Public Health Services &
Systems Research
January 19, 2012
PHLR Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA

F. Douglas Scutchfield, M.D.
Director
University of Kentucky
National Coordinating Center for
Public Health Systems & Services Research
Definition

Public Health Services and Systems Research:
A “field of study that examines the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services within communities and the impact of those services on public health”.
MACRO CONTEXT

Social, Political, Economic forces operating in the overall society (e.g. National economy)

Extent of Demand and need for public health services within the population

Social values and preferences for products of public health systems (e.g. clean water)

External forces such as: Medical delivery systems, Technological advances, Nature of federal-state-local relationships

Local Public Health System

PHSSR MISSION AND PURPOSE

Goals and how they are to be implemented

Performance of the core functions of assessment, policy development, and assurance

Capacity

System Inputs:
- Workforce
- Facilities
- Technology
- Organizational relationships
- Funding

Processes

Essential Public Health Services

Outputs

Programs and Services consistent with mandates and community priorities

Process Outcomes

Improved organizational performance

Improved program performance

Community Health Outcomes

- Improved Health Practices, Environment, Life Styles
- Improved Morbidity and Mortality Rates
- Improved Health Status

Community Health Outcomes

- Improved Health Practices, Environment, Life Styles
- Improved Morbidity and Mortality Rates
- Improved Health Status

Process Outcomes

- Improved organizational performance
- Improved program performance

Outputs

Programs and Services consistent with mandates and community priorities

Processes

Essential Public Health Services

Capacity

System Inputs:
- Workforce
- Facilities
- Technology
- Organizational relationships
- Funding

Local Public Health System
PHSSR Research Agenda

Sections:

• Finance
• Organization and Structure
• Workforce
• Technology, Data and Methods

Website:

• http://www.publichealthsystems.org/cphssr/Research/PHSSR_Research_Agenda
PHLR/PHSSR Agenda

1) the structural role of law in shaping the organization, powers, prerogatives, duties and limitations of public health agencies, and thereby their functioning and ultimately their impact on public health ("infrastructure");

2) the way that public health system characteristics influence the implementation of interventional public health laws ("implementation"); and

3) the individual and system characteristics that influence the ability of public health systems and their community partners to develop and secure enactment of legal initiatives to advance public health ("innovation").
Three Questions for PHLR/PSSSR

1) What is the relationship between statutory architecture and language and the outputs and outcomes of public health systems?

2) What are the structural/operational determinants of implementation of law by health agencies?

3) What individual and system characteristics influence the ability of public health systems and their community partners to develop and secure enactment of legal initiatives to advance public health?
For more information contact:
F. Douglas Scutchfield, M.D.
scutch@uky.edu

111 Washington Avenue, Suite 212
Lexington, KY 40517
859-257-5678
www.publichealthsystems.org