

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT/FISCAL YEAR 2008





American
Public Health
Association



Who we are

The American Public Health Association is the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world and has been working to improve public health since 1872. The Association aims to protect all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and strives to assure community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States. APHA is committed to health equity and a healthy global society. The Association's broad array of public health professionals are champions of and advocate for healthy people and communities.

What we do

APHA builds a collective voice to advocate for public health, working to ensure access to health care, protect funding for core public health services and eliminate health disparities, among a myriad of other issues. Through its two flagship publications, the peer-reviewed *American Journal of Public Health* and the award-winning newspaper *The Nation's Health*, along with its e-newsletter *Inside Public Health*, the Association communicates the latest public health science and practice to members, opinion leaders and the public.

The Association's Annual Meeting brings together thousands of public health professionals, agencies and partners to network and share the latest public health data and trends, as well as set policy on emerging public health

concerns. The Association helps advance the profession by providing continuing education opportunities. APHA publishes science- and advocacy-based books and provides information to the news media and policy-makers needing background or direct testimony, and its members serve as advisors to important boards and committees at the national, state and local levels. Fifty-three state and regional public health associations are affiliated with APHA. APHA believes health is a fundamental human right and works to ensure everyone who cares about the health of their community has a voice in the national public health debate.

Healthiest nation in one generation

Message from the executive director



I believe we could become the healthiest nation in one generation.

Think about it. If, during the time a child born today grows to adulthood, we usher in a whole range of interventions — improve access to care, make preventing disease and injury a priority, eliminate health inequities and build safer, more livable communities — the health of Americans could top that of all other nations. We could even save money. Sure it'd be hard. It'd take strong national leadership and political will.

While that may seem a far stretch, I think we can achieve it. And I am proud to be part of an Association for which reaching for that goal is a daily objective. By advancing science and practice, convening partners, speaking out and equipping public health leaders and policy-makers, APHA is strengthening the foundation upon which building a healthier America is possible.

As you review our year of accomplishments, you'll better appreciate the extraordinary contributions APHA makes to the public health profession and to improving the health of our communities.

We're working to help people understand what they can do to be healthy. We're also working to solve problems that stand in the way of health equity, to better prepare the nation for public health threats and to ensure everyone understands the value of public health.

In the coming year, with your help and with the support of all APHA members, Affiliates and our many partners, APHA will continue to strive to bring understanding about public health to everyone, and assure the health of every community, everywhere.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)
Executive Director



Year in review



Speaking out for public health

This year APHA continued to work to build resilient communities from the ground up. Members became more active in advocacy at the federal, state and local levels, while the Association as a whole brought a focus to public health issues through traditional and non-traditional ways.

On the advocacy front, APHA members and staff testified before Congress on public health priorities such as the need for strong funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the science demonstrating that abstinence-only education is ineffective and the very real health effects already being wrought by climate change.

APHA members sent tens of thousands of messages to inform and educate their members of Congress about important public health issues, and the Association continues to encourage more of its members to speak out, providing easily accessible tools by which to do so. APHA's presence on Capitol Hill also got a boost from a new Public Health Fellowship in Government, placing a member of the public health community in a congressional office for a year to contribute public

health expertise and current science and practice to policy on health, the environment and other key public health issues.

While funding for public health continues to be a critical challenge, this year also marked important support for issues not traditionally seen through a public health lens. For example, APHA advocated for many provisions in the 2008 farm bill aimed at improving health and nutrition, including the expansion of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which provides free fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income children in our nation's schools; a significant increase in funding to feed our nation's poor; greater assistance for food banks and community food projects; as well as the expansion of other key safety net and nutrition programs that will benefit the health of millions of Americans.

The Association's advocacy supported far-reaching legal decisions, from a Supreme Court ruling that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must regulate greenhouse gases to better protect human health, to a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that EPA's approach to limiting mercury emissions from power plants posed a health threat, particularly to our most vulnerable communities. APHA also spoke out for the need for



women to have access to reproductive services in jails and prisons, a position upheld in a U.S. Circuit Court decision.

