land use planning



PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS

Health information technology; public health law; accreditation and quality improvement; workforce; and public health capacity-building



PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Planning and readiness for natural disasters; pandemics; terrorist attacks; and infectious disease outbreaks

National Leader in Public Health Policy

NACCHO has more than 100 policy statements on an array of important public health topics. Position statements are developed by local health officials, peer reviewed, and approved by NACCHO's board of directors. NACCHO and local health departments use these policy statements to educate key stakeholders and urge action by federal officials, state public health officials, elected officials at all levels, partner organizations, the media, and the public.

Authoritative Source for Local Health Department Data

Every two years, NACCHO conducts a national survey of all local health departments. The National Profile of Local Health Departments (Profile) study is the only national source of critical information on local health department infrastructure and public health practices at the local level. Profile offers a wealth of data about local health department activities that address community-based public health issues, such as the following:

- Governance
- Financing
- Workforce
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Chronic Disease and Environmental Health
- Quality Improvement
- Health Information Technology

Since 2008, NACCHO has also been a source of firsthand data from local health departments about budget cuts and job losses. During this time, more than 50,000 state and local jobs have been lost. This represents nearly 15 percent of the total state and local health department workforce.

Vision

Health, equity, and security for all people in their communities

Mission

The mission of NACCHO is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments.

History

NACCHO's founding dates back to the 1960s, with the formation of the National Association of County Health Officials (NACHO), an independent affiliate of the National Association of Counties. As the federal, state, and local public health systems continued to expand, NACHO combined with the U.S. Conference of Local Health Officers, an organization affiliated with the United States Conference of Mayors, to form the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in 1994.

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NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments.

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What's New at NACCHO?

Updated June 2015

Local health department leaders and NACCHO staff are in the news and on Capitol Hill all the time, talking about public health priorities at the local level and commenting on issues including funding for public health, local health departments, emergency preparedness, disease outbreaks, chronic disease prevention, health reform, and food safety. Here are a few highlights from recent press releases, advocacy, Congressional testimony, and media coverage.

NACCHO Highlights Need for Federal Funding to Keep the Public Safe

As local health departments work to protect the public every day, NACCHO works to educate policymakers and the media about the role of federal programs in supporting agencies at the local level to improve health and keep people safe. For more information about NACCHO advocacy, visit www.naccho.org/advocacy/.

Local health departments will be greatly impacted by proposed cuts that erode public health and medical preparedness nationwide. For example, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees propose to cut funding in FY2016 for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), administered by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. This program was created in 2002 after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 to expand local health departments' capacity to respond to emergencies. These highly skilled MRC volunteers are doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and other community members who fill a critical role in keeping people healthy and safe. Two-thirds of the nation's 1,000 MRC units are housed in local health departments.

NACCHO continues to call for support of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Hospital Preparedness Program, which have been cut by more than 38% over the last decade. A majority of local health departments rely solely on federal funding for emergency preparedness activities. Sustained funding to support local preparedness and response capacity is needed to make sure every community is ready for any disaster it faces.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees also both eliminated funding for the Partnerships for Community Health program at CDC for FY2016. The program provides funding to 13 large cities/urban counties, 20 small cities/counties and six American Indian tribes/tribal organizations to implement evidence-based chronic disease prevention strategies. Grantees work with cross-sector community partners and businesses to reduce tobacco use, increase physical activity and expand access to nutrition in order to reduce costly chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes.



Forces of Change 2015 Survey Results

In June, NACCHO released the *2015 Forces of Change* survey findings that contain new information on the forces affecting change in our nation's local health departments. Findings show that local health departments face challenges and opportunities as the public health and clinical care environments evolve due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Local health departments continue to experience budgetary challenges. The fiscal and political environments have had an impact on the type and scope of services local health departments provide: some have decreased clinical services to focus on population-based health activities, while others continue to provide these services in their communities with the help of revenue from billing third-party payers. Local health departments have also explored new opportunities for collaboration as a result of health reform, including with non-profit hospitals and primary care providers. Visit www.nacchoprofilestudy.org/forces-of-change to view an [infographic](#) of the findings and to learn more.

