

## LESSON 2: OVERVIEW OF HEALTH POLICY

The focus of this lesson was to discuss various factors related to policy analysis at CDC. Hopefully, you have gained a clearer understanding of CDC's policy process, and how it aligns with the CDC Health Policy Competency, CDC's role in policy development, and the impact of both current and future public health issues on policy development. The objectives for this lesson included:

- Describe CDC's definition of policy.
- Identify the elements of the policy analysis competency.
- Identify the elements of the policy process.
- Describe how policy impacts health.



### KEY POINTS

- CDC defines policy as a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions.
- Policy has been a useful tool in several of the Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the U.S. from 2001 to 2010.
- Resource decisions may influence policy options. When resources are scarce they must be prioritized and allocated judiciously.
- Prioritizing policy options is important because it assists decision-makers in identifying the ones on which they should focus their limited resources.
- CDC has developed a process to assist you with policy development.
- Policy analysis is the second step in the policy process and is a key component of CDC's Health Policy Competency.
- Policy development is rarely a linear process. However, in the ideal scenario, a problem is defined, potential policy solutions are identified, analyzed and prioritized, and the best solution is adopted and evaluated.
- CDC's role is to deliver evidence-based science to inform policy decision-making.
- CDC does not lobby for any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any state or local government or measures pending before a state or local legislature or legislative body.

