Environmental Health
Policy Landscape and Outlook

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About TFAH: Who We Are

Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority.
Overview

- Current and emerging policy debate
- *Playbook* values
- Case study: TFAH priorities
Policy Debate

Specific policies:

- Affordable Care Act
- Infrastructure (e.g., surface transportation)
- Farm Bill
- Clean Air Act
- Regulatory Reform
- Waters of the U.S.A.
Policy Debate

- Ongoing philosophical tensions:
  - Role of government vs. personal responsibility
  - Size ($$) of government vs. revenue obligations
  - Short term costs vs. long-term gains
  - General welfare vs. equity
What Shapes Health?

Health Behaviors 30%
- Tobacco Use
- Physical Activity
- Healthy Eating
- Safe Sexual Practice

Clinical Care 20%
- Access to care
- Quality of Care

Social and Economic Conditions 40%
- Education
- Employment
- Income
- Family & social supports
- Community Safety

Physical Environment - 10%
- Built Environment
- Environmental Quality

Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps
Playbook Values

- “Everyone should have the opportunity to achieve the highest possible level of health at all stages of life.”

- Three overriding themes:
  - Prevention
  - Response
  - Real-Life (i.e., practical) Solutions
Case Study: TFAH

- Ongoing organizational priorities:
  - Modernizing public health system
  - Prioritizing prevention in reforming healthcare delivery system
  - Integrating social and health supports into a broader mission to strengthen communities
Healthy Housing

- Ongoing organizational priorities:
  - Modernizing public health system
    - Do governmental public health agencies have foundational capabilities (surveillance/environmental inspection, etc.) to address health issues in the home?
  - Prioritizing prevention in reforming healthcare delivery system
    - Who do payers hold accountable for health outcomes affected by housing conditions? How? When?
Healthy Housing

- Ongoing organizational priorities:
  - Integrating social and health supports
    - Do HUD dollars remediate conditions that negatively impact health?
    - Does HUD policy permit smoking in public housing?
    - What is the role for other agencies?
    - What is the role of private actors?
Please contact Jack Rayburn, Senior Government Relations Manager, jrayburn@tfah.org if you have any further questions