



**Indiana**  
**Department**  
**of**  
**Health**

# GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

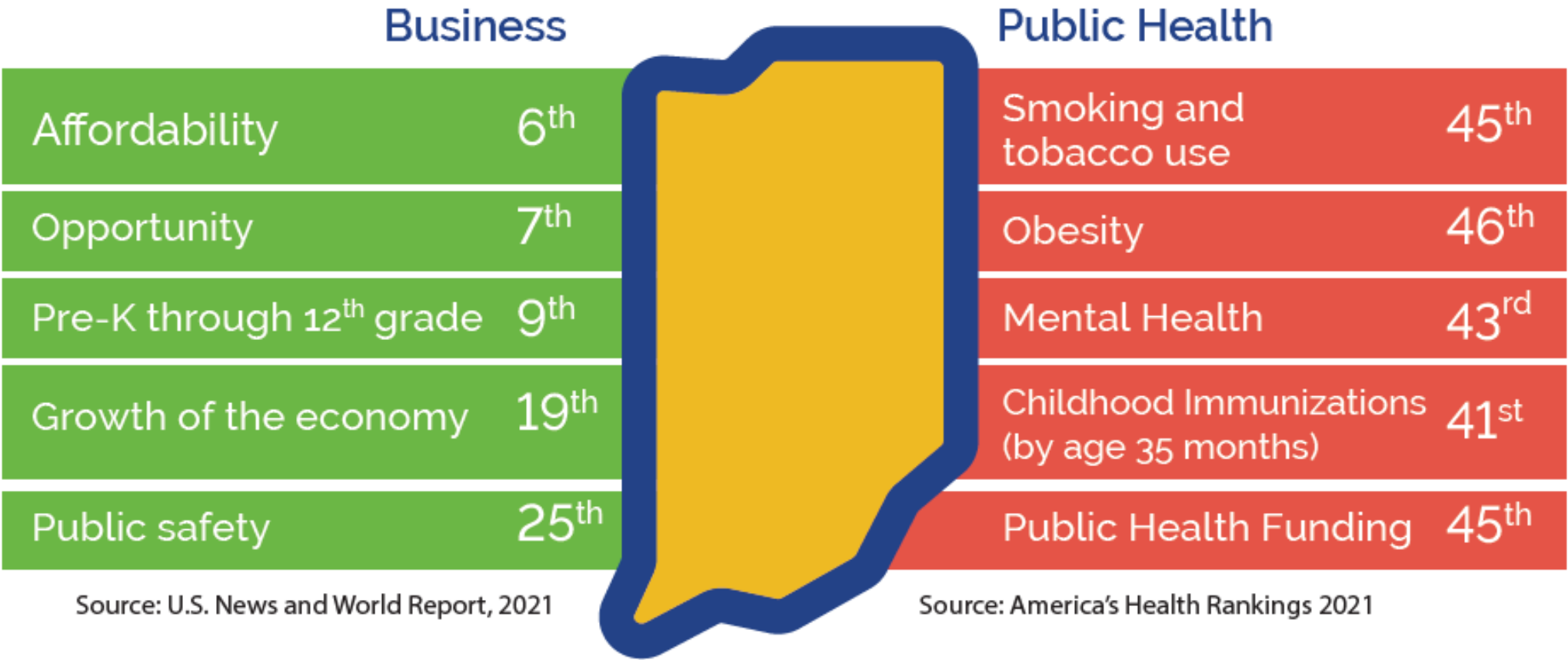


# INDIANA GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION



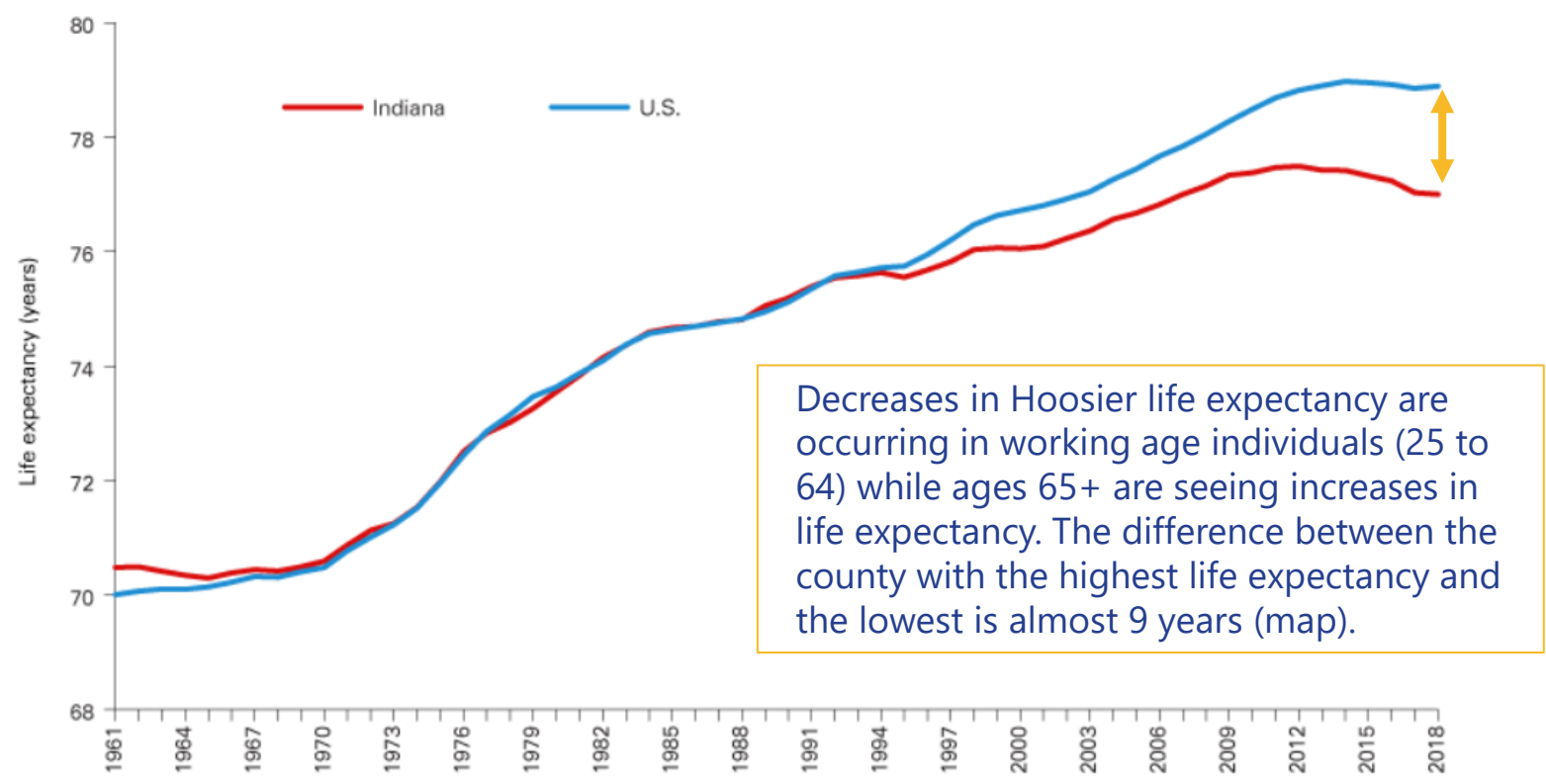
Report to the Governor in fulfillment of Executive Order 21-21  
*Submitted by the Staff of the Indiana Department of Health*

