

Local Governments and Local Public Health Departments in the United States: Coordinating to Address Public Health Challenges

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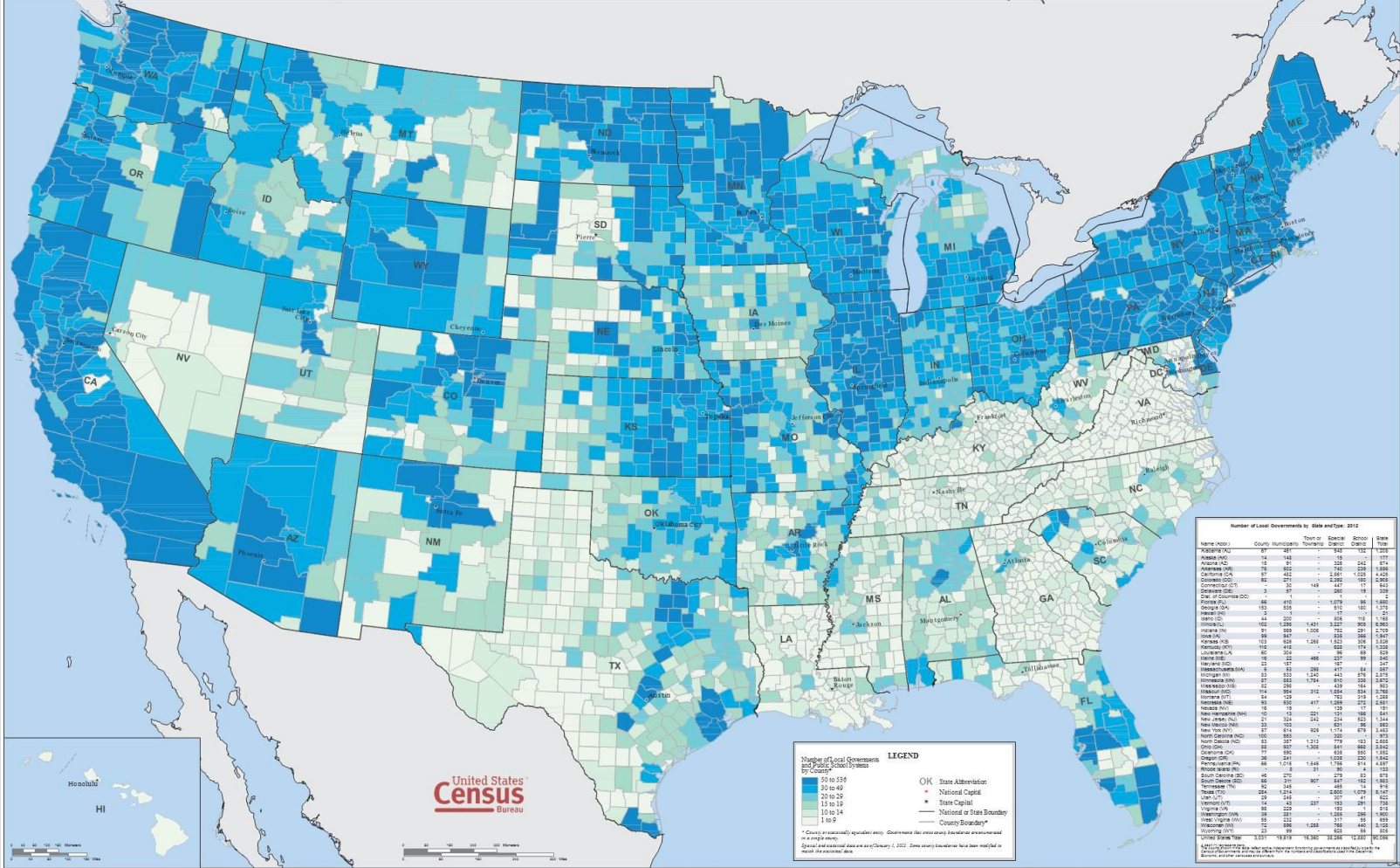
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2012 Census of Governments The Many Layers of American Government



Number of Local Governments and Public School Systems by County

- 50 to 330
- 30 to 49
- 10 to 29
- 1 to 9
- 1 to 14

LEGEND

- OK State Abbreviation
- National Capital
- State Capital
- National or State Boundary
- County Boundary*

* Census of Incorporated (quadruple) and Unincorporated (double) Counties has not been finalized and is not available for all states.

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2012. Some county boundaries have been modified to match the statistical data.

