

# **Developing Sustainable State and Local Mosquito Control Programs**

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**State Public Health Vector Control Conference  
San Francisco, CA  
February 21, 2006**

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# Overview

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- Overview of ASTHO
- The Mosquito Control Collaborative (MCC)
- “Public Health Confronts the Mosquito” report
- Current ASTHO Mosquito Control Activities



ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND  
TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

# ASTHO

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- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- 57 members – Chief Health Officials in states, territories, and District of Columbia
- Environmental Health and Infectious Disease Policy Committees

# ASTHO's Mosquito Control Program

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- Began in 2003
- Funding from NCID's Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases
- Objective: Establish collaborative to develop recommendations on creating sustainable mosquito control programs

# Mosquito Control Collaborative

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- Partnered with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- Representatives from:
  - Public health
  - Environment
  - Agriculture
  - Mosquito control
  - State/local government

# MCC Organizations

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- American Mosquito Control Association
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
- Environmental Council of the States
- National Association of Counties
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of Local Boards of Health
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Nature Conservancy
- State Public Health Vector Control Conference

# MCC History

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- Discussions at the 2003 WNV Conference
  - Deteriorating infrastructure for preventing mosquito-borne disease in the U.S.
  - One proposed solution was to develop guidelines to help states and localities in their mosquito control activities
  
- MASH Act of 2003

# Mosquito Control Collaborative

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- Objective
  - Produce and distribute recommendations on developing sustainable state & local mosquito control programs
  - Provide blueprint for program development
- Released Interim recommendations in July 2004
- Final Recommendations released in June 2005



ASTHO

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

## PUBLIC HEALTH CONFRONTS THE MOSQUITO:

Developing Sustainable State  
and Local Mosquito Control Programs



## *Public Health Confronts the Mosquito:*

**Developing Sustainable  
State and Local  
Mosquito Control Programs**

# Report Highlights

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- Planning and Action Checklists
- One of the most frequently visited documents on ASTHO web site
- Over 2,150 hits since July 2005
- Summary Documents

## Elements of a Minimal Mosquito Control Program

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- Institute a public information program emphasizing personal responsibility, ways in which people can prevent mosquito breeding, and how they can reduce the risk of being bitten by observing personal protection measures.
  - Encourage reporting of unusual events, such as dead birds or sick domestic animals, to local health agencies.
  - Institute community cleanup programs to eliminate larval habitats from backyards, commercial sites and abandoned premises.
  - Citizen participation (reporting suspected mosquito larval habitats, reporting dead birds or other unusual events) is essential for efficient data gathering.
  - Educate and inform the local media.
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# Report Organization

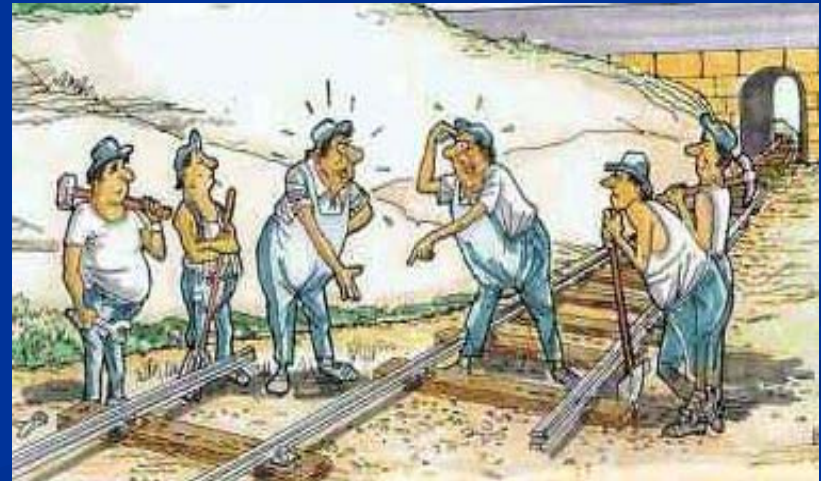
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- Four major sections
  - I. Plan Ahead
  - II. Involve Others
  - III. Use the Best Science and Data
  - IV. Inform the Public

# I. Plan Ahead

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- Creating a mosquito control program (MCP) requires time and preparation—must consider:
  - Structure of MCP and roles of agencies and organizations involved
  - Environmental considerations
  - Legal considerations
  - Funding alternatives
  - Workforce issues
  - Program evaluation



## II. Involve Others

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- Develop a plan for involving others
- Identify and actively involve other stakeholders to include in planning efforts
- Develop a plan for receiving input, negotiating conflict, and communicating agreed upon plan
- Inform policy and decision-makers

# III. Use the Best Science and Data

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- All decisions should be guided by the best available science and data.
- Mosquito control is driven by:
  - Epidemiology
  - Surveillance
  - Understanding the biology of local mosquito species

# Science/Data: MCP Options

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- Basic mosquito control strategies
  - Source reduction
  - Chemical control
  - Biological control
  - Public education
- Mosquito control program options
  - Level I: Minimal Program
  - Level II: Intermediate Program
  - Level III: Comprehensive Program

# IV. Inform the Public

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- Ongoing communication is crucial
- Define the goals for public information
- Create Effective Messages



# Report Conclusions

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- Mosquito control is multidisciplinary.
- Public health information often drives the political will to reduce mosquito populations and habitats.
- The mosquito always returns.
- Public health has a responsibility and an opportunity to be part of a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to continued mosquito control.

# Current Activities

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- Evaluating the recommendations
- Developing Fact Sheets on Legislative and Financial Issues
- Matrix of State Mosquito Control Structures
- Partnering with NCSL and NACCHO
- Mosquito Control Advisory Group
- Quarterly Calls with SPHVCC

# Contact Information

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