

# Local Public Health Systems Assessment

**Hernando County Health Department  
Nature Coast Community Health Center**



# Local Public Health Systems Assessment

**Hernando County Health Department  
Nature Coast Community Health Center**



# A Part of the MAPP\* Process



\*MAPP: Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships

The four assessments form the foundation of the MAPP process. While each of the assessments alone will yield important information for improving community health, the value of the four MAPP Assessments is multiplied by considering the findings of each individual assessment together.

Collectively, the four MAPP Assessments have several purposes, including:

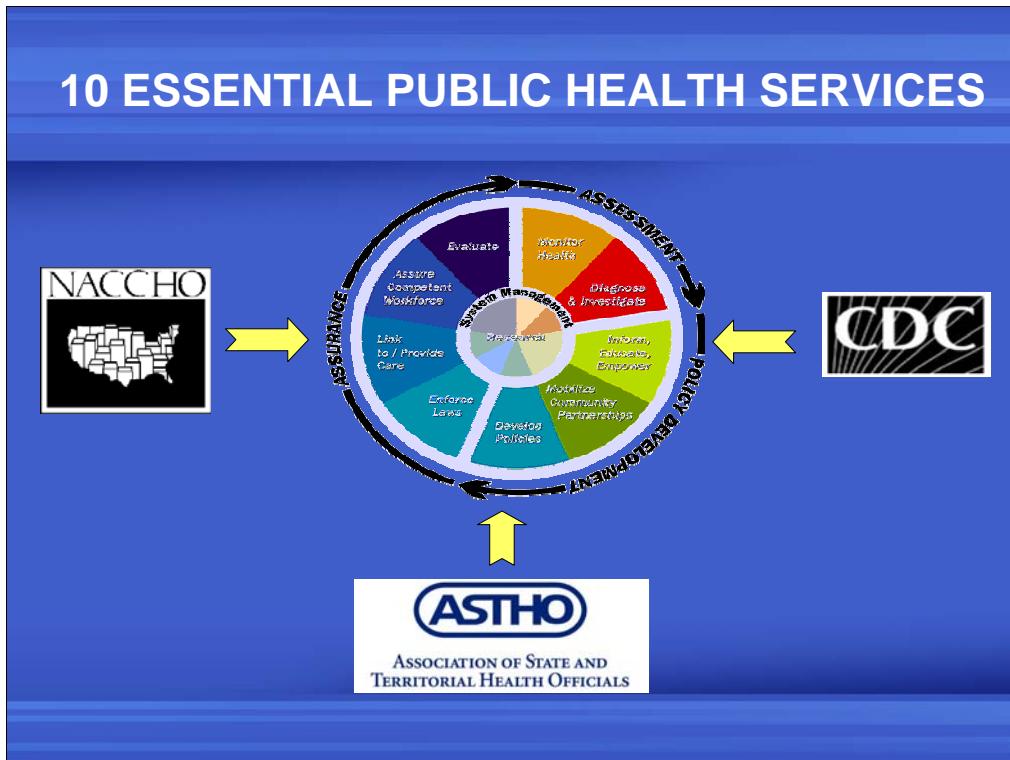
- providing insight on the gaps between current circumstances and a community's vision (as determined in the Visioning phase);
- providing information to use in identifying the strategic issues that must be addressed to achieve the vision; and
- serving as the source of information from which the strategic issues, strategies, and goals are built.

## PURPOSE:

**To improve the quality of public health practice and the performance of public health systems**

The Local Public Health System Assessment allows a local public health system to compare it's current activities against the Ten Essential Public Health Services in order to determine it's strength and weaknesses and then improve the quality of that system's performance.

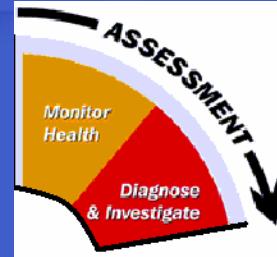
What are the Ten Essential Public Health Services?



The 10 Essential PH Services were developed when the Public Health Practice Program Office, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, assembled several national organizations such as the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the Public Health Foundation, and the American Public Health Association to examine and define optimal performance standards for the public health profession.

## 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

### **Assessment**



1. Monitor health status
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems

The ten essential services of public health can be broken down into three functional categories: Assessment, Policy Development and Assurance.

The Assessment group includes the epidemiological functions of monitoring and investigating threats to the health status of a community.

