


Environmental Health Policy & Practice



Lesson 22.
Competencies
And Services

14 May 2012

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Dept. of Environmental &
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ENV H 473: EH Policy & Practice 2

Announcements

Presented by Rina Romano with WashPIRG at UW...

KING CORN MOVIE SCREENING
A documentary on the crop driving our fast-food nation

When: Tuesday, May 15th, 7:30 - 9:30 PM
Location: SMI 120

(ALSO, FREE FOOD)



ENV H 311: Lesson 21 3

Announcements

❖ **DEOHS Seminar:**

- **Title:** *Indoor Air Pollution in the United Arab Emirates*
- **Speaker:** Karin Yeatts, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
Dept. of Epidemiology
University North Carolina
- **Date:** Thursday, 17 May 2012
- **Time:** 12:30 - 1:20 p.m.
- **Location:** Room T-435 HSB

ENV H 311: Lesson 21 4

Performance Measures

The diagram illustrates two parallel relationships. On the left, the cover of the book 'Future Public Health' is shown with a green arrow pointing to a blue rounded rectangle containing the text 'Ten Essential Services of Environmental Health'. Below this, the cover of the 'ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMPETENCY PROJECT' is shown with a green arrow pointing to another blue rounded rectangle containing the text 'Environmental Health Competencies'. The text 'ENV H 473: EH Policy & Practice' and the number '5' are at the bottom.

And Still Further . . .

❖ **There has been increasing pressure from legislative bodies for government agencies to produce quantifiable data demonstrating that they are being effective and efficient.**

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What is a standard?

An agreed upon measure of comparison. Standards may come from the state or national level, from a peer community, or from a community itself to document the *relative* status of the community's environmental health.

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Examples of EH Standards

- ❖ A surveillance system is in place to record and report on EH hazards and related illnesses in the community
- ❖ A written plan is in place that delineates roles and responsibilities for environmental events or natural disasters
- ❖ Agency staff has training in risk communication

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The Status of EH Standards Today

- ❖ **National EH Performance Standards**
 - Based on the Essential Services
 - Provides a benchmark for comparing one EH unit to another
 - Linked to National Public Health Performance standards

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Standards for Public Health

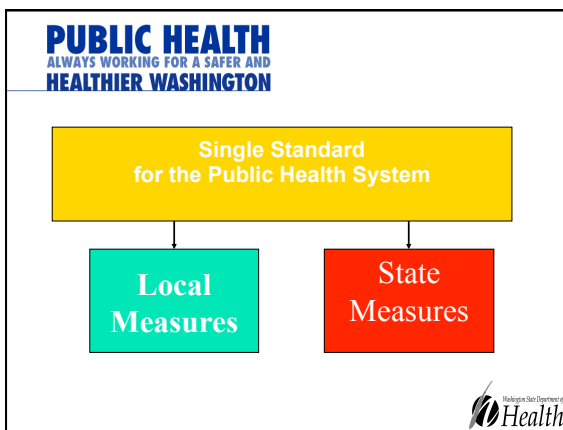
- ❖ **WA State: Legislative Mandate**
 - 1993 Law: Set minimum standards and portions of Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP)
 - 1995 PHIP ACT: Required PH Standards and performance-based contracts
 - 1998 PHIP: Contained a model of Standards for Public Health, using a framework that was used to develop the present Standards

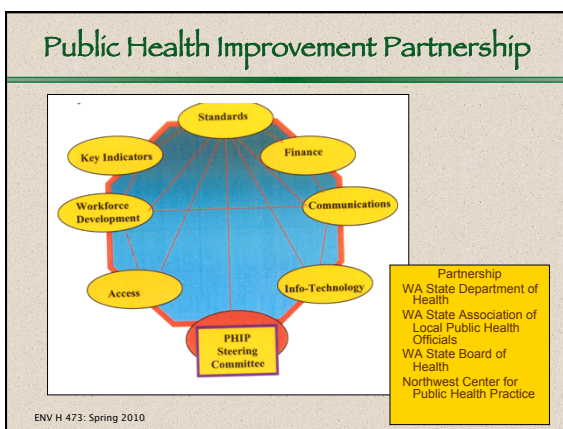
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Goal for the Standards

- ❖ A predictable level of public health protection throughout the state
- ❖ “What every person has a right to expect.”

