



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Amy Lierman, PIO  
Office: (208)737-5978

### **Idaho Public Health Districts Unveil Statewide Network of Care for Public Health**

*Web Portal Makes Health and Wellness Resources Readily Available for Community Leaders and Individuals*

Idaho will soon become the first state to adopt the Network of Care for Public Health statewide. Idaho's Public Health Districts are funding this community-based Web portal program, which is a resource for individuals, families and agencies concerned with community health.

The Network of Care program will provide Idaho's public health leaders, policy makers, and stakeholders with the best possible information to make decisions to improve the quality of health for the state's residents. The site features science based health education provided by "Healthwise," direct links to state and federal lawmakers, health data which includes county indicators as well as indicators from the national County Health Rankings and Healthy People 2020 goals. These indicators are broken out by Idaho's seven public health districts as well as by county and can help local leaders focus their efforts to improve health at the heart of the problem.

This remarkable program offers the following features:

- It provides as many as 170 customized Local Health Indicators for each county.
- In many cases, it shows specific dimensions within an indicator to more accurately identify problem areas and targets. Indicators often contain time trends as well.
- Indicators are automatically compared to Healthy People 2020 goals and to Idaho's state averages.
- Indicators include model practices from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), along with recommended interventions for positive change from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Since limited resources are a challenge for many local and governmental agencies, having access to this data can help local public health leaders and other policy makers direct their

resources to areas that will target specific health issues and create healthier populations in their jurisdictions,” said Rene LeBlanc, Director of South Central Public Health District.

In addition, the Network of Care web portal provides a vast library of resources for individuals and families to help them improve their health. Each indicator has a wide variety of information on prevention, testing, treatment, and key decision points as well as interactive self-assessment tools, forums, and news from around the country. In addition, the Network of Care web portal can be viewed in multiple languages.

Idaho’s Public Health Districts strive to create healthier communities. Making the Network of Care for Public Health available to Idaho’s residents and policy makers provides one more tool that can be used to help accomplish this goal.

To learn more, visit Idaho’s Network of Care Sites at:<http://idaho.networkofcare.org>. Again, data is available by county or by each of the state’s seven health district, which consists of the following regions:

**PHD1 - Panhandle Health District**

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, & Shoshone Counties

**PHD2 - Public Health – Idaho North Central District**

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, & Nez Perce Counties

**PHD3 - Southwest District Health**

Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, & Washington Counties

**PHD4 - Central District Health Department**

Ada, Boise, Elmore, & Valley Counties

**PHD5 - South Central Public Health District**

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, & Twin Falls Counties

**PHD6 - Southeastern Idaho Public Health**

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Butte, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, & Power Counties

**PHD7 - Eastern Idaho Public Health District**

Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, & Teton Counties

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