## 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

### *Policy Development*

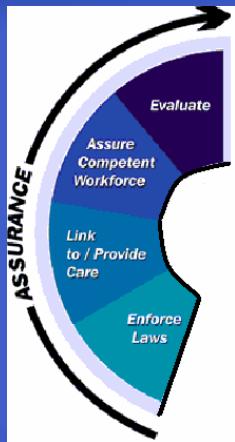
- 3. Inform and educate
- 4. Mobilize communities to address health problems
- 5. Develop policies and plans



The Policy Development group stresses the need for education and communication in order to build relationships within the community to effectively plan for an adverse health event.

## 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

### **Assurance**



6. Enforce laws and regulations
7. Link people to needed health services
8. Assure a competent health services workforce
9. Evaluate health services
10. Conduct research for new innovations

The Assurance group ties together the functions of evaluation and enforcement to ensure that the services that public health provides meet the community's needs.

All that to say, the Ten Essential Services provide the foundation for comprehensive public health services.

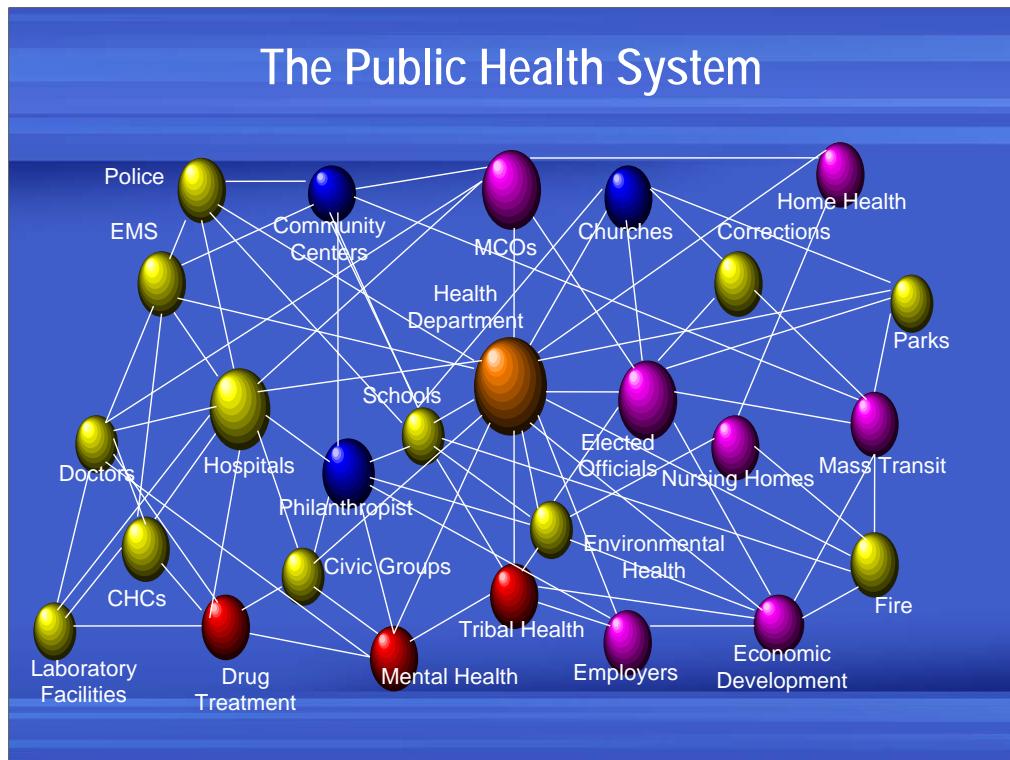
## Local Public Health Systems Assessment

### **“PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM” focuses on:**

- All entities that contribute to the health and well-being of the community
- All public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to public health in a given area.

Clearly, the local health department is not the only organization working to protect the public's health. Each of you provide valuable services that contribute to the health and well-being of the community. Thus, it is important to note that the performance standards initiative is intended to assess the PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM, not just the local health department/agency.

The local public health assessment instrument uses the 10 Essential Public Health Services as the framework for defining the scope (capacity, abilities, role) of the local public health system. In other words, the ideal local public health system effectively addresses the ten components of a public health system.



### A Public Health System is Complex

This illustration has been referred to as “the eggs” or “the web” – it is a cluttered representation of the complexity of a public health system and examples of organizations and groups that make up the system network.