ENV H 473: Spring 2010 11





Timeline of Standards Development

- ❖ **Between 1993 and 1998 committees of state and local people wrote the standards**
- ❖ **1999 Field tested**
- ❖ **2001 Baseline assessment using the Standards**
- ❖ **2005 Second Standards assessment**
- ❖ **2008 Third Standards assessment**

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Why Standards

- ❖ **Establishes Accountability**
- ❖ **Clarify State and Local Expectations**
- ❖ **Quality: Measuring Improvements and Preparedness**
- ❖ **Identify Strengths and Gaps**
- ❖ **Assure the System Works Well**
- ❖ **Communicate with Public**

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What Standards Won't do

- ❖ **Manage programs**
- ❖ **Make your policy decisions**
- ❖ **Evaluate programs**
- ❖ **Mandate new work**

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD




- × Completing the accreditation process will take:
 - + Time
 - + Resources
 - + Dedication
 - + Commitment

WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION?

- × The measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards.
- × The issuance of recognition of achievement of accreditation within a specified time frame by a nationally recognized entity.
- × The continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.


THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD (PHAB)

- × PHAB is a non-profit, voluntary public health accreditation organization founded in 2007 whose goal is to advance public health performance by providing a national framework of standards for local, state, territorial and tribal health departments.
- × PHAB is the national organization charged with administering the public health accreditation program.
- × PHAB's office and staff are located in Alexandria, VA



THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD (PHAB)

- ✦ PHAB is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) but will also have accreditation fees associated with the application.
- ✦ PHAB's governance structure is a board of directors composed of public health leaders
- ✦ PHAB can be contacted for additional information at www.phaboard.org or 703-778-4549



Accreditation requires an on-going health departmental commitment to improvement and adherence to national standards

IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITATION

- ✦ Accreditation can help your health department:
 - + identify successes and opportunities for improvement
 - + promote quality initiatives
 - + energize the workforce and develop a strong team
 - + focus the health department on common goals
 - + evaluate your health department's performance
 - + align your resources with your strategic objectives
 - + deliver results

ACCREDITATION LOOKS AT:

- × Leadership
- × Strategic planning
- × Community engagement
- × Customer focus
- × Workforce development
- × Evaluation and quality improvement

GOAL OF ACCREDITATION

The goal of the national public health department accreditation program is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS

- × Step 1 – Pre-Application
- × Step 2 – Application
- × Step 3 – Documentation Selection and Submission
- × Step 4 – Site Visit
- × Step 5 – Accreditation Decision
- × Step 6 – Reports
- × Step 7 – Reaccreditation

THE THREE PREREQUISITES

- × Community Health Assessment
 - + Standard 1.1
- × Health Improvement Plan
 - + Standard 5.2
- × Department Strategic Plan
 - + Standard 5.3

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

- × Collaborative process
- × Mobilize the community
- × Develop priorities
- × Gather resources
- × Plan to improve health

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- × Long-term effort
- × Address issues from the Community Health Assessment
- × Broad participation
- × Set community priorities

DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

- × Internal to the health department
- × Sets what the health department plans to achieve and how it will do that
- × Guide to:
 - + Making decisions
 - + Allocating resources
 - + Taking action

STANDARDS & MEASURES VERSION 1.0

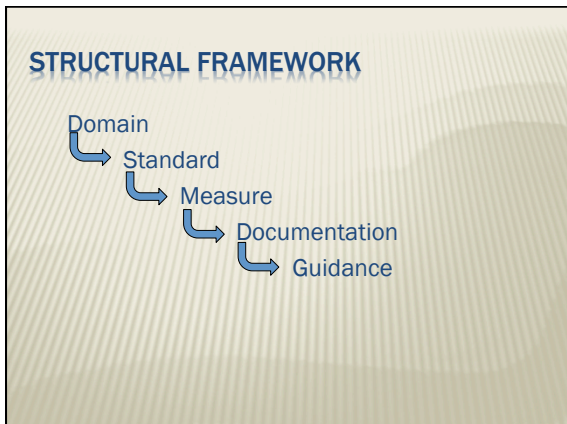
The standards and measures can be used to:

