Get Involved

Want to help protect and improve the health of Pierce County residents? Here’s how you can get involved:

- Employment: www.tpchd.org/employment
- Volunteer or Intern: www.tpchd.org/volunteer
- Advisory Groups: www.tpchd.org/advisorygroups

Looking Through a Health Equity Lens

In Pierce County, neighbors who live less than a mile apart can have up to eight years difference in life expectancy. Zip code, income, race, education and other social factors shouldn’t predict how healthy a person can be. Everyone should experience fair opportunities for good health.

Health Starts Where We Live, Learn, Work and Play

What makes us healthy?

- 55% Social, Economic and Environmental Factors
- 20% Clinical Care
- 20% Health Behaviors
- 5% Genes and Biology

Adapted from http://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/FAQ.html

Public Health is Essential for All of Us

Health starts where we live, learn, work, and play.

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- 20% Clinical Care
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It takes all of us to realize the vision of healthy people in healthy communities.

Vision

Healthy People in Healthy Communities.

Mission

To protect and improve the health of all people and places in Pierce County.

Financial Health

Public health is essential to safe and healthy communities. We track, respond to and prevent costly food and water contamination and disease outbreaks. But new threats and limited resources could cripple our ability to serve our residents. Strong advocacy from our policymakers and stakeholders helps us continue to protect and improve the health of all people and places in Pierce County.

Total Budget 2016: $33,634,636

Funding Sources

- A Federal: 19.72%
- B State: 20.06%
- C Pierce County: 10.05%
- D City of Tacoma: 3.12%
- E Permits & Fees: 43.67%
- F Private, Local & Misc.: 2.05%

Total Funding Actuals

2010 $33,634,636
2016 $33,634,636

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Population Growth in Pierce County

2010 795,422
2015 843,954

Total Funding Actuals

2010 $33,634,636
2016 $33,634,636

Total funding excludes operating transfers, use of fund balance, and Information Technology interfund.

Fiscal Year 2010 data converted from previous financial system. Revenue for 2016 not final.

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Healthy Air
You take a deep breath.
You don’t have to worry about your asthma symptoms setting in. That’s public health.
Smoking, vaping, vehicle exhaust, burning wood or industrial emissions—our actions can affect air quality.
That’s why we promote policies that help people live, learn, work and play in smoke- and vape-free environments.
Improved air quality means our community—and the people in it—can breathe easier.

Healthy Water
You turn on your tap and get safe and reliable drinking water. And you can safely swim, fish and harvest shellfish in local waters. That’s public health.
We stop contamination, prevent waterborne illnesses and work upstream to improve local water quality.
You have a role to play to keep our water safe, too. Everything from the condition of your septic system to gardening practices affects water quality.
We all need clean water. It’s another reason why public health is essential.

Healthy Families
Your family has fair opportunities to make healthy choices—where they live, learn, work and play. That’s public health.
Our safety net of valuable services helps those in need—new parents and young children, those overcoming substance abuse, and anyone who needs better oral health.
Fostering strong families is the foundation of a healthy community. Our work helps children, families and communities thrive.

Healthy Places
You can safely walk, ride or drive on your streets—for recreation or transportation. And you can easily enjoy the environment all around you. That’s public health.
We help all of our communities become healthier places to live, learn, work and play. From policies to plans, we work with partners to design spaces, places and systems that promote health.
But we don’t do it alone. We all have a role to play so that everyone has fair opportunities to enjoy health.

Healthy Food
You go out to eat with your family and don’t have to worry about getting sick. And you can get healthy and nutritious food—at school, at work and where you live. That’s public health.
We make sure your food is safe to eat. Through our work with food handlers, restaurants and other businesses, we help to prevent food-related illnesses—so you can enjoy your meal.
We also work with schools, community organizations and other agencies to promote nutritious food options. Access to healthy foods is an essential ingredient in healthy communities.

Healthy Communities
Your child goes to school. You don’t have to worry about whooping cough. That’s public health.
We want you to stay healthy and take steps to prevent or stop the spread of disease—like proper hand washing, covering your cough and getting vaccinated.
And when disease outbreaks happen, we and our partners investigate them to bring them under control.
Public health is essential to ensure a coordinated response to disease threats.

Healthy Collaboration
The community looks to us as the reliable local source for public health information, services, data and policy.
We don’t do it alone. Many share in the work of realizing the vision of Healthy People in Healthy Communities. We partner with organizations and people all over the community and beyond to protect and improve the health of Pierce County.

Emergency Management and Response
We work with partners to plan for emergencies—so that the community can withstand the impact of an incident and recover swiftly.

Our organization is high performing, innovative and quality-focused.

People have equitable opportunities for health.

Healthy Water
Healthy Families
Healthy Places
Healthy Food
Healthy Communities
Healthy Collaboration
Emergency Management and Response
People are healthy and safe here.

2016-2020 Strategic Plan
Our new Strategic Plan helps us look through a health equity lens, sharpening our vision for healthy people in healthy communities. It focuses us on engaging with the community to protect and improve the health of all people and places that make up Pierce County.

High Performing, Innovative and Quality Focused
From financial sustainability and the strength of our workforce, to communication and technology infrastructure, we focus on serving our residents with excellence. Because of our quality standards, we are one of fewer than 200 health departments nationwide to be accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

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