

What are “Forces of Change?”

Forces of Change include trends, events, and factors:

- **TRENDS** are patterns over time, such as migration in and out of a community or a growing disillusionment with government.
- **FACTORS** are discrete elements, such as a state or community’s large ethnic population, a rural setting, or a jurisdiction’s proximity to a major waterway.
- **EVENTS** are one-time occurrences, such as a hospital system closure, a natural disaster, or the passage of new legislation

Be sure to consider any and all types of forces, including those that are:

- Social
- Economic
- Political
- Technological
- Environmental
- Scientific
- Legal
- Ethical
- And????

Think about forces of change that affect our public health system and/or our communities:

1. What has occurred recently that may affect our local public health system or communities?
2. What may occur in the future?
3. What are some trends that will have an impact?
4. What forces are occurring locally? Regionally? Nationally? Globally?
5. What characteristics of our jurisdiction or State may pose an opportunity or threat?
6. What may occur or has occurred that may pose a barrier to achieving the shared vision we have for a healthy environment for our communities?

Take a few minutes to list as many forces of change as you can on the next page.....

What trends, factors and events are or will be influencing the health and quality of life for our communities and/or the work of our public health system?

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List the Forces you brainstormed above into the left-hand column ("Forces"). Then, for each category, identify the threats and opportunities for the public health system or community created by each force. Continue onto another page if needed.

Forces (Trend, Events, Factors)	Threats Posed	Opportunities Created