- × Review and revise processes, procedures, and programs
- × Develop capacity and performance excellence
- × Guide the internal development of quality
- × Prepare for documentation selection and submission and site visit

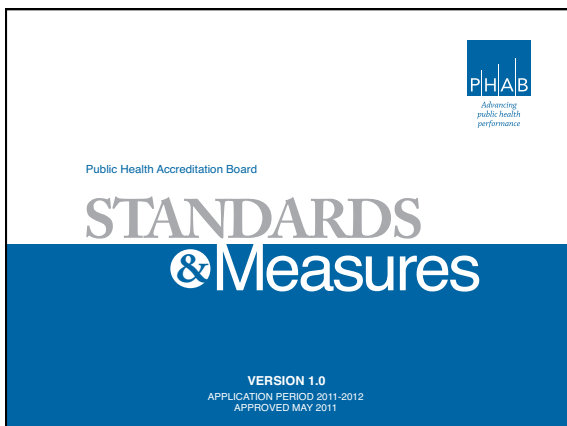
STANDARDS AND MEASURES

The Standards and Measures are organized into:

- × Domains
- × Standards
- × Measures
- × Required Documentation



-
- TWELVE DOMAINS**
- × Conduct assessments focused on population health status and health issues facing the community
 - × Investigate health problems and environmental public health hazards to protect the community
 - × Inform and educate about public health issues and functions
 - × Engage with the community to identify and solve health problems
 - × Develop public health policies and plans
 - × Enforce public health laws and regulations
 - × Promote strategies to improve access to healthcare services
 - × Maintain a competent public health workforce
 - × Evaluate and continuously improve processes, programs, and interventions
 - × Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health
 - × Maintain administrative and management capacity
 - × Build a strong and effective relationship with governing entity



Domains, Standards, and Measures

Domains are groups of standards that pertain to a broad group of public health services. There are 12 domains; the first ten domains address the ten Essential Public Health Services. Domain 11 addresses management and administration, and Domain 12 addresses governance.

Standards are the required level of achievement that a health department is expected to meet. Measures provide a way of evaluating if the standard is met. Required documentation is the documentation that is necessary to demonstrate that a health department conforms to a measure.

All of the standards are the same for Tribal, state and local health departments. The majority of the measures are the same for Tribal, state and local health departments and these are designated with an "A" for "all." Where the measure is specific to Tribal, state, or local health departments, the measure addresses similar topics but has slight differences in wording or guidance and will be designated with a "T" for Tribal health departments, "S" for state health departments, and "L" for local health departments. Some measures are designated T/S, some are T/L, and some are S/L.

The structural framework for the PHAB domains, standards, and measures uses the following taxonomy:

Domain	(example - Domain 5)
Standard	(example - Standard 5.3)
Measure	(example - Measure 5.3.2)
Tribal, State, Local or ALL	(example - Measure 5.3.2 S for state health departments) (example - Measure 5.3.2 L for local health departments) (example - Measure 5.3.2 T for Tribal health departments) (example - Measure 5.3.2 A for all health departments)

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Format for the Standards and Measures

In this document, the PHAB Standards and Measures are preceded by the domain number and brief description of the domain. Standards are repeated at the beginning of each measure for easy reference. The chart below provides an example of the layout for standards, measures, required documentation and guidance for required documentation.

Standard: This is the standard to which the measure applies.

Measure	Purpose	Significance
This section states the measure on which the health department is being evaluated.	The purpose of this measure is to assess the health departments' ... This section describes the public health capacity or activity on which the health department is being assessed.	This section describes the necessity for the capacity or activity that is being assessed.
Required Documentation	Guidance	
This section lists the documentation that the health department must provide as evidence that it is in conformity with the measure. The documentation will be numbered: 1. xxx 2. xxx a) xxx b) xxx	This section provides guidance specific to the required documentation. Types of materials may be described, e.g., meeting minutes, partnership member list, etc. Examples may also be provided here. This section will state if the documentation is department-wide or if a selection of programs' documentation is required. 1. xxx 2. xxx a) xxx b) xxx	

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Domain 1: Conduct and disseminate assessments focused on population health status and public health issues facing the community

Domain 1 focuses on the assessment of the health of the population in the jurisdiction served by the health department. The domain includes systematic monitoring of health status; collection, analysis, and dissemination of data; use of data to inform public health policies, processes, and interventions; and participation in a process for the development of a shared, comprehensive health assessment of the community.