One key function of APHA is to disseminate evidence-based findings and translate that evidence into action by supporting an advocacy agenda. APHA's Policy Center issued fact sheets on a wide variety of public health issues, including pandemic flu preparedness and response, a snapshot of the nation's uninsured, the State Children's Health Insurance Program and undocumented immigrants and the importance of the community health centers programs. Fact sheets on health reform and coverage expansion efforts in seven states explained why such efforts would benefit residents and outlined the roadblocks to implementing changes. The Center also developed a "Public Health: What Is It?" document for policy-makers and an environmental public health tracking book that provides increasing evidence about the relationship between environmental hazards and chronic diseases.

Building public support for public health

Bringing the public into public health is a priority for APHA. Public understanding of what public health does for them, from local obesity prevention programs to national disease surveillance to international pandemic influenza preparedness to global environmental health monitoring, leads to more support as well as engagement in public health for all.

APHA began a long-term effort to turn attention to the problem of climate change and health by educating the public on the regional and global health problems already emerging in response to global warming. Those potential problems range from more intense hurricanes in the southeast to an increase in pest outbreaks in Alaska due to loss of deep winter ice and retreating sea ice.

APHA also is working to spread the word that children, the elderly, the poor and those with chronic health conditions are the most susceptible to the negative impacts of climate change. Any strategies for managing climate change impacts should take their unique challenges and needs into account.

National Public Health Week ran April 7–13, 2008, under a theme of "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance" and was celebrated in hundreds of communities across the country. During the week, both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate held climate change hearings and several senators and representatives issued climate change resolutions acknowledging the public health threat. APHA hosted a virtual summit involving national experts on climate change and health and produced a paper and blueprint of recommendations for the public health community. The Association also mobilized Americans to take the "Healthy Climate Pledge" to take steps to reverse global warming. All the activities connected to National Public Health Week helped the public health community begin to embrace climate change as a leading issue and also helped the public connect the dots to understand climate change is affecting not just the environment but also human health.

Engaging the public as a partner to improve health is at the heart of APHA's Get Ready campaign, an effort to build a national movement to enable all Americans to protect themselves, their families and their communities from preventable,



Climate Change:
Our Health in the Balance

National Public Health Week
April 7-13, 2008
www.nphw.org



diversity quality preparedness assurance equity

serious health threats. The first campaign under this banner is mobilizing communities to make sure they are prepared for all hazards and emerging health threats.

This multi-year effort continues to creatively utilize technology to engage the public around preparedness issues, including products such as the Get Ready Blog, news Twitter, podcasts and more. Two new initiatives brought greater visibility and utility for community-based health outreach to the campaign. First, the launch of an annual Get Ready Day in September in conjunction with National Preparedness Month provided a local angle for communities to improve local preparedness efforts. As a model event, APHA sponsored

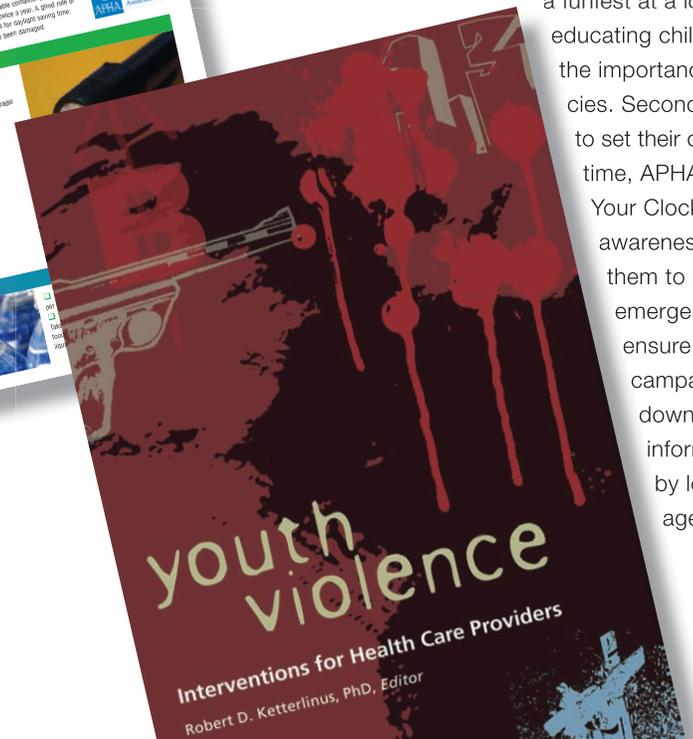
a funfest at a local elementary school educating children and their families about the importance of preparing for emergencies. Second, as Americans prepared to set their clocks for daylight saving time, APHA launched Get Ready: Set Your Clocks, Check Your Stocks, an awareness campaign encouraging them to simultaneously check their emergency preparedness kits to ensure they are well-stocked. The campaign included tip sheets, a downloadable toolkit and other information and was widely used by local health departments and agencies and other partners.

Strengthening public health work force and capacity

Improving health outcomes requires a well-trained, well-equipped public health work force as well as a sound infrastructure. For 135 years, APHA's Annual Meeting has been the catalyst for sharing the latest research in public health science and practice and for bolstering thought leadership across the field.

This year was no different as more than 14,000 professionals gathered in Washington, D.C., presenting at and attending more than 1,000 scientific sessions under the theme "Politics, Policy and Public Health." More than 700 agencies, companies and organizations filled the Public Health Expo showcasing the latest products and services in the field. The Association adopted 20 new policies that now help guide APHA advocacy and awarded thousands of hours of continuing education credit to physicians, nurses, health education specialists and other professionals in the field.

As an accredited provider of continuing education, the Association was able to approve the continuing education programs of six external organizations, including APHA Affiliates and other health-related nonprofit organizations. This provides increased credibility for such programs nationwide. Other capacity-building efforts include the Public Health Traffic Safety Institute and Maternal and Child Health Institute, now in its eighth



year. These specialized programs bring together selected professionals from the United States and abroad to strengthen and improve their public health practice.

The Association also continues to equip the public health work force through its publications. Critical public health issues and research are explored each month in the *American Journal of Public Health*, APHA's premier, peer-reviewed journal, and *The Nation's Health*, the Association's award-winning newspaper. Another highlight was the release of *Youth Violence: Interventions for Health Care Providers*, a book designed to help public health professionals better identify and intervene to prevent youth violence.

As the Association works to build its capacity to improve and protect the nation's health, an ongoing effort to strengthen its 53 affiliated state and regional public health associations continues to move forward. This fiscal year marked phase two of the APHA Affiliate Capacity-Building Initiative. Nearly \$2.5 million in grants went to 32 state public health associations to help them build the capacity to identify, prevent and respond to public health threats. Thanks to a second round of funding, an additional 13 Affiliates received mini-grants as part of the capacity-building initiative.

Critical to our success in the United States is our ability to advance public health beyond our borders. Building partnerships and strengthening the work force are two ways APHA does this.

APHA houses the secretariat for the World Federation of Public Health Associations and this past year mounted a three-year strategic effort in collaboration with WFPHA to improve the infrastructure and organizational capacity of public health associations in selected developing countries, which will help to improve the global public health system. Other initiatives included hosting a forum on changing climate and health patterns and participating in the inaugural World Justice Forum in Vienna, Austria, which focused on the rule of law and public health.

And, of course, APHA continues to make strides in becoming a more effective, responsive organization that equips professionals to carry out their public health work. Association members, who represent every public health discipline as well as activists, students and community members, now have new options for becoming more engaged in the Association. APHA members can now join up to three Sections or Special Primary Interest Groups at one time, including the new Disability Section. Members also can now join new forums, including those on Trade and Health, Family Violence Prevention, Genomics and Healthy Communities for Healthy Aging, which help foster networking and information sharing across disciplines.



How you can improve the public's health

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of APHA members and other concerned and committed individuals, agencies, foundations and corporations, APHA has made a difference. There are many ways for you to get involved and support this important work. Consider how you can best help APHA improve and protect the public's health and achieve equity in health status for all.

Become a member

Stand with public health leaders and others committed to improving and protecting the public's health by becoming an APHA member. Join online at www.apha.org/about/membership or call 202-777-2400.

Contribute

Strengthen APHA's hand as we work to improve access to care, reduce disparities in health and strengthen the public health infrastructure. Contribute online at secure.apha.org/script-content/custom/gift/donation_form.cfm or contact edonation@apha.org.

Advocate

Urge policy-makers to make public health a priority. Track the votes of your elected officials and hold them accountable by taking action at www.capwiz.com/apha/home.



Support APHA initiatives **National Public Health Week**

Participate, become a partner or provide funding to support the health promotion activities of this annual program. Contact regina.davis@apha.org or visit www.nphw.org.

Annual Meeting

The largest public health gathering in the world educates, connects and inspires the public health work force and its partners. Attend and participate, exhibit your products and services and sponsor events designed to improve the quality of public health practice. Visit www.apha.org/meetings or contact annualmeeting@apha.org.

Get Ready campaign

Help APHA build a movement to enable all Americans to protect themselves, their families and their communities from preventable, serious health threats. Provide financial support and partner. Visit www.getreadyforflu.org or contact pandemicflu@apha.org.

Affiliate Capacity-Building Initiative

The new APHA initiative has helped strengthen the capacity of the nation's 53 state and regional public health associations and improve their ability to engage their communities in responding to public health threats. Help sustain this multi-year effort and become a partner on this project. E-mail regina.davis@apha.org.

Center for Learning and Global Public Health

The Center has a diverse portfolio of science-based programs and projects. Its multi-level approach — individual, institutional, community and country — helps build and improve the capacity and infrastructure of public health domestically and internationally. APHA's commitment to global health includes supporting and housing the secretariat of the World Federation of Public Health Associations and serving as a provider and approver of continuing education programs for physicians, nurses and health educators. Help strengthen the capacity of the public health work force both in the United States and around the world by supporting the Center. E-mail barbara.hatcher@apha.org.

Center for Public Health Policy

Developing evidence-based policy materials through this Center enables APHA to more nimbly respond to and influence emerging public health policy issues. Fund the Center to help expand its portfolio of policy issues and the distribution and impact of its resources. E-mail policy@apha.org.

awareness
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Going the extra mile

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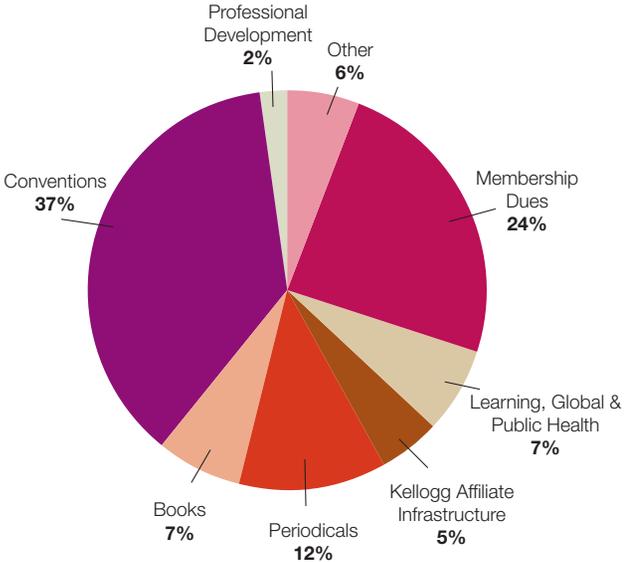
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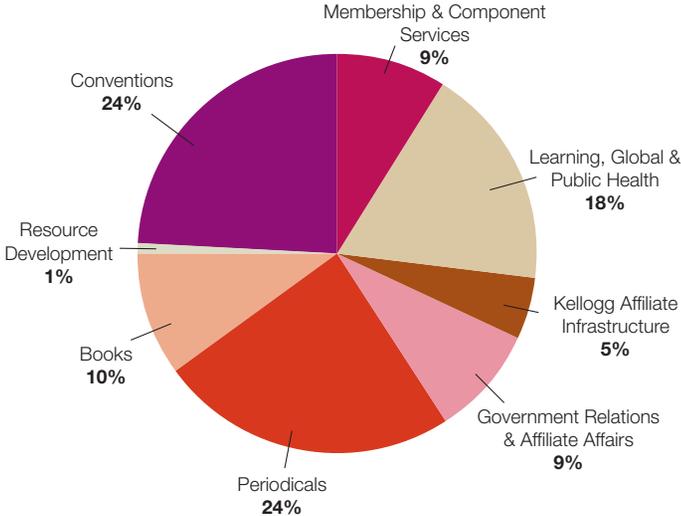
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Financial highlights for fiscal year 2008*

REVENUES: \$14.7 Million



EXPENSES: \$13.9 Million



*For the year ending June 30, 2008

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