



# Working with State Health Departments: The Role of State and Territorial Health Officials (S/THOs)

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# VISION

State and territorial health agencies advancing health equity and optimal health for all.

# MISSION

To support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public's health and well-being.

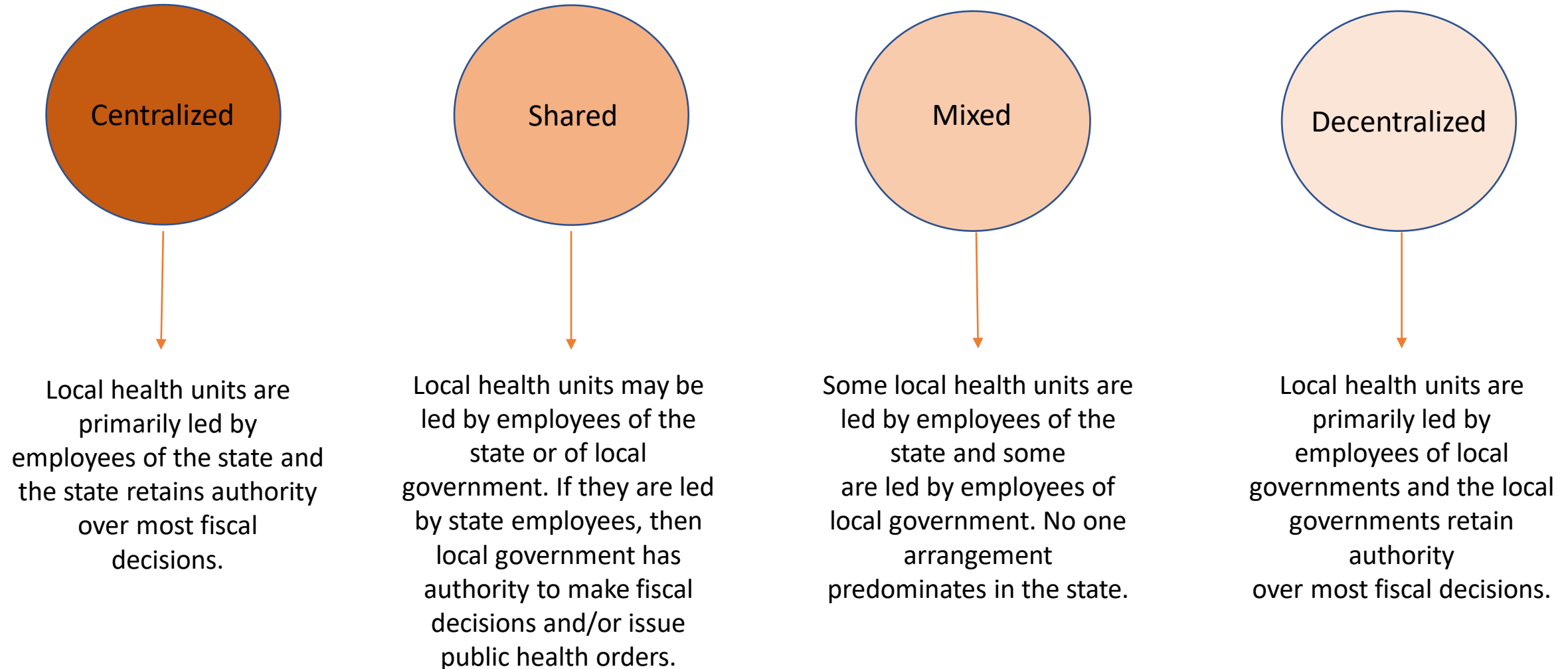
# ASTHO: Who We Are

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- Non-profit organization representing public health agencies
- Track, evaluate, and advise members on the impact and formation of public or private health policy
- Provide guidance and technical assistance on improving the nation's health



# State Health Agency – Governance Classification



# State and Territorial Health Agency Priorities

## Infrastructure

- Workforce
- Funding
- Policy Development and Support
- Collaboration
- Surveillance and Assessment

## Programmatic

- COVID-19 and other communicable diseases
- Health Equity
- Behavioral Health
- Access to Care

# Engaging Your S/THOs

Share data, evidence-  
base, and best  
practices on emerging  
public health issues

Inform legislation  
contributing to better  
health outcomes for  
your constituents

Provide testimonies

SHO peer networks –  
what's happening in  
other states?

Legislative Liaisons

# State and Territorial Health Official Directory

## ABOUT

### About

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## State and Territorial Health Officials

### Alabama

Scott Harris, MD, MPH [\[Bio\]](#)  
State Health Officer

### Alaska

Anne Zink, MD, FACEP [\[Bio\]](#)  
Chief Medical Officer

### American Samoa

CSM Motusa Tuileama To'atolu Nua [\[Bio\]](#)  
Director, Department of Health

### Arizona

Don Herrington\*  
Interim Director

### Arkansas

José Romero, MD [\[Bio\]](#)  
Secretary

### California

Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH [\[Bio\]](#)  
Director & State Public Health Officer

Erica Pan, MD, MPH, FAAP\*  
State Epidemiologist  
S/THO Designee

### Colorado

Jill Ryan, MPH [\[Bio\]](#)  
Executive Director

### Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Esther L. Muña, MHA, FACHE [\[Bio\]](#)  
CEO, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

### Connecticut

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### [Fostering Breastfeeding Equity Through Community Engagement](#)

Dec 6, 2021 - Apr 30, 2022

Time varies by date

#### [2022 Leadership Check-Up Series](#)

Jan 12 - Mar 30, 2022

Time varies by date

#### [ASTHO Washington Week](#)

Feb 22-24, 2022

Hybrid: Virtual and Washington, D.C.


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 **Alexis Travis**  
[@DrAlexisTravis](#)

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[#MLKDayofService](#)  
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# Thank You!

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