

HEALTHIEST NATION IN 1 GENERATION

Your Nation: Our nation's health is in poor shape, even though we spend more on health care than any other country. We all want the healthiest nation possible. In an ideal America, every person has access to health services, healthy lifestyles are embraced, our public health infrastructure is fully funded and operational, and social and economic factors that have an impact on health are addressed in a timely and impactful manner. By committing ourselves to creating a strong public health system, we can establish a solid foundation for a healthier future.

Think about how public health is the foundation for our nation's health and well-being.

What can you do to help make us a healthier nation in one generation?

Did you know...

- Approximately half of the 2 million deaths in the United States each year could be prevented.¹
- Nearly 13 percent of Americans live in poverty.²
- U.S. life expectancy has reached a record high of 78.1 years, but still ranks just 46th among the world's industrialized nations.³
- More than two-thirds of American adults are overweight or obese and approximately 9 million children over 6 are considered obese.⁴
- America is one of the top 10 countries that have the most people living with HIV/AIDS.⁵
- The U.S. infant mortality rate is higher than those in most developed countries.⁶
- About 19 million Americans are infected with an STD each year and almost half of them are people ages 15 to 24.⁷

Take action...

- ✓ Contact your elected officials and urge them to prioritize public health as a part of health reform.
- ✓ Talk to your local paper about doing a story on the ways national health policies affect your community.
- ✓ Encourage students to consider public health professions.
- ✓ Suggest that your friends and family donate any resources they can to public health organizations.
- ✓ Thank public health officials for their hard work and ask what you can do to help.

1 Health Resource and Services Administration. Bureau of Health Professions. Key Public Health Facts.

2 U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. Poverty: 2007 Highlights.

3 Central Intelligence Agency World Fact book 2008.

4 National Center for Health Statistics, Obesity Among Adults in the United States — No Change Since 2003–2004.

5 Central Intelligence Agency World Fact book 2008.

6 National Center for Health Statistics. Recent Trends in Infant Mortality in the United States. Data brief, no 9: 2008.

7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Trends in reportable sexually transmitted Diseases in the United States, 2006: National Surveillance Data for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis. Atlanta, GA: 2007.