

## Appendix A

# Glossary

**Access**—The timely use of health services to achieve the best possible outcome. Also the physical accessibility of services.

**Acute**—Brief, intense or short-term; often describes an illness.

**Age-adjusted rate**—See “How to Read this Report” for an in-depth definition.

**Aggravated assault**—The unlawful attack or attempted attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

**AIDS**—Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, the most severe phase of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Persons infected with HIV are said to have AIDS when they get certain opportunistic infections or when their CD4 cell count drops below 200.

**Alcohol-involved collisions**—Collision where one or more of the individuals involved in the collision is determined by a law enforcement officer to have been drinking alcohol, regardless of the degree of impairment.

**Alcohol-related arrests**—Arrests for driving under the influence, public drunkenness, or liquor law violations.

**Anxiety**—Worried anticipation of future danger (internal or external) or misfortune accomplished by feelings of dissatisfaction, restlessness, fidgeting or tension.


**Baby bottle tooth decay**—A severe form of dental *caries* in infants and toddlers that can ultimately destroy teeth and is caused by frequent or prolonged use of a bottle with high-sugar fluids.

**Birth defect**—An abnormality in structure, function or body metabolism that is present at birth.

**Birth rate**—Number of live births per 1,000 population.

**Body mass index**—A measurement of overweight or obesity calculated by dividing a person’s weight (in kilograms) by the square of his/her height (in meters). Because it is readily calculated, BMI is the measurement of choice as an indicator of healthy weight, overweight and obesity.

**Campylobacter**—A communicable bacterial infection of humans causing



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symptoms such as diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, nausea and vomiting and usually lasting two to five days.

**Census tract**—Small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or statistically equivalent entity delineated by local participants as part of the U.S. Census Bureau’s Participant Statistical Areas Program. The purpose of census tracts is to provide a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of census data.

**Child abuse**—Includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse, as well as exploitation and caretaker incapacity.

**Childhood lead poisoning**—Elevated childhood blood lead levels obtained by absorption of lead into the body. Lead poisoning is highly toxic to organs and systems, especially in children under six years of age.

**Chronic**—Prolonged or long term; often describes an illness.

**Crude death rate**—A measure of mortality that does not take the age composition of the population into account. The rate is the number of deaths from all causes divided by the total population.

**Dental caries**—Dental cavities.

**Dental decay**—A bacteria-caused infectious disease that progressively destroys tooth enamel and inner dental tissues.

**Depression**—A state of low mood that is described differently by people who experience it. Commonly described are feelings of sadness, despair, emptiness, or loss of interest or pleasure in nearly all things.

**Disability**—The expression of a physical or mental limitation in a social context; the gap between a person’s capabilities and the demands of the environment.

**Diversion**—In general, an alternative to normal standard procedure or occurrence. Specifically related to juvenile detainees, “diversion” means alternative sentencing other than incarceration. Specifically related to environmental health, it means environmentally sound methods of waste disposal.

**Domestic violence**—A pattern of assault and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual and/or psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, which adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.



**Elder abuse**— Physical abuse, neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, isolation, abduction or other mistreatment with resulting physical harm or pain or mental suffering in people age 65 and older. Also, the deprivation by a care custodian of goods or services that are necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering.

**Emergency protective order**— A restraining order issued by a judge at the request of law enforcement (usually at the scene of violence) that is valid for up to five court days.

**Fertility rate**— Total number of live births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (age 15 to 44).

**Fluoridation**— The process of adding optimum levels of fluoride to a community's water supply to prevent tooth decay.

**Fetal death**— Death occurring after 20 weeks gestation.

**Foodborne disease or foodborne illness**— Infections or intoxication caused by microbial or chemical contaminants in foods.

**Gang**— A group of persons associated for some criminal or other antisocial purpose or delinquent behavior.

**Hazardous material incident**— A spill or improper disposal of an unknown material that presents a threat to people, the environment, plant and wild life or property.