Big Cities Health Coalition Plans Full Agenda for 2015

In January, the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC), a project of NACCHO, held a retreat in San Antonio, TX to lay out a 2015 action agenda. The Coalition, now with 27 members, 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 the 46 million people they serve. Key policy priorities include continuing to raise the profile of governmental public health and the importance of sustained, sufficient funding so that local health departments can prepare and respond to challenges in their communities; addressing workforce challenges; and developing an urban research agenda. In September, the Coalition will roll out the Big Cities Health Inventory, a publication and online site, which includes health indicators and success stories from 27 member cities. Learn more at www.bigcitieshealth.org.

NACCHO Helps LHDs Navigate and Advance their Role in a Transforming Health System

Today, in communities across the country, the public health workforce is changing, other disciplines such as community development and urban planning are discovering connections between their work and health outcomes, and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act is shifting how our health delivery system operates and how our country thinks about the meaning and the value of health. Local Health Departments have an opportunity to demonstrate their unique role and value in this changing landscape. Through situational awareness, capacity building, and partnership development efforts, NACCHO helps local health departments navigate complex challenges and find new ways of working, growing, and leading to improve their communities' health. NACCHO's Public Health Transformation website introduces local health departments to the leadership skills and abilities necessary to navigate change; initiatives for improving population health through multiple data sources; strategies for deciding whether or not to provide clinical services; and major trends, priorities, and challenges other local health departments are experiencing in their efforts to engage with new health system delivery models, such as Accountable Care Organizations www.naccho.org/transformation



NACCHO Supports Local Health Departments in Preparedness and Response to Ebola

Since July 2014, NACCHO has been monitoring the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and working with local health departments, CDC, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and other national partners to help coordinate national preparedness and response efforts. Local health departments play a leading role in response to potential Ebola cases, and NACCHO's partnership with the CDC and other national organizations ensures that the concerns of local health departments are incorporated into plans for the national response to Ebola. To address member needs and connect local health departments with regularly updated CDC guidance, NACCHO provided ongoing technical assistance and facilitated multiple conference calls for local health departments with the CDC during the height of the Ebola concern in late 2014. NACCHO continues to support local health departments to prevent the risk of future Ebola cases and other global and domestic infectious disease threats, such as the 2015 measles outbreak. Learn more about the local health department response to Ebola and NACCHO's role at http://nacchopreparedness.org/?page_id=3313.

NACCHO Funds 43 Innovative Community Projects through MRC Challenge Award

NACCHO, in partnership with the Division of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCVMRC), selected 43 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units to receive 2014-2015 NACCHO MRC Challenge Awards. Beginning in spring 2015, the Challenge Awards will fund projects that benefit local communities in one of four focus areas: Disaster Risk Reduction, Chronic Disease Prevention, Partners for Empowered Communities, and Mental and Emotional Wellbeing. The Challenge Award aims to focus innovation in areas that align with national health initiatives that have a significant impact at the local level. MRC award recipients will track their progress on NACCHO's MRC website. Learn more at: <http://www.mrcnaccho.org/>.

NACCHO Funds 63 Local Health Departments and Other Organizations to Provide Breastfeeding Support

NACCHO, through a cooperative agreement with CDC, funded 63 local health departments and community-based organizations to receive up to \$25,000 each to provide evidence-based or innovative peer and professional breastfeeding support. These funds are intended to increase breastfeeding initiation, duration, and exclusivity among African American and underserved women (e.g. low-income or other racial and ethnic minority groups). NACCHO is providing support to grantees through capacity-building training and technical assistance; development of a community of practice; and collecting and disseminating resources for evidence-based and innovative breastfeeding support programs and services. NACCHO has also established the Breastfeeding Public Health Partners group to support collaboration among national organizations supporting breastfeeding efforts around workplace practices, maternal care practices and breastfeeding, and peer and professional support for breastfeeding. Learn more at: <http://breastfeeding.naccho.org/>.