As you can see, there are many partners and groups represented who contribute to health and delivery of the EPHS. These include:

- **Healthcare providers** like hospitals, physicians, community health centers, mental health, labs, nursing homes and others who provide preventive, curative, and rehabilitative care.
- **Public safety** such as police, fire and EMS. Their work is focused on preventing and coping with injury and other emergency health situations.
- **Human Service and Charity Organizations** such as food banks, public assistance agencies, transportation providers, and others that assist people to access healthcare and receive other health-enhancing services.
- **Education and Youth Development Organizations** like schools, faith institutions, youth centers, and others groups that assist with informing, educating, and preparing children to make informed decisions and act responsively regarding health and other life choices and to be productive contributors in the community.
- **Recreation and Arts-related Organizations** who contribute to the physical and mental well-being of the community and those that live, work and play in it.
- **Economic and Philanthropic Organizations** such as employers, community development and zoning boards, United Way, community and business foundations that provide resources necessary for individuals and organizations to survive and thrive in the community.

# Instrument Format

**Essential Service**

**Indicator**

**Model Standard**

**Measures**

**Sample Page Content:**

**Indicator 2.2: Plan for Public Health Emergencies**

**LPHS Model Standard:**

An **essential service** and **model standard** both describe the roles, functions and responsibilities of LPHS entities in the delivery of one or more health services. Capacity, availability and mobilization of resources and planned risk to an event is crucial to a prompt and effective response. LPHS entities, including the local public health emergency preparedness and response (LPHS) unit, must have the ability to respond to all types of emergencies. The LPHS unit must have the capacity to respond to all public health emergencies by developing plans taking into account the unique and complex challenges presented by the specific hazards of its location.

In order to plan for public health emergencies, the LPHS:

- Dwells and describes public health disasters and emergencies that might trigger implementation of the LPHS emergency response plan;
- Describes a plan that defines organizational responsibilities, establishes communication and information resources, and clearly outlines event and evaluation protocols;
- Tests the plan each year through the staging of one or more [tiger tests](#);
- Reviews its emergency response plan at least every two years.

**Please answer the following questions related to Indicator 2.2:**

2.2.1 Has the LPHS identified public health **disasters** and emergencies that might trigger implementation of the LPHS emergency response plan?

2.2.2 Does the LPHS have an emergency preparedness and response plan?

If so,

2.2.2.1 Is the emergency preparedness and response plan:

2.2.2.2 Is there an established chain-of-command among plan participants?

Does the plan:

2.2.2.3 Describe the organizational responsibilities and roles of all plan participants?

2.2.2.4 Identify **assets** that could be mobilized by plan participants to respond to an emergency?

2.2.2.5 Describe LPHS communications and information network?

12      LOCAL  
Public Health System Performance Assessment Instrument

**EPHS:** As mentioned previously, the instrument is based on the framework of the Essential Services. Definitions for Essential Services and other terminology are supplied throughout the tool.

**Indicator:** For each of the 10 Essential Services there are two to five indicators — broad issue areas within that Essential Service.

**Model Standard :**Each indicator is further described by a “model standard,” a paragraph detailing the ideal capacity and activities of a local public health system for that indicator.

**Measures and Submeasures:** ask specific questions directly related to achieving the model standard.

## Instrument Format

Essential Service #2 Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community

2.2.2.6 Connect, where possible, to the state emergency response plan? Clearly outline protocols for emergency response?

If no, does the plan:

2.2.2.7.1 Build on existing plans, protocols, and procedures with the community? Include written alert protocols to implement an emergency program of source and case identification, communicable disease and toxic exposures?

2.2.2.7.2 Include protocols to alert affected populations?

2.2.2.7.3 Include procedures for coordinating public health responsibilities with law enforcement representatives?

2.2.3 Has any part of the plan been tested through simulations of one or more "mock events" within the past year?

2.2.4 Has the plan been reviewed or revised within the past two years?

2.2.5 How much of this LPH Model Standard is achieved by the local public health system collectively?

2.2.5.1 What percent of the answer reported in question 2.2.5 is the direct contribution of the local public health agency?

13 LOCIS  
Public Health System Performance Assessment Instrument

← Measures

← Summary Questions

**Overall System Summary Question:** Given the responses for all measures within an indicator, how much of this Model Standard is achieved by the local public health system collectively?

**Agency Summary Question:** What percent of the measures are a result of direct contributions from the local public health agency?

