

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH



● Chronic Disease ● Environmental Health ● Emergency Preparedness ● Family Health
● Immunizations ● Infectious Disease ● Public Health Laboratory ● Local Public Health ● Minority Health

The scope of public health in Arkansas broadened in the 20th century, moving from an inspection culture to an era of community mobilization. Placing workers in county offices allowed the Health Department to engage citizens and target community-specific needs.

In 1913, county health officers were appointed to carry out inspections of public facilities, conduct sanitary surveys, and maintain records of communicable disease. Also, the Arkansas Tuberculosis Association employed the state's first public health nurse. Between 1919 and 1923, a total of 24 Red Cross nursing services were formed across the state. In 1927, 23 small, full-time county health offices were created. It wasn't until 1949 that health offices with waiting and exam rooms began to emerge.

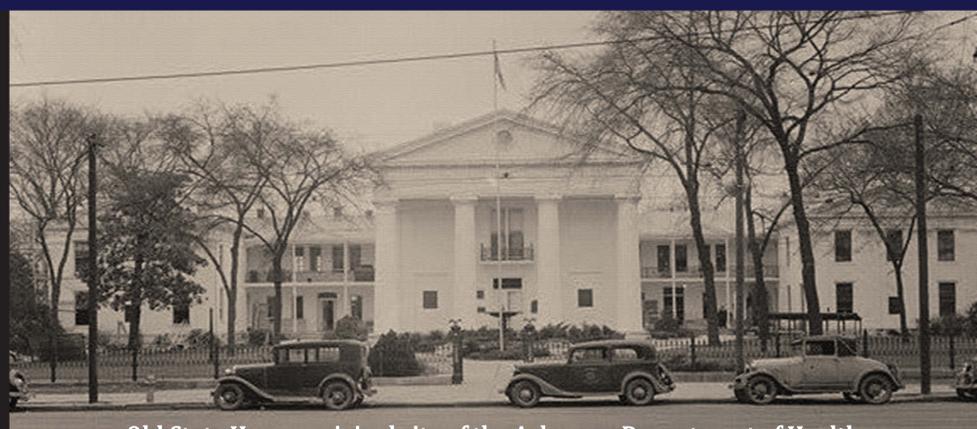
Four major revenue sources enabled the growth of local public health:

- Social Security Act of 1935
- Hospital Survey and Construction Act of 1946 (Hill-Burton Act)
- Community Development Block Grants
- State Health Department Building and Local Grant Trust Fund

Ninety-three local health units currently provide services in every county. The Health Department does not lease or own the buildings that house local health unit offices. While the local health unit employees are state employees, the local health unit facilities are provided by the county or city.

An effort to link health units to their communities to prioritize local health issues and develop effective solutions led to the creation of Hometown Health Improvement (HHI) in 1996. HHI grew from a pilot program in Boone County to community-related health development efforts in all 75 counties.

100
Years
of Public Health
in Arkansas



Old State House, original site of the Arkansas Department of Health