

What does my contribution to the MA Health Council achieve?

Since 1920 the MA Health Council has been a leader in promulgating initiatives that improve the health status of the residents of Massachusetts. Just a snapshot:

1920's:

- Creation of the MA Health Council
- Lead a drive to stop the spread of Tuberculosis

1930's:

- MHC Distributed free health bulletins to industrial
- Led a drive to require public school children to be vaccinated
- Led a drive to require the pasteurization of milk

1940's

- Lead a drive to prevent pollution of the Charles River
- Lead a drive to establish proper water treatment works by cities, towns and water companies.

1950's

- MHC Nutrition Committee successfully sponsored legislation for fortifying commercial bread.
- MHC has 86 radio and 7 television programs on health subjects broadcast over Boston and Springfield stations.

1960's

- MHC filed legislation to give local boards of health the authority to fluoridate water supplies
- Anti-tobacco campaign
- Health education in schools

1970's

- Creates a coalition to promote clean air and fight air pollution
- Begins an anti-smoking campaign
- Promotes and advances the development of a comprehensive school health education program for K-12.

1980's

- Worked to pass a Universal Health Care Act - (H. 1811). Bill passed and became part of Ch. 23
- MHC creates "Massachusetts Medication Awareness Month"
- Clean Indoor Air Act – Supported each year until it passed in 1987
- Supported legislation for tax incentives for MA employers to offer health insurance to their employees.
- Supported the establishment of a Healthy Start Program for pregnant women
- Worked to establish tougher anti-drunk driving laws
- Developed a bill requiring establishments of non- smoking policies in the workplace
- Support of Clean Indoor Air Act – Passed (Regulates smoking in public places)
- Project Eldermed: promoted educational, hands-on material for seniors to understand and follow safe medication practices.

1990's

- Seat Belt Law
- Anti-smoking campaign included successful increased in Tobacco Excise Taxes
- Fought for Tobacco Company Lawsuit Settlement money to go for public health
- Creation of nationally recognized MA health status indicator report "Common Health for the Commonwealth: Massachusetts Trends in the Determinants of Health"
- Joined with coalition to create mental health parity

2000's

- Successful fight for Smoke Free Workplaces
- Member of coalition that fought for and saw passage of health care reform in Massachusetts
- 4 editions of "Common Health for the Commonwealth: Massachusetts Trends in the Determinants of Health"
- Widespread promotion of workplace wellness
- Fight for better school nutrition
- Banning trans fats in restaurants
- Health education in schools
- Strengthening prevention and wellness agenda

We're winning many public health battles...help us continue!