## Determining Responses

Think about response options as a spectrum:

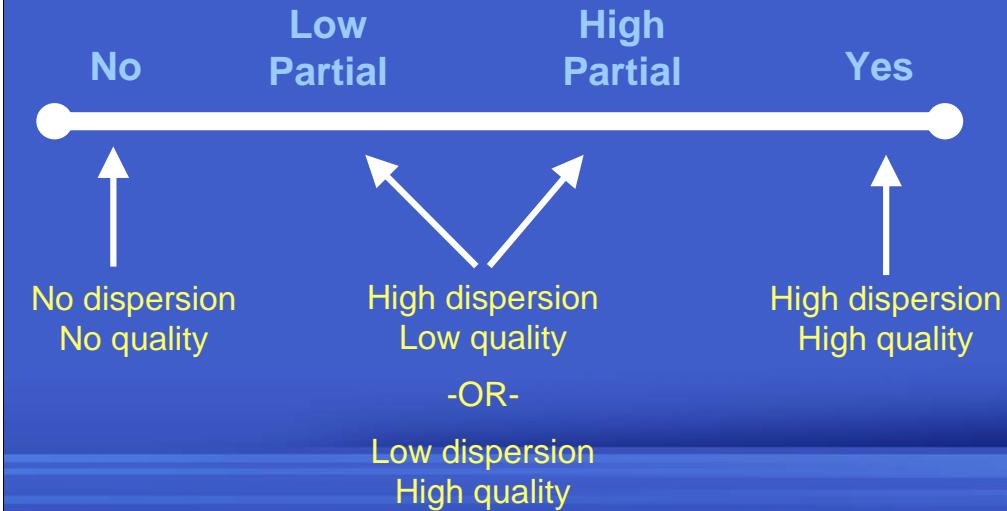


Where along the spectrum does  
your current level of activity fall?

Each model standard is followed by a series of assessment questions that serve as measures of performance. There are four possible response options associated with the measures. As you discuss each question, ask yourself, "Where along the spectrum does our current level of activity fall?"

1. To what extent does the local public health agency achieve the model standard?
2. To what extent does the local public health system (including the local public health agency) achieve the model standard?

## Determining Responses



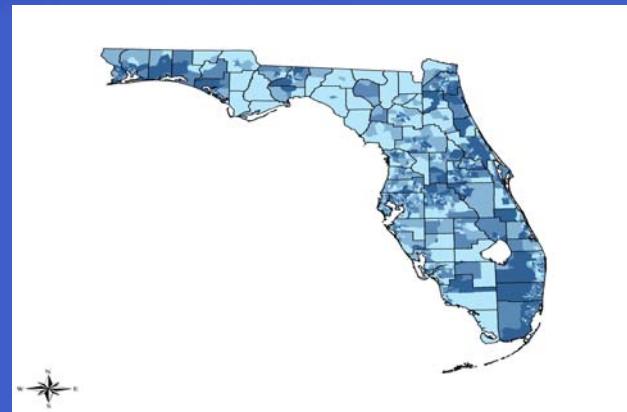
**NO:** No more than 25 percent of the activity described within the question is met within the local public health system.

**LOW PARTIAL:** Greater than 25 percent, but no more than 50 percent of the activity described within the question is met within the local public health system.

**HIGH PARTIAL:** Greater than 50 percent, but no more than 75 percent of the activity described within the question is met within the local public health system.

**YES:** Greater than 75 percent of the activity described within the question is met within the local public health system.

**Florida's Local Public Health System Performance Assessment  
Aggregate Report  
August, 2005  
A Sixty-Seven County Summary**



### **Introduction**

This document is an aggregate report representing results of the average scores of Florida's 67 counties' Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA). With the vision of improving public health practice in Florida, county health departments (CHDs) conducted local public health system assessments in their communities using the local assessment instrument, a component of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP). Across the state, from January through June 2005, public health leaders convened partners to discuss local capacity to deliver essential public health services, and reached consensus on the more than 170 items in the local assessment instrument.

Broad participation from local public health system participants, defined as "all public, private and voluntary entities that contribute to the delivery of public health services," assured that diverse viewpoints were brought to the table. While meeting formats varied from short, targeted sessions focused on a single Essential Service, to multiple-day workshops guiding participants through all ten Essential Services together, the results were universal: a better understanding of the strengths and challenges of local systems.

The assessment of performance standards for both state and local public health systems was developed nationally and collaboratively by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Association for County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), Public Health Foundation (PHF) and several other leading public health organizations. Framed around the essential public health services, the assessments focus on the overall public health system; describe optimal levels of performance, and support system-wide quality improvement.

