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# Massachusetts Public Health Association

*Action for a Healthy Massachusetts*



## WE ENVISION A MASSACHUSETTS...

Where we invest in a strong public health system.

Where kids don't consider soda a food group.

Where students worry about math tests, not diabetes.

Where all neighborhoods have safe places for play and exercise.

Where all families can afford fresh produce sold in their neighborhood.

Where we invest in healthy communities.

## WHERE THE HEALTHY CHOICE IS THE EASY CHOICE.

## BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is the state's leading voice for public health. As a statewide membership organization, we engage communities in advocacy to protect and improve the health of all the Commonwealth's residents. Our focus is on preventing disease and injury.

MPHA is building local leaders, supporting local policy change and engaging a network of activists across the state to take action for healthy communities.

MPHA uses an effective combination of advocacy, public education, community organizing, policy development, and coalition leadership to protect and strengthen state and local public health infrastructure, including emergency preparedness, and address major public health challenges.

MPHA, based in Boston, was founded in 1879 and is a leading affiliate of the American Public Health Association.

## MPHA'S TOP POLICY PRIORITIES IN 2011

- \* **Stronger state and local public health infrastructure**, including supporting the MA DPH budget—especially the Health Promotion and Environmental Health line items
- \* **Creating a Prevention Trust** to fund real prevention through grants to communities to improve local resources and policies for health
- \* **Act FRESH campaign**—local and statewide groups uniting with one voice to prevent disease through equal access to healthy food and physical activity. Act FRESH is:
  - Zoning reform
  - Phys. Ed. back in schools
  - Better school food
  - Healthy food stores in every community