DOMAIN 1 INCLUDES FOUR STANDARDS:

Standard 1.1	Participate in or Conduct a Collaborative Process Resulting in a Comprehensive Community Health Assessment
Standard 1.2	Collect and Maintain Reliable, Comparable, and Valid Data That Provide Information on Conditions of Public Health Importance and On the Health Status of the Population
Standard 1.3	Analyze Public Health Data to Identify Trends in Health Problems, Environmental Public Health Hazards, and Social and Economic Factors That Affect the Public's Health
Standard 1.4	Provide and Use the Results of Health Data Analysis to Develop Recommendations Regarding Public Health Policy, Processes, Programs, or Interventions

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STANDARD 1.1: PARTICIPATE IN OR CONDUCT A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS RESULTING IN A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT.

The purpose of the community health assessment is to learn about the health status of the population. Community health assessments describe the health status of the population, identify areas for health improvement, determine factors that contribute to health issues, and identify assets and resources that can be mobilized to address population health improvement. Community health assessments are developed at the Tribal, state, and local levels to address the health of the population in the jurisdiction served by the health department.

A community health assessment is a collaborative process of collecting and analyzing data and information for use in educating and mobilizing communities, developing priorities, garnering resources, and planning actions to improve the population's health. The development of a population health assessment involves the systematic collection and analysis of data and information to provide the health department and the population it serves with a sound basis for decision-making and action. Community health assessments are conducted in partnership with other organizations and include data and information on demographics; socioeconomic characteristics; quality of life; behavioral factors; the environment (including the built environment); morbidity and mortality; and other social, Tribal, community, or state determinants of health status. The Tribal, state, or local community health assessment will be the basis for development of the Tribal, state, or local community health improvement plan.

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Standard 1.1: Participate in or conduct a collaborative process resulting in a comprehensive community health assessment.

Measure	Purpose	Significance
1.1.15 Participate in, or conduct a state partnership that develops a comprehensive state community health assessment of the population of the state	The purpose of this measure is to assess the state health department's collaborative process for assessing and analyzing data concerning state health status, state health issues, and state resources towards the development of a state-level community health assessment.	The development of a community health assessment requires partnerships with other organizations in order to access data, provide various perspectives in the data analysis, present data and findings, and share a commitment for using the data. Assets and resources in the state should be addressed in the assessment, as well as health status challenges. Data are provided from a variety of sources and through various methods of data collection.
Required Documentation	Guidance	
1. Participation of representatives of various sectors	1. The state health department must provide documentation that the process for the development of a state-level community health assessment includes participation of partners outside of the health department that represent state populations and state health challenges. The collaboration could include, but not be limited to: representatives of local or regional health departments in the state, representatives of Tribal health departments in the state, hospitals and healthcare providers, academic institutions, other departments of government, and statewide non-profits (for example, Youth Court, Childhood Death Review organizations, Cancer Society, environmental public health groups, etc.). A membership list and meeting attendance records could provide this documentation.	

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Domain 2: Investigate health problems and environmental public health hazards to protect the community

Domain 2 focuses on the investigation of suspected or identified health problems or environmental public health hazards. Included are epidemiologic identification of emerging health problems, monitoring of disease, availability of public health laboratories, containment and mitigation of outbreaks, coordinated response to emergency situations, and communication.

DOMAIN 2 INCLUDES FOUR STANDARDS:

Standard 2.1	Conduct Timely Investigations of Health Problems and Environmental Public Health Hazards
Standard 2.2	Contain/Mitigate Health Problems and Environmental Public Health Hazards
Standard 2.3	Ensure Access to Laboratory and Epidemiologic/Environmental Public Health Expertise and Capacity to Investigate and Contain/Mitigate Public Health Problems and Environmental Public Health Hazards
Standard 2.4	Maintain a Plan with Policies and Procedures for Urgent and Non-Urgent Communications

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Domain 3: Inform and educate about public health issues and functions

Domain 3 focuses on educating the public. This domain assesses the health department's processes for continuing communication as standard operating procedures.