The Essential Public Health Services are labeled as ES1 – ES10. These are defined as follows:

Monitor health status to identify community health problems.

Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.

Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.

**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**

Assessment scores about the capacity to deliver these services were entered into CDC's national database from which CHDs were provided reports and results. In table and graph formats, county reports show scores and relative rankings among the Essential Services, highlighting areas of excellence and indicating opportunities for system-wide improvement.

## Category Score Ranges

**80-100%**  
**Fully Met**

**60-79%**  
**Substantially Met**

**26-59%**  
**Partially Met**

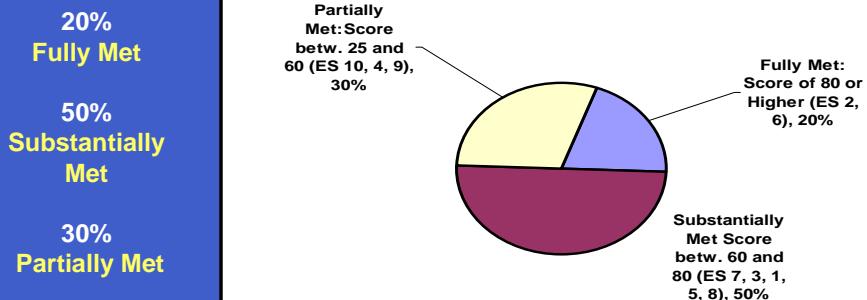
**0-25%**  
**Not Met**

Since this was the first time that the local public health system was assessed statewide, the results of the assessment serve as the baseline for evaluating the system.

Thus, for purposes of prioritizing areas for improvement:

- essential services which rated greater than half of the “gold standard” or a score of 50% or greater, the system is adequately responding to the need.
- For those essential services which rated less than half of the “gold standard” or a score of less than 50%, there are opportunities to strive toward the “gold standard”.

## Percent of Performance Standards Met by Category - STATE



### DATA LIMITATIONS

These data represent the collective performance of all organizational participants in Florida's local public health systems and should not be interpreted to reflect any single agency or organization. These aggregate results of the local system are also not reflective of the State Public Health System Assessment and thus cannot be compared to the state data report. Results and recommendations based on these data should be used for quality improvement within an overall public health infrastructure and performance improvement process for public health systems. Performance scores are based on somewhat unique and varying processes and system participant groups. Additionally, differences in knowledge among participants may create interpretation issues for some questions potentially introducing a degree of random, non-sampling error.

### SUMMARY of FINDINGS

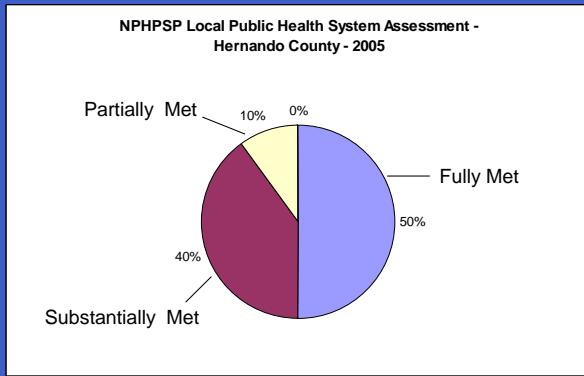
The *Local Public Health System Performance Assessment* defines the “gold standard” for the local public health system. The tool identifies gaps and barriers in the existing public health system.

The maximum score that can be achieved is 100 for a fully functioning, highly effective public health system. According to the participants in Florida's 67 County Local Public Health System Assessment process, the CDC standard was “fully met” in response to 20% percent of the questions; “substantially met” in response to 50% of the questions and “partially met” the CDC standards in response to 30% percent of the questions.

The categories of results are depicted in this slide. ***There were no essential services for which the local public health system scored in the “not met” category!***

## Percent of Performance Standards Met HERNANDO COUNTY

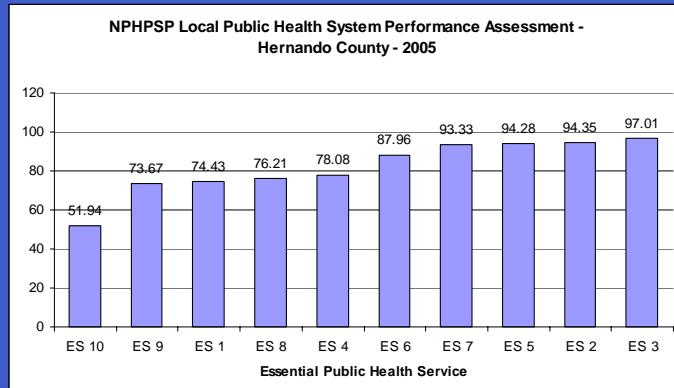
50%  
**Fully Met**  
40%  
**Substantially Met**  
10%  
**Partially Met**



In Hernando County, the CDC standard was “fully met” in response to 50% percent of the questions; “substantially met” in response to 40% of the questions and “partially met” the CDC standards in response to 10% percent of the questions.