**Homelessness**— When individuals are lacking, for all or part of the year, a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence or having a primary night-time residence that is a shelter, institution for homeless people, or a place not designed for human accommodation.

**Homicide**— The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter comprise this category.

**Incidence**— The number of new events that occurred during a specified period of time; often listed as a rate.

**Infant death**— Death occurring before the first birthday. The number of deaths per 1,000 live births occurring before the first birthday.

**Juvenile detainee**— A youth under age 18 thought to be too young to be considered an adult by the criminal justice system.



**Larceny-theft**—The unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another (excludes embezzlement, fraud, forgery and worthless checks).

**Legal immigrant**—A person who legally moves to a country of which he or she is not a native, usually for permanent residence.

**Listeriosis**—A communicable disease of humans caused by the parasitic bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes* and characterized by fever and other flu-like symptoms, and occasionally by delirium, coma, collapse and shock.

**Low birth weight**—A live birth weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs).

**Major depression**—A broad category of conditions with a major depressive episode (e.g., major depressive disorder or bipolar disorder). Major depressive disorder is the most common type of major depression in adults and includes these symptoms: depressed mood, loss of interest or pleasure in activities, significant weight loss or gain, sleep disturbance, slow or agitated motor skills, fatigue, feelings of worthlessness, loss of concentration and frequent thoughts of death or suicide.

**Mental disorder**—Includes signs and symptoms used to describe health conditions characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, perception, or behavior (or a combination) associated with distress and/or impaired functioning.

**Mental health**—The ability of an individual to negotiate the daily challenges and social interactions of life without experiencing cognitive (thinking) emotional or behavioral dysfunction.

**Mental illness**—Refers collectively to all diagnosable mental disorders. Health conditions characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, perception, or behavior (or a combination) associated with distress and/or impaired functioning.

**Methyl Tertiary-butyl Ether (MTBE)** - A colorless chemical compound that is manufactured for primary use in gasoline to reduce smog and to meet Clean Air Act goals.

**Neonatal period**—The first 28 days of life.

**Neonatal death**—Death occurring before age 28 days.

**Perinatal death**—Includes fetal death after 28 weeks of gestation and infant



deaths within the first 7 days of birth.

**Periodontal disease**—An inflammatory disease of the gums, other oral soft tissues and bony supports of the teeth.

**Physical activity**—Bodily movement that is produced by the contraction of skeletal muscle and that substantially increases energy expenditure.

**Physical fitness**—A set of attributes that persons have or achieve that relates to the ability to perform physical activity. Components include agility, balance, coordination, power and speed as well as Body composition, cardio-respiratory function, flexibility and muscular strength.

**Post-neonatal death**—Death occurring from age 28 days to 364 days.

**Poverty level**—An income level below or at which people are considered poor. Determined by a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition and that are updated annually for inflation.

**Prevalence**—The number of existing events at a given point in time or during a designated time period.

**Risk behaviors**—Actions that have the potential to result in morbidity or mortality.

**Schizophrenia**—A severe mental disorder including the following characteristics (some of which must persist for at least 6 months): delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior, restrictions in range and emotional blunting. The disorder is always severe and long lasting.

**Secondhand smoke**—A mixture of the smoke exhaled by smokers and the smoke that comes from the burning end of the tobacco product.

**Sedentary**—Lifestyle characterized by relative inactivity or requiring much sitting.

**Sentinel**—A representative of a population. Sentinel monitoring helps assess any changes in the health levels of a population.

**Surveillance**—A coordinated system of continuous collection, analysis and reporting of health data.

**Vector-borne diseases**—Illnesses that are transmitted to people by organ-



isms such as insects.

**Very low birth weight** – A live birth weighing less than 1,500 grams.

**Years of potential life lost (YPLL)** – Those years lost when a person dies prematurely, such as from preventable disease or unintentional injuries. Assumes all people should be able to live up to age 75.