# How Indiana Ranks Nationally

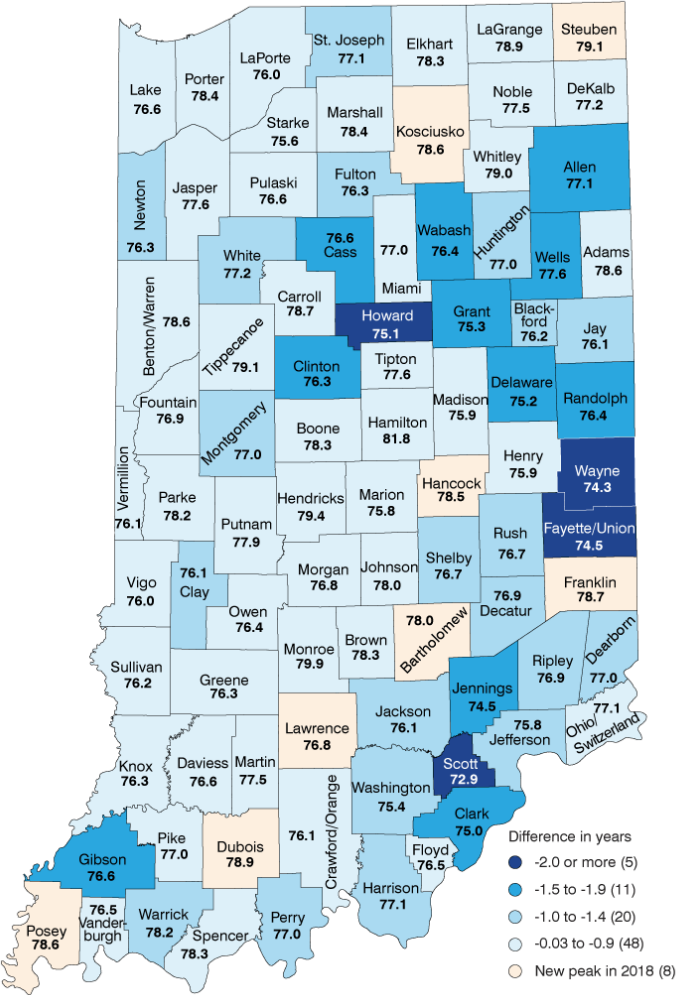


# Life Expectancy in Indiana

Figure 1: Life expectancy at birth, three-year moving average



Source: United States Mortality Database. University of California, Berkeley (USA). Available at [usa.mortality.org](https://usa.mortality.org) (data downloaded on 5/10/2021).



# Public Health Funding Findings

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- Indiana ranked **45<sup>th</sup> for state government public health expenditures** (2018 Census Bureau)
- The revenue of **90 of our 94** local health departments **is below the National 25<sup>th</sup> percentile**
- Most of our local public health funding comes from the local government, ~70% , many times from property taxes.
- Across the nation this is reversed in many states, where the State government is the bulk of the funding for a local public health department.
- Funding per capita ranges from \$1.25 to \$83 (Marion Co) across our state





# Recommendations



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# Governance, Infrastructure, and Services Recommendations

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- IDOH will work with Local Health Department (LHD) partners to **define the core public health services to be available in each county**
- IDOH will **provide additional staff and resources at regional / district level to support local public health**
- Ensure representation of municipalities on local health boards and allow for greater citizen and local elected official engagement
- Expand personnel eligible to serve as LHOs
- Promote LHD engagement with local businesses, health providers, schools, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Provide financial and technical assistance to LHDs pursuing accreditation or reaccreditation



# Currently Required Core Services



## Vital records

- Birth and death certificates



## Environmental services



## Food protection and inspection



## Fatality review



## Lead assessment and case management



## Immunizations



## Infectious disease surveillance and prevention



## Tuberculosis control and case management



## Tattoo, body piercing, and eyelash safety



## Health-related areas during emergencies/disasters

**On average, LHDs have implemented about half of 20 recommended public health activities.**



SOURCE: Fairbanks School of Public Health Indiana  
Public Health System Review, December 2020



# Additional Services

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## Tobacco Prevention and Cessation



