

Indiana Association of Local Boards of Health

Health Impact Pyramid

The five-tier pyramid describes the impact of different types of public health interventions and provides a framework to improve health. At the base are efforts to address socioeconomic determinants of health. Interventions in this area offer the greatest potential impact. In ascending order are interventions that change the context to make individuals' default decisions healthy, clinical interventions that require limited contact but confer long-term protection, ongoing direct clinical care and health education and counseling.

Interventions focusing on lower levels of the pyramid tend to be more effective, because they reach broader segments of society and require less individual effort. However, implementing interventions at each level can achieve the maximum possible sustained public health benefits.

Source: A Framework for Public Health Action: The Health Impact Pyramid (American Journal of Public Health, April 2010, Vol 100, No. 4)

