



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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News Release

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Public forum gathers local input on state health policy

Tuesday, April 11, 4-6:30 pm, Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane

On April 11th, Spokane area residents will have an opportunity to share their views on health care quality, rising medical costs, patient safety, inequalities in health, children's health insurance, the capacity of the public health system to protect people from disease and other important health policy issues with the Washington State Board of Health. The board, in cooperation with the Spokane Regional Health District, will host a forum on public health and medical care issues facing the state.

Every five years, the board holds public forums across the state to gather input for the State Health Report, which it prepares and proposes to the governor for adoption. The report, which is issued every two years, is meant to guide legislative and budget requests by state health care agencies. A member of the governor's policy staff will be on hand, and representatives of several state agencies have been invited.

The forum will feature a presentation about health disparities issues in the Spokane area and local community efforts to address them. Local panelists will include Lydia Vold, Director of Disease Prevention and Response, Spokane Regional Health District; Cathy Mann, Executive Director, VOICES; and Toni Lodge, Executive Director, NATIVE Health and NATIVE Project.

The [Board of Health Web site](http://www.sboh.wa.gov) (www.sboh.wa.gov) and the Spokane Regional Health District — 509-234-1501 — have more information. A discussion draft of the 2006 State Health Report is on the Web site or calling 360-239-4110. Copies also will be available at the public forum.

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The Board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in advancing policies that protect and improve the public's health. It does this by reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington; analyzing policies, providing guidance, and developing rules; promoting system partnerships; and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. For more information, visit the Board's Web site at www.sboh.wa.gov.