NACCHO Launches Health Impact Assessment Community of Practice

NACCHO is sponsoring a community of practice for local health departments interested in leading or participating in Health Impact Assessments (HIAs). HIAs is a process that helps evaluate the potential health effects of a plan, project or policy before it is built or implemented in areas that fall outside traditional public health, such as transportation and land use. This initiative, sponsored by the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, held its inaugural meeting June 15, 2015 in conjunction with the National Health Impact Assessment Conference. To date, 26 local health departments from 21 states have joined the community with varying levels of experience with HIAs. Local health departments wishing to learn more about HIAs and its practice are welcome to join.

NACCHO Develops Radiation Preparedness Trainings for Local Health Departments

NACCHO, with support from the CDC, is engaged in a national effort to support local health departments in [radiation preparedness](#) training. Radiation use has increased in the 21st century, and a radiological emergency could displace millions of people and overwhelm public health, emergency response, and health care systems. To bolster local planning and response efforts, NACCHO has designed tabletop exercises that ask participants to navigate a situation in which the public would be fleeing from the site of a radiological incident and seeking shelter in neighboring communities. Players are then responsible for determining how to establish long-term shelters and immediate decontamination procedures with little warning, how to initiate screening and tracking plans, how to handle radioactive material, and how to manage media requests and respond to social media. [NACCHO hosted one exercise in DuPage County, IL](#), in March and hosted another in Cobb County, GA, in the spring of this year. These exercises ask a number of stakeholders, including state and local public health, police, fire, emergency response, the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security, to work together and strengthen relationships. NACCHO plans to use the exercises to develop a template that local health departments can use as a resource to advance their own preparedness efforts.

NACCHO Stories from the Field

NACCHO's new Stories from the Field website is a platform for sharing local health department successes, innovations, and challenges. The website provides a means for local health departments to share their experiences and demonstrate their value. Local health departments are encouraged to submit their stories on a variety of topics including environmental health, infectious disease, injury prevention, and preparedness. NACCHO uses Stories from the Field to support advocacy, peer learning, and collaboration with state and federal partners. View the story database at: www.nacchostories.org.



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BIOGRAPHY

LaMar Hasbrouck, Executive Director

As Executive Director for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in Washington, D.C. since February 2015, Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck represents our nation's local health departments and their staff who protect and promote health, prevent disease, and seek to establish the social foundations for wellness in nearly every community across the United States. Dr. Hasbrouck is a graduate of the University of California-Berkeley's School of Public Health, UCLA School of Medicine (Charles R. Drew-UCLA Program), and the New York-Presbyterian Hospital's Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Prior to joining NACCHO, Dr. Hasbrouck was the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, where he managed an agency with 1,100 staff, 200 programs, and an annual budget of more than \$600M. He collaborated with nearly 100 local health departments to protect the health and improve the lives of the state's 13 million residents. Among Hasbrouck's achievements as director, he developed a five-year strategy, implemented various aspects of the Affordable Care Act, applied for voluntary national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, and built successful partnerships to pass a state cigarette tax increase. Hasbrouck also led the development of statewide blueprints for health workforce expansion and population health-healthcare integration, two key initiatives of the Governor's Office for Health Innovation and Transformation.

Prior to his appointment as the "Top Doc" for Illinois, Hasbrouck was Public Health Director of Ulster County, and the only county official in New York State to simultaneously lead both the public health and mental health departments. Before that, he spent 11 years with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the nation's premier public health agency, where his impressive record of service included co-authoring the first Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence (2001) and the active engagement in two of the largest global health initiatives in history: polio eradication with the World Health Organization and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), where he served in a diplomatic assignment as the CDC Director in Guyana, South America.

Formerly, Hasbrouck served on faculties of medicine or public health at Emory University, Morehouse College, New York Medical College, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a diplomat with the American Board of Internal Medicine, a former epidemic intelligence service officer at the CDC, and primary care health policy fellow at the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). He has received numerous awards for his governmental and non-governmental work.