The population that a health department serves should have accurate and reliable information about how to protect and promote individual and family health. They should have information about healthy behaviors, such as good nutrition, hand washing, and seat belt use. The population should have access to accurate and timely information in the case of particular health risks like H1N1, a food borne disease outbreak, or an anthrax attack. Such information should be communicated in a language and format that people can understand. Public health departments also have a responsibility to educate the public about the value, roles, and responsibilities of the health department and the meaning and importance of public health.

These educational responsibilities require a continuing flow of information. To be effective, delivery of information shouldn't be a one-way street. For the health department to communicate with the public accurately, reliably, and in a timely manner, it must gather and use information that it receives from local, Tribal, state and other local health departments. It also needs input from community partners and the population and sub-groups of the population that it serves. Communication requires dialogue with the target population to assure that the message is relevant, culturally sensitive, and linguistically appropriate.

DOMAIN 3 INCLUDES TWO STANDARDS:

Standard 3.1	Provide Health Education and Health Promotion Policies, Programs, Processes, and Interventions to Support Prevention and Wellness
Standard 3.2	Provide Information on Public Health Issues and Public Health Functions Through Multiple Methods to a Variety of Audiences

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Domain 4: Engage with the community to identify and address health problems

Domain 4 focuses on community engagement. Community members are important partners in identifying and defining public health issues, developing solutions or improvements, developing policies, communicating important information, and implementing public health initiatives. Members of the community offer a unique perspective on how issues are manifested in the community, what community assets can be mobilized, and what interventions will be effective. Public health can broaden its leverage and impact by doing things with the community rather than doing things to the community. This domain addresses health departments' establishment and maintenance of community relationships that will facilitate public health goals being accomplished.

DOMAIN 4 INCLUDES TWO STANDARDS:

Standard 4.1	Engage with the Public Health System and the Community in Identifying and Addressing Health Problems Through Collaborative Processes
Standard 4.2	Promote the Community's Understanding of and Support for Policies and Strategies That will Improve the Public's Health

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Domain 5: Develop public health policies and plans

Domain 5 focuses on the development of public health policies and plans. Written policies and plans serve as tools to guide the health department's work and bring structure and organization to the department. Written policies and plans provide a resource to health department staff as well as the public. Policies and plans help to orient and train staff, inform the public and partners, and serve as a key component of developing consistency in operations and setting areas for improvement. Policies and plans can be a vehicle for community engagement and shared responsibility for addressing population health improvement.

Policies that are not public health specific may also impact the public's health. Policy makers should be informed of the potential public health impact of policies that they are considering or that are already in place. Policy makers and the public should have sound, science-based, current public health information when policies are being considered or adopted.

DOMAIN 5 INCLUDES FOUR STANDARDS:

Standard 5.1	Serve As a Primary and Expert Resource for Establishing and Maintaining Public Health Policies, Practices, and Capacity
Standard 5.2	Conduct a Comprehensive Planning Process Resulting in a Tribal/State/Community Health Improvement Plan
Standard 5.3	Develop and Implement a Health Department Organizational Strategic Plan
Standard 5.4	Maintain an All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan

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Domain 6: Enforce public health laws

Domain 6 focuses on the role of public health departments in the enforcement of public health related regulations, executive orders, statutes, and other types of public health laws. Public health laws are key tools for health departments as they work to promote and protect the health of the population. Health department responsibilities related to public health laws do not start or stop with enforcement. Health departments also have a role in promoting new laws or revising existing laws. Public health related laws should be science-based and protect the rights of the individual, so they also protect and promote the health of the population. Health departments have a role in educating regulated entities about the meaning, purpose, compliance requirements, and benefits of public health laws. Health departments also have a role in educating the public about laws and the importance of complying with them.

The term "laws" as used in these standards and measures refers to ALL types of statutes, regulations, rules, executive orders, ordinances, case law, and codes that are applicable to the jurisdiction of the health department. For state health departments, not all ordinances are applicable, and therefore ordinances may not need to be addressed by state health departments. Similarly, some statutes are not applicable to local health departments, and therefore some statutes may not need to be addressed by local health departments. For Tribal health departments, applicable "laws" will depend on several factors, including governance framework and interaction with external governmental entities (federal, state, and local).

