

Ten Essential Services of Public Health National Public Health Performance Standards Program

Essential Service #1: Monitor health status to identify community health problems.

This service includes:

- Assessment of statewide health status and its determinants, including the identification of health threats and the determination of health services needs.
- Attention to the vital statistics and health status of specific groups that are at higher risk for health threats than the general population.
- Identification of community assets and resources, which support the State Public Health Standards in promoting health and improving quality of life.
- Utilization of technology and other methods to interpret and communicate health information to diverse audiences in different sectors.
- Collaboration in integrating and managing public health related information systems.

Essential Service #2: Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.

This service includes:

- Epidemiologic investigation of disease outbreaks and patterns of infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, and other adverse health conditions.
- Population-based screening, case finding, investigation, and the scientific analysis of health problems.
- Rapid screening, high volume testing, and active infectious disease epidemiology investigations.

Essential Service #3: Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.

This service includes:

- Health information, health education and health promotion activities designed to reduce health risk and promote better health.
- Health communication plans and activities such as media advocacy and social marketing.
- Accessible health information and educational resources
- Health education and promotion program partnerships with schools, faith communities, work sites, personal care providers, and others to implement and reinforce health promotion programs and messages.

Essential Service #4: Mobilize community [r]h1]partnerships to identify and solve health problems

This service includes:

- The organization and leadership to convene, facilitate and collaborate with statewide partners (including those not typically considered to be health-related) to identify public health priorities and create effective solutions to solve state and local health problems.
- The building of a statewide partnership to collaborate in the performance of public health functions and essential services in an effort to utilize the full range of available human and material resources to improve the state's health status.
- Assistance to partners and communities to organize and undertake actions to improve the health of the state's communities.

Essential Public Health Service #5: Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts

This service includes:

- Systematic health planning that relies on appropriate data, develops and tracks measurable health objectives, and establishes strategies and actions to guide community health improvement at the state and local levels.
- Development of legislation, codes, rules, regulations, ordinances, and other policies to enable performance of the essential public health services, supporting individual, community and state health efforts.
- The democratic process of dialogue and debate between groups affected by the proposed health plans and policies is needed prior to adoption of such plans or policies.[r1h2]

Essential Service #6: Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

This service includes:

- The review, evaluation, and revision of laws and regulations designed to protect health and safety to assure that they reflect current scientific knowledge and best practices for achieving compliance.
- Education of persons and entities obligated to obey or to enforce laws and regulations designed to protect health and safety in order to encourage compliance.
- Enforcement activities in areas of public health concern, including, but not limited to the protection of drinking water; enforcement of clean air standards; regulation of care provided in health care facilities and programs; re-inspection of workplaces following safety violations; review of new drug, biological, and medical device applications; enforcement of laws governing the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors; seat belt and child safety seat usage; and childhood immunizations.

Essential Service #7: Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

This service includes:

- Assessment of access to and availability of quality personal health care services for the state's population.
- Assurances that access is available to a coordinated system of quality care which includes outreach services to link populations to preventive and curative care, medical services, case management, enabling social and mental health services, culturally and linguistically appropriate services, and health care quality review programs.
- Partnership with public, private and voluntary sectors to provide populations with a coordinated system of health care.
- Development of a continuous improvement process to assure the equitable distribution of resources for those in greatest need.

Essential Service #8: Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.

This services includes:

- Education, training, development and assessment of health professional – including partners, volunteers and other lay community health workers – to meet statewide needs for public and personal health services.
- Efficient processes for credentialing technical and professional health personnel.
- Adoption of continuous quality improvement and life-long learning programs.

- Partnerships with professional workforce development programs to assure relevant learning experiences for all participants.
- Continuing education in management, cultural competence and leadership development programs.

Essential Service #9: Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.

This service includes:

- Evaluation and critical review of health programs, based on analyses of health status and service utilization data, are conducted to determine program effectiveness and to provide information necessary for allocating resources and reshaping programs for improved efficiency, effectiveness and quality.
- Assessment of and quality improvement in the state public health system's performance and capacity.

Essential Service #10: Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

This service includes:

- A full continuum of research ranging from field-based efforts to foster improvements in public health practice to formal scientific research.
- Linkage with research institutions and other institutions of higher learning.
- Internal capacity to mount timely epidemiologic and economic analyses and conduct needed health services research.

Page: 1
[rh1]
Page: 2
[rh2]