## Maternal and Infant Mortality

- Safe sleep education and sleep sacks



## Health Equity



## Harm Reduction for Trauma and Injury Prevention

- Child safety seat education



## School Health Liaison

- Vision, hearing and dental screenings



## Full-time Public Health Nurse

- Clinical services and prevention

# PH Funding Recommendations

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- Provide LHDs with stable, recurring and accessible funding
- Increase funding to achieve consistent per capita spending at 2019 national average of \$91/person as compared to Indiana's \$55/person
- Local elected officials would agree to provide core public health services by voting to opt in every five years and maintain 20% local cost sharing.
- IDOH to provide technical assistance to local health departments to leverage all available funding sources
  - Insurance billing for direct clinical services
  - Grant procurement



# Local Public Health Funding

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Increase direct funding to local health departments:

- Add approx. \$30 per capita funding through the Local Health Maintenance Fund
  - New funding formula based on population size and other factors such as SVI, life expectancy and minimum needs to support core services
- No one-size fits all approach to dictate how funding is spent by each county to achieve core public health services, flexibility needed to meet community needs and not create duplication of services
  - Potential funding uses: school liaisons, full time public health nurses, other staffing needed to meet core service requirements, purchase needed equipment, technology/security upgrades, etc.
- County opt-in will include performance measures and metrics for tracking delivery of core public health services
- Counties that opt-out will be able to opt-in the next year. Opt-out counties will continue to receive funding at the current level
- Phase-in funding to allow build out of infrastructure over year one and year two.

# State Funding to Support Local Activities

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- Develop Regional and District infrastructure to support local services and collaboration across county borders
  - Most of this will be supported for through SFY24-25 through the CDC Public Health Infrastructure Grant
  - IDOH already has some key field staff available across districts
- IDOH is working on an RFP for a scheduling, documentation and insurance billing platform that can be utilized by LHDs and IDOH
  - The platform will ensure the secure documentation of services and the ability to bill insurance for services rendered
- Funding to support Emergency Preparedness such as EMS, Trauma System, State Strategic Stockpile

# Workforce Recommendations

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- Identify **clinical and public health workforce shortages and develop a state health care workforce plan**
- Enhance **recruitment, training and retention** to ensure workforce capacity and skills are sufficient to support Hoosier health
- Ensure representation of public health on Indiana workforce initiatives





# Workforce

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- ❑ Complete comprehensive local and state public health workforce assessments
  - External assessment with local health departments, complete Q1 2023
  - Internal assessment (IDOH) to start in March/April 2023, complete in June 2023
- ❑ Establish a State Health Workforce Council co-chaired by IDOH & FSSA to coordinate and plan workforce programs & initiatives

# Emergency Preparedness Recommendations

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- Establish a state strategic stockpile for personal protective equipment and medical counter measures
- Increase equipment and trained Emergency Medical Services personnel to fill gaps in workforce across the state
- Enhance Trauma System
- Increase utilization of EMResource and participation in CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant
- Improve public health emergency preparedness through enhanced regional coordination



# Data and Information Integration Recommendations

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- Ensure coordination of healthcare data governance and privacy protections at the state level via a state Public Health Data System Advisory Committee
- Formalize and strengthen the state's relationship with a local Health Information Exchange
- Enhance data analytics tools and resources for local public health
- Maintain state-led digital transformation efforts to modernize public health systems and paper-based processes.