Public health laws include such areas as environmental public health (food sanitation, lead inspection, drinking water treatment, clean air, waste-water disposal, and animal and vector control), communicable disease (outbreak investigation, required newborn screenings, immunizations, communicable disease reporting requirements, quarantine, tuberculosis enforcement, and STD contact tracing), chronic disease (sales of tobacco products to youth, smoke-free ordinances, and adoption of bike lanes), and injury prevention (seat belt laws, helmet laws, and speeding limits). Clearly, health departments are not responsible for the enforcement of many or most of these laws. The adoption and implementation of such laws, however, have enormous public health implications. It is important for the health department to be involved in their adoption, monitoring their enforcement, providing follow-up services and/or education, and educating the policy makers and the public about their importance and impact.

DOMAIN 6 INCLUDES THREE STANDARDS:

Standard 6.1	Review Existing Laws and Work with Governing Entities and Elected/Appointed Officials to Update as Needed
Standard 6.2	Educate Individuals and Organizations On the Meaning, Purpose, and Benefit of Public Health Laws and How to Comply
Standard 6.3	Conduct and Monitor Public Health Enforcement Activities and Coordinate Notification of Violations among Appropriate Agencies

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Domain 7: Promote strategies to improve access to health care services

Domain 7 focuses on the link between public health activities and health care services. The health care sector provides many preventive services, such as immunizations, cholesterol screening, screening for breast cancer, high blood pressure management, and prenatal care. Patient counseling on health promotion, disease prevention, and chronic disease management is an important link between health care and public health. Linkages between health care and public health ensure continuity of care and management for the population.

An important role of public health is the assessment of (1) the capacity of the health care system to meet the health care needs of the population, and (2) community members' access to health care services. Public health also works to increase access to necessary health care services.

DOMAIN 7 INCLUDES TWO STANDARDS:

Standard 7.1	Assess Health Care Service Capacity and Access to Health Care Services
Standard 7.2	Identify and Implement Strategies to Improve Access to Health Care Services

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Domain 8: Maintain a competent public health workforce

Domain 8 focuses on the need for health departments to maintain a trained and competent workforce to perform public health duties. Effective public health practice requires a well-prepared workforce. A multi-disciplinary workforce that is matched to the specific community being served facilitates the interdisciplinary approaches required to address the population's public health issues. The manner in which services are provided to the public determines the effectiveness of those services and influences the population's understanding of, and appreciation for, public health. Continuous training and development of health department staff is required to ensure continued competence in a field that is making constant advances in collective knowledge and improved practices.

DOMAIN 8 INCLUDES TWO STANDARDS:

Standard 8.1	Encourage the Development of a Sufficient Number of Qualified Public Health Workers
Standard 8.2	Assess Staff Competencies and Address Gaps by Enabling Organizational and Individual Training and Development Opportunities

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Domain 9: Evaluate and continuously improve health department processes, programs, and interventions

Domain 9 focuses on using and integrating performance management quality improvement practices and processes to continuously improve the public health department's practice, programs, and interventions.

DOMAIN 9 INCLUDES TWO STANDARDS:

Standard 9.1 Use a Performance Management System to Monitor Achievement of Organizational Objectives

Standard 9.2 Develop and Implement Quality Improvement Processes Integrated Into Organizational Practice, Programs, Processes, and Interventions

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Domain 10: Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health

Domain 10 focuses on the role that health departments play in building and advancing the science of public health. Public health is strengthened when its practitioners continually add to the body of evidence for premier practices – those practices that have the potential to become evidence-based over time. Health departments should employ evidence-based practices for increased effectiveness and credibility. Health departments also have important roles in developing new evidence. Health departments should apply innovation and creativity in providing public health services appropriate for the populations they serve.

DOMAIN 10 INCLUDES TWO STANDARDS:

Standard 10.1 Identify and Use the Best Available Evidence for Making Informed Public Health Practice Decisions

Standard 10.2 Promote Understanding and Use of Research Results, Evaluations, and Evidence-based Practices with Appropriate Audiences

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Domain 11: Maintain administrative and management capacity

Domain 11 focuses on health department management and administration capacity. Health department leaders and staff must be knowledgeable about the structure, organization, and financing of their public health department and other agencies and organizations that provide public health services. Health departments must have a well-managed human resources system, be competent in general financial management, and knowledgeable about public health authorities and mandates.

