

# How Long Does it Take for Public Health Spending to Affect Mortality Rates?

## Evidence from California County Departments of Public Health

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## **Educational Need/Practice Gap**

It is unknown whether a time-lag should be expected between county public health spending and the expected impacts of such spending on mortality.

This information is highly relevant to the evaluation of outcomes produced by county departments of public health as examining too short a time period may falsely imply a program is ineffective.



# Objectives

Learners should be able to explain

- The lag time between county public health expenditures and changes in all-cause mortality
- The return-on-investment to county public health expenditures (and how this would vary if lags were not accounted for).
- The relative cost-effectiveness of expanding county public health activities vs. expanding Medicaid enrollment.



## Expected Outcomes

- Researchers should assume a lag between county public health spending and mortality and account for this in their research.
- Practitioners should assume a lag between county public health spending and mortality and account for this in their planning and evaluation.
- Practitioners should be able to effectively present the case for funding county departments of public health using a simple and accurate story.



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