BIOGRAPHY

Swannie Jett, President

Swannie Jett, DrPH, MSc is President of NACCHO. He is also the Health Officer for Florida Department of Health - Seminole County. Dr. Swannie Jett has 18+ years of experience in public health. Seminole County Health Department serves a population size of 450,000 including Sanford, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Lake Mary, Longwood, Oviedo, and Winter Springs. In his current role, Dr. Jett is leading initiatives to strengthen the Seminole County Health Department infrastructure by improving funding streams, workforce competencies, and creating partnerships to improve population health outcomes.

Dr. Jett has completed the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute and has completed NACCHO's Survive and Thrive and the National Public Health Leadership Institute in 2011. Currently, Dr. Jett serves as a Board member for West Jefferson County Community Task Force, National County and City Health Officials, and is the Past President of the National Association of Health Care Executives-Kentucky Chapter.

In addition to Dr. Jett's community involvement, he is a Captain in the Air Force National Guard. Also, Dr. Jett is an adjunct faculty for the University of Phoenix and Spalding University in Louisville, KY. Dr. Jett graduated from Tennessee State University with a BS in Agricultural Statistics and a MS degree from the University of Tennessee in Bio-Systems Engineering. Dr. Jett's research interest includes environmental justice, global warming, health disparities, and air pollution. Dr. Jett completed his doctorate in Public Health with emphasis in Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health from the University of Kentucky.

BIOGRAPHY

Claude-Alix Jacob, President-Elect

Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH, is the President-Elect of NACCHO. He is also the Chief Public Health Officer for the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Jacob has 18 years of experience in public health and has overseen operations of the Cambridge Public Health Department since 2007. Serving a population of 106,000 residents and hundreds of businesses, the Cambridge Public Health Department is operated by a regional safety net health care system through a contract with the city.

During Mr. Jacob's tenure as the city's Chief Public Health Officer, he has overseen federally funded initiatives for addressing health disparities among men of color and reducing obesity in children and adults. A proponent of cross-jurisdictional sharing of resources, Mr. Jacob and his department lead a regional coalition to strengthen emergency response in 27 communities and participate in regional initiatives around tobacco use, opioid abuse, and childhood lead poisoning.

Mr. Jacob serves on the Board of Directors for the Public Health Foundation and the National Advisory Board of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. He is the past national chair of the Black Caucus of Health Workers of the American Public Health Association. Mr. Jacob received training at the National Public Health Leadership Institute and completed the W.K. Kellogg Fellowship for Emerging Leadership in Public Health. He is passionate about workforce development, accreditation, quality improvement, and health equity. Mr. Jacob received a master of public health from the University of Illinois at the Chicago School of Public Health.



BIOGRAPHY

Alina Alonso, Vice President

Alina M. Alonso, MD is the Director of the Florida Department of Health – Palm Beach County. Dr. Alonso is a Family Practice Physician by training and a Preventive Medicine/Public Health servant to the residents of Palm Beach County since 1989. As Director, she oversees the operations of one of the largest and nationally recognized local county health department serving a population of approximately 1,372,000. Her leadership of the professional staff provides a full range of primary and preventive services through seven strategically placed health centers, Environmental Public Health, WIC, Nutrition, School Health, Epidemiology, Preparedness and Community Health.

Dr. Alonso has trained in Bio-Chemical Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction since 1997, and handled the clinical operations of the first case of inhalation Anthrax in the United States that occurred in 2001. She has extensive training in communicable and emergent diseases.

Dr. Alonso graduated from Barry University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, and a double Minor in Chemistry and Mathematics. She received her Medical Degree in 1984 from *Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez* in Mexico where she gained tremendous clinical skills treating the patient by discussing their medical history as an important component of diagnosis and not test results. Dr. Alonso served as Chief Resident in the three-year Family Practice Residency Program at St. Joseph Medical Center in New York City from 1985 to 1988. After returning home to Palm Beach County, she became a Clinical Physician with the Florida Department of Health - Palm Beach County Health Department and finished a second residency in Public Health and Preventive Medicine in 1992. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice and a member of the Palm Beach County Medical Society.

Dr. Alonso serves on the faculty for Nova Southeastern University, Health Professions Division as Clinical Assistant Professor and remains very active training Public Health Leaders in the Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program at the Florida Department of Health – in Palm Beach County.

