

## **The Essential Public Health Services**

The Essential Public Health Services are used throughout the MAPP process. The Essential Services framework was developed in 1994 as a method for better identifying and describing the core processes used in public health to promote health and prevent disease. All public health responsibilities (whether conducted by the local public health agency or another organization within the community) can be categorized into one of the services.

### **The Essential Services were selected because of their:**

- broad awareness among the public health community;
- proven usefulness in other public health infrastructure initiatives, such as Healthy People 2010 and the National Public Health Performance Standards Program; and
- relationship of the Essential Services to previous public health frameworks such as the three core functions and the ten organizational practices.

### **The Essential Public Health Services are as follows:**

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Further information about each Essential Service — including a description of the types of activities found in each — can be found in the Local Health System Performance Measurement instrument (used in both MAPP's Local Health System Assessment, as well as the National Public Health Performance Standards Program).