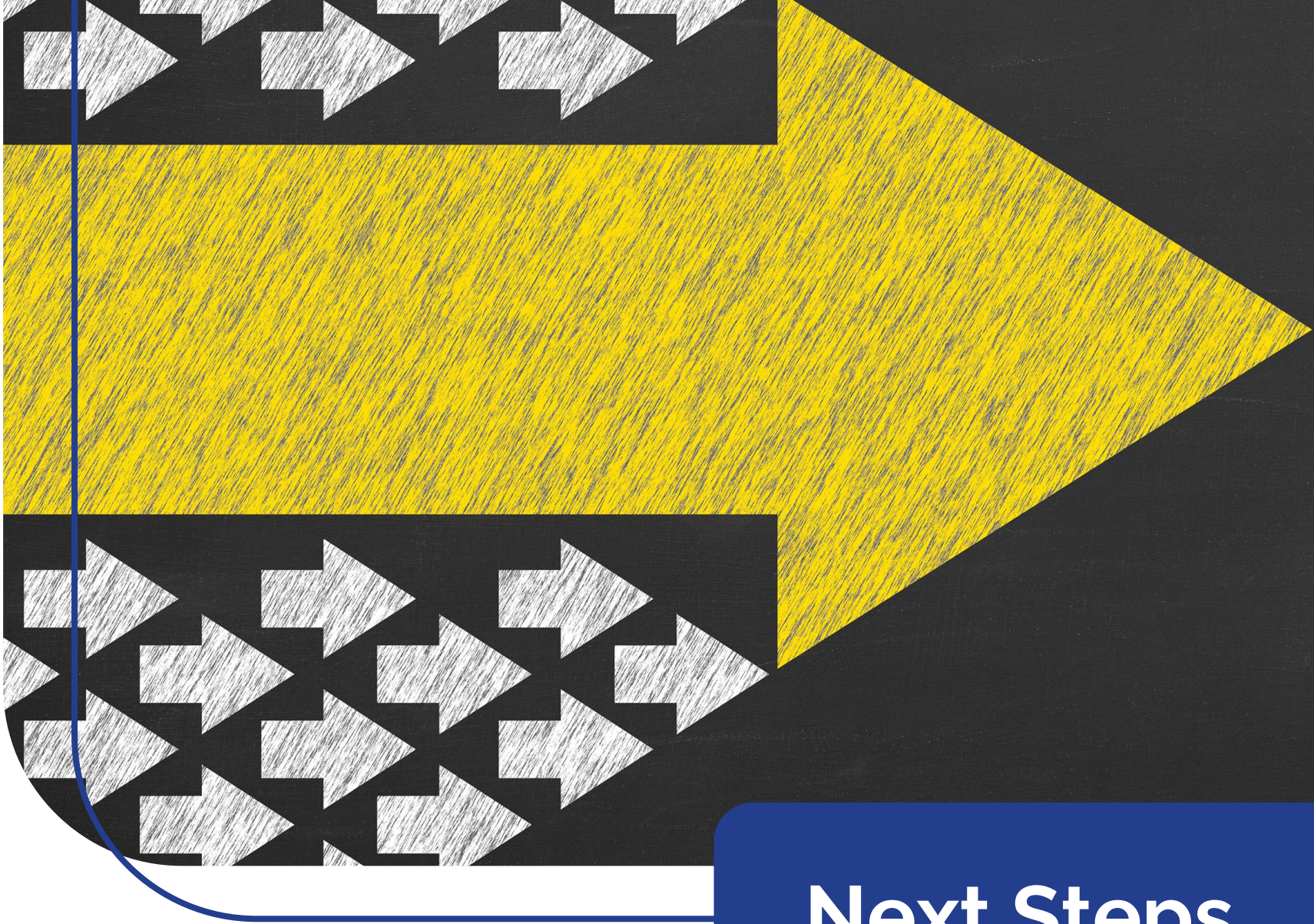
# Childhood & Adolescent Health Recommendations

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- Improve the school nurse-to-student ratio and increase access to services that support whole child wellness
- Improve access to required school screenings such as visual and hearing screenings across the state, explore opportunities to add oral health education and screening
- Support evidenced-based health education, nutrition and physical activity in schools







# Next Steps



# Spread the Word

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- Toolkit with talking points, brief PPT (5-10 slides), and one page handouts  
Grassroots approach
- Encourage local op-eds
- Local leaders engage legislators leading up to and during session
- 2023 Legislative Session
  - Coalition of businesses, local government, educational institutions (K-12 & higher ed), health care and public health to support key priorities
  - Public Health Day at the Statehouse – January 26
  - Funding request

# Conclusion

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- Every Hoosier deserves access to the foundational public health services
- Local health departments will benefit from additional state support at a district level
- Investing in public health today assures economic security and prosperity tomorrow through skilled workforce retention, emergency preparedness, and better health outcomes

Full report and recommendations posted at [www.in.gov/gphc](http://www.in.gov/gphc)