DOMAIN 11 INCLUDES TWO STANDARDS:

Standard 11.1 Develop and Maintain an Operational Infrastructure to Support the Performance of Public Health Functions

Standard 11.2 Establish Effective Financial Management Systems

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Domain 12: Maintain capacity to engage the public health governing entity

Domain 12 focuses on the health department's capacity to support and engage its governing entity in maintaining the governmental public health infrastructure for the jurisdiction served. Governing entities play an important role in the function of many public health departments. Governing entities both directly and indirectly influence the direction of a health department and should play a key role in accreditation efforts. However, much variation exists regarding the structure, authority, roles, and responsibilities of governing entities.

A governing entity, as it relates to the accreditation process, should meet the following criteria:

1. It is an official part of Tribal, state, regional, or local government.
2. It has primary responsibility for policy-making and/or governing a Tribal, state, or local health department.
3. It advises, advocates, or consults with the health department on matters related to resources, policy making, legal authority, collaboration, and/or enforcement activities.
4. It is the point of accountability for the health department.
5. In the case of shared governance (more than one entity provides governance functions to the health department), the governing entity, for accreditation purposes, is the Tribal, state, regional, or local entity that, in the judgment of the health department being accredited or PHAB site visitors, has the primary responsibility for supporting the applicant health department in achieving accreditation.

DOMAIN 12 INCLUDES THREE STANDARDS:

Standard 12.1	Maintain Current Operational Definitions and Statements of the Public Health Roles, Responsibilities, and Authorities
Standard 12.2	Provide Information to the Governing Entity Regarding Public Health and the Official Responsibilities of the Health Department and of the Governing Entity
Standard 12.3	Encourage the Governing Entity's Engagement in the Public Health Departments Overall Obligations and Responsibilities

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Applicability of Public Health Accreditation Standards

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is charged with administering the national public health department accreditation program. To that end, PHAB's scope of accreditation extends only to governmental public health departments operated by Tribes, states, local jurisdictions, and territories.

PHAB's public health department accreditation standards address the array of public health functions set forth in the ten Essential Public Health Services. Public health department accreditation standards address a range of core public health programs and activities including, for example, environmental public health, health education, health promotion, community health, chronic disease prevention and control, communicable disease, injury prevention, maternal and child health, public health emergency preparedness, access to clinical services, public health laboratory services, management administration, and governance. Thus, public health department accreditation gives reasonable assurance of the range of public health services that a health department should provide. The standards refer to the broad range of work as health department processes, programs, and interventions.

While some public health departments provide mental health, substance abuse, primary care, human, and social services (including domestic violence), these activities are not considered core public health services under the ten Essential Public Health Services framework used for accreditation purposes. PHAB's scope of accreditation authority does not extend to these areas. Documentation from these program areas will not be generally accepted for public health department accreditation. Similarly, documentation from health care facilities and professional learning programs and the administration of health care financing systems (e.g., Medicaid) cannot be used for public health department accreditation purposes.

Public health activities may be provided directly by the health department or by another organization or entity through formal arrangements, such as contracts, compacts, or memoranda of agreement. However, when public health functions are provided by another entity, more than one entity, or through a partnership, the health department must demonstrate how the process, program, or intervention is delivered and how the health department coordinates with the other providers.

Community health is a discipline of public health that is the study and improvement of the health-related characteristics of the relationships between people and their physical and social environments. This term "community" in community health refers to focus on geographic areas other than people with shared characteristics. From a community health perspective, health is not simply a state free from disease but is the capacity of people to be resilient and manage life's challenges and changes. Community health focuses on a broad range of factors that impact health, such as the environment, social structure, resource distribution (including, for example, access to health care), social capital (social cohesion), and socio-economic status. A key approach or methodology of community health is the creation and empowerment of community partnerships to take action that will improve the health of the community. Community health partnerships include representation from a wide variety of sectors of the community, for example, recreation, the faith community, law enforcement, city planners and policy makers, businesses, human and social services, as well as public health and health care providers.

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Next Lesson

Program Planning & Evaluation

ENV H 473: EH Policy & Practice 63

Next Lesson

**Working With
Communities**

ENV H 473: EH Policy & Practice 109
