

Who We Are

State Public Health Governance, Structure, Priorities, and Workforce

Structure

How State Public Health is Organized

In 2016:

58%

29 state public health agencies are freestanding/independent agencies.

42%

21 are a unit of a larger combined health and human services agency.

Leadership

State health agencies (SHAs) are led by a **state health official (SHO)**, also known as a secretary or commissioner.

SHOs bring a variety of experiences to the job.



64% hold a medical degree.



Of those, **52%** also have an MPH.

SHO Appointed by

Governor **66%**

State's secretary of health and human services **14%**

Board or commission **10%**

Other **10%**

Tenure

SHO tenure is highly variable.

2.7 years (Average)

1.7 years (Median)

2 months (Minimum)

15 years (Maximum)

48% of SHOs report directly to the governor.



Priorities

SHOs Set the Agenda

SHOs report a variety of public health priorities:

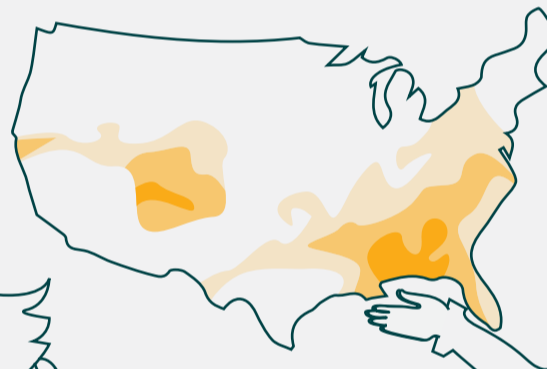
9.4%

Clinical services and consumer care

8.6%

Quality improvement and performance management

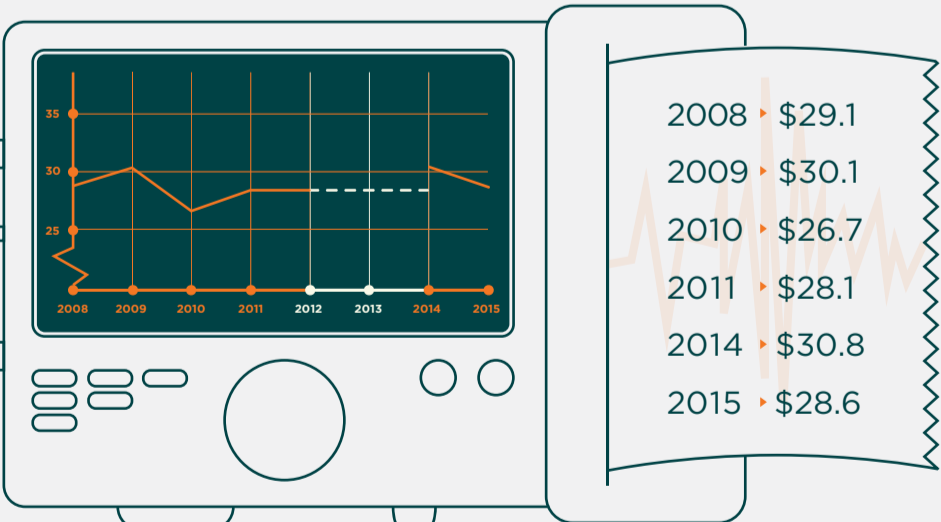
23.9% Chronic disease



The Challenge

State health agency revenue has remained relatively stable despite increasing public health demands.

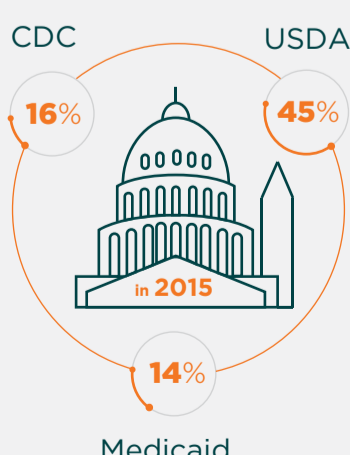
Total revenue in **billions** (2008-2015):
*Data was not collected in 2012 or 2013



From **2008** to **2015**, SHAs received between **44-54%** of their total revenue from federal funding.

Average federal funding revenue for SHAs in **millions** (2008-2015):
*Data was not collected in 2012 or 2013

SHA federal revenue sources:



2008 ▶ \$282
2009 ▶ \$295
2010 ▶ \$298
2011 ▶ \$306
2014 ▶ \$307
2015 ▶ \$280

What's Next?

As the workforce ages and budget cuts continue, SHAs will need to focus on workforce recruitment and retention.

In **2016**, the public health workforce is estimated to be **97,230** full-time equivalents (FTEs) for the **50** states and District of Columbia.

From **2012 to 2016**, the estimated total number of FTEs has decreased by more than **3,000**.

The workforce is aging. From 2016 to 2020, the percentage of SHA employees eligible for retirement is expected to increase from **17%** to **25%**.

The median age of SHA employees is **48**; the median for U.S. workers is **42**.



State health agency leaders are working to set the agenda, address community priorities, and prepare their workforce for the future.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK, VISIT WWW.ASTHO.ORG/PROFILE

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