The categories of results are depicted in this slide. ***There were no essential services for which the local public health system scored in the “not met” category!***

## EPHS Lowest to Highest HERNANDO COUNTY



With scores greater than half of the “gold standard” (or a score of 50% or greater) the system in Hernando is adequately responding to the need.

## Standard: *FULLY MET*

EPHS # 3	Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.	97%
EPHS # 2	Diagnose/investigate health problems/hazards in the community.	94%
EPHS # 5	Develop policies/plans that support individual and community health efforts.	94%
ESPH # 7	Link people to needed personal health services/assure provision of health care.	93%
EPHS # 6	Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.	88%

### **Essential Service #3 Inform, Educate and Empower People about Health Issues**

***This service includes:***

**For the local assessment**

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 health 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 #2 Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community**

***This service includes:***

**For the local assessment**

- Epidemiological investigations of disease outbreaks and patterns of infectious and chronic diseases and injuries, environmental hazards, and other health threats.

- Active infectious disease epidemiology programs.

- Access to a public health laboratory capable of conducting rapid screening and high volume testing

### **Essential Service #5 Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts**

***This service includes:***

**For the local assessment**

An effective governmental presence at the local level.

Development of policy to protect the health of the public and to guide the practice of public health.

Systematic community-level and state-level planning for health improvement in all jurisdictions.

Alignment of LPHS resources and strategies with the community health improvement plan.

### **Essential Service #7 Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable**

***This service includes:***

**For the local assessment**

Identifying populations with barriers to personal health services.

Identifying personal health service needs of populations with limited access to a coordinated system of clinical care.

Assuring the linkage of people to appropriate personal health services through coordination of provider services and development of interventions that address barriers to care (e.g., culturally and linguistically appropriate staff and materials, transportation services).

### **Essential Service #6 Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety**

***This service includes:***

**For the local assessment**

# Standard: *SUBSTANTIALLY MET*

EPHS # 4	Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.	78%
EPHS # 8	Assure competent public/personal health care work force.	76%
EPHS # 1	Monitor health status to identify community health problems.	74%
EPHS # 9	Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal/population-based health services.	74%

**Essential Service #4** Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.

**This service includes:**

**For the local assessment**

- Identifying protection stakeholders who contribute to or benefit from ph, and increase their awareness of the value of ph
- Building coalitions to draw upon the full range of potential human and material resources to improve community health
- Convening/facilitating partnerships among groups and associations (including those not typically considered to be health-related) in undertaking defines health improvement projects, including preventive. Screening, rehab and support t programs.

**Essential Service #8 Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce**

**This service includes:**

**For the local assessment**

Assessment of workforce (including volunteers and other lay community health workers) to meet community needs for public and personal health services.

Maintaining public health workforce standards, including efficient processes for licensure/credentialing of professional and incorporation of core public health competencies needed to provide the Essential Public Health Services into personnel systems.

Adoption of continuous quality improvement and life-long learning programs for all members of the public health workforce, including opportunities for formal and informal public health leadership development.

**Essential Service #1 Monitor Health Status to Identify Community Health Problems**

**This service includes:**

**For the local assessment**

Assessment of statewide health status and its determinants, including the identification of health threats and the determination of health service needs

Identification of health risks and determination of health service needs.

Attention to the vital statistics and health status of groups that are at higher risk than the total population.

Identification of community assets and resources that support the local public health system (LPHS) in promoting health and improving quality of life.

Utilization of appropriate methods and technology, such as geographic information systems, to interpret and communicate data to diverse audiences.

Collaboration among all LPHS components, including private providers and health benefit plans, to establish and use population health information systems, such as disease or immunization registries

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

**This service includes:**

~~For the local assessment~~

## Standard: *PARTIALLY MET*

EPHS # 10	Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.	52%
--------------	--	-----

### **Essential Service #3 Inform, Educate and Empower People about Health Issues**

