Linking Public Health and Environmental Health Policy and Research

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For the
2012 NMQF/CBC Health Braintrust Health Disparities Leadership Summit
APHA’s Agenda and Work

❖ Organizational Priorities
  • Assuring Access to Care
  • Supporting Public Health Infrastructure
  • Promoting Health Equity

❖ Advocating

❖ Collaborating

❖ Educating
Policy Is An Effective Health Improvement Tool

- What government chooses to do...or not to do about problems
  - Laws and regulations
  - Budget
  - Formal policy goals
  - Agency practices

- Public can influence

Public Policy Is A Leadership Function
Across America, Differences in How Long and How Well We Live
A Short Distances To Large Disparities In Health: Washington, DC
Where is the Outrage?

- **Red Line** between Union Station in Washington and Shady Grove in Montgomery County, Md. are 17 metro stops spanning 30 miles and an estimated nine year difference in life span.

- **Orange Line** between Metro Center in Washington and East Falls Church in Arlington County, Va. are nine metro stops spanning 10 miles and an estimated eight year difference in life span.

- **Green Line** between Gallery Place in Washington and Greenbelt in Prince Georges County, Md. are 11 metro stops spanning 17 miles and an estimated three year difference in life span.

- **Blue Line** between Foggy Bottom in Washington and Springfield-Franconia in Fairfax County, Va. are 10 metro stops spanning 12 miles and an estimated nine year difference in life span.
Health and Wellness is about more than access to care
Environmental Health Issues are Public Health Issues

- Clean water, air and healthy food
- Safe places to play and be active
- Affordable quality housing
- Transit and transportation options
What’s Needed to Advance Environmental Health, Equity and Policy

- Interagency collaboration and focus
- Health in all policies approach – working across and with non-health sectors
- Public health and health care professionals as messengers and promoters
- Evidence to support policy and regulation
- Community engagement