Number of Local Governments by State and Year

State	County	Municipality	Township	Special District	State
Alabama	67	1,448	138	242	1,895
Alaska	14	148	18	212	372
Arizona	15	812	22	874	1,698
Arkansas	77	482	742	238	1,432
California	57	432	2,081	1,028	4,083
Colorado	62	271	2,282	820	3,985
Connecticut	3	148	647	17	815
Delaware	3	81	482	19	584
Florida	66	410	1,078	98	1,652
Georgia	153	319	112	1,272	1,756
Idaho	41	202	105	115	423
Illinois	104	226	1,421	1,986	3,637
Indiana	91	809	1,058	281	2,149
Iowa	103	658	1,523	309	2,493
Kansas	102	415	862	174	1,453
Kentucky	120	205	1,047	128	1,490
Louisiana	66	22	486	37	589
Maine	23	107	187	17	331
Maryland	23	107	187	17	331
Massachusetts	15	83	288	117	483
Michigan	83	512	1,242	442	2,179
Minnesota	82	298	1,424	439	2,163
Mississippi	82	298	1,424	439	2,163
Missouri	114	364	212	1,034	1,720
Montana	54	125	1,055	219	1,409
Nebraska	93	103	417	1,088	1,608
Nevada	16	12	221	121	366
New Hampshire	21	324	472	224	924
New Jersey	21	324	472	224	924
New Mexico	10	13	221	121	366
New York	62	305	629	671	1,632
North Carolina	102	255	1,104	674	2,035
North Dakota	53	357	1,312	779	2,448
Ohio	88	303	1,508	641	2,452
Oklahoma	77	387	1,038	830	1,955
Oregon	36	214	1,048	176	1,618
Pennsylvania	66	272	1,311	30	2,285
Rhode Island	5	31	30	14	100
South Carolina	46	272	1,311	30	2,285
South Dakota	66	272	1,311	30	2,285
Tennessee	95	248	1,047	1,014	2,319
Texas	202	144	485	1,014	1,643
Utah	29	248	237	237	722
Vermont	24	142	237	183	566
Virginia	95	248	1,047	1,014	2,319
Washington	39	211	1,000	216	1,527
West Virginia	21	886	1,288	783	3,957
Wisconsin	92	623	1,312	83	2,020
Wyoming	23	107	187	17	331



Local public health service provision in the U.S.

- Some US states deliver public health services at the **state level** (~13 states out of 50)
- Others have public health services delivered by **local / regional public health departments** (~19 states)
- The rest use a state and local/regional **combined approach**



Core U.S. local public health service offerings

50% + of **local health departments** provide...

- disease and environmental health surveillance
- immunizations
- inspection of food serving establishments and food safety education
- inspection of school and related facilities
- nutrition services
- maternal and child health services
- various health screening and treatment programs
- vital records
- other services

Services are often produced through formal and informal networks of governmental, non-profit, and commercial organizations.



General local governments in the U.S. and public health

50%+ of **jurisdictions** provide...

- residential and commercial solid waste collection and disposal
- water treatment and distribution
- sewage collection and treatment
- sanitary inspection
- animal control
- programs for the elderly
- other services

Services are often produced through formal and informal networks of governmental, non-profit, and commercial organizations.



Current local government and local public health environment in the U.S.

- Uneven economic recovery across U.S.
- In many cities, traditional revenue sources are not adequate to cover increased service demands
- Continued flat or reduced public health expenditures
- Many U.S. states encourage their local governments to coordinate more closely using: grant structures; guidelines and procedures; analyses of roles and responsibilities; etc.



U.S. local government and public health entity coordination

Local governments continue to look for ways to improve coordination...

– **Administrative**

- Sharing leadership; finance/accounting; communications; purchasing; facility maintenance; human resources; technology; and grant writing services; among others

– **Staffing**

- Sharing health professional positions to recruit and retain needed skill sets in challenging labor markets
- 2015: ~30% of public HR professionals report that 'managing personnel shared across jurisdictions' is an important/somewhat important issue.

– **Programs, planning, and infrastructure**

- Implementing employee and community wellness programs; reducing urban food deserts; developing infrastructure that promotes healthy lifestyles; among others



How U.S. cities prioritized resource allocations in 2014

- Employee Wages
- Public Safety
- Capital / Infrastructure Development
- Employee Pension and Health Benefits
- **Human Services** (24% increased expenditures in 2014)
- Contract Services
- Education
- Other categories



Local quality of life, key initiatives of cities, and urban health

Quality of life components as they relate to local government:

- City services
- Local environment
- Neighborhood development
- Community
- Local economy

Key focus areas of city programs and policies:

- Job creation and economic development
- Safe and affordable housing
- Environmental stewardship
- Education quality and performance
- Efficient and clean transport infrastructure

Virtually all of the components and areas of focus are underpinned by public health efforts: *health surveillance; health inspections; nutrition and child health services; water, sewer, and garbage services; etc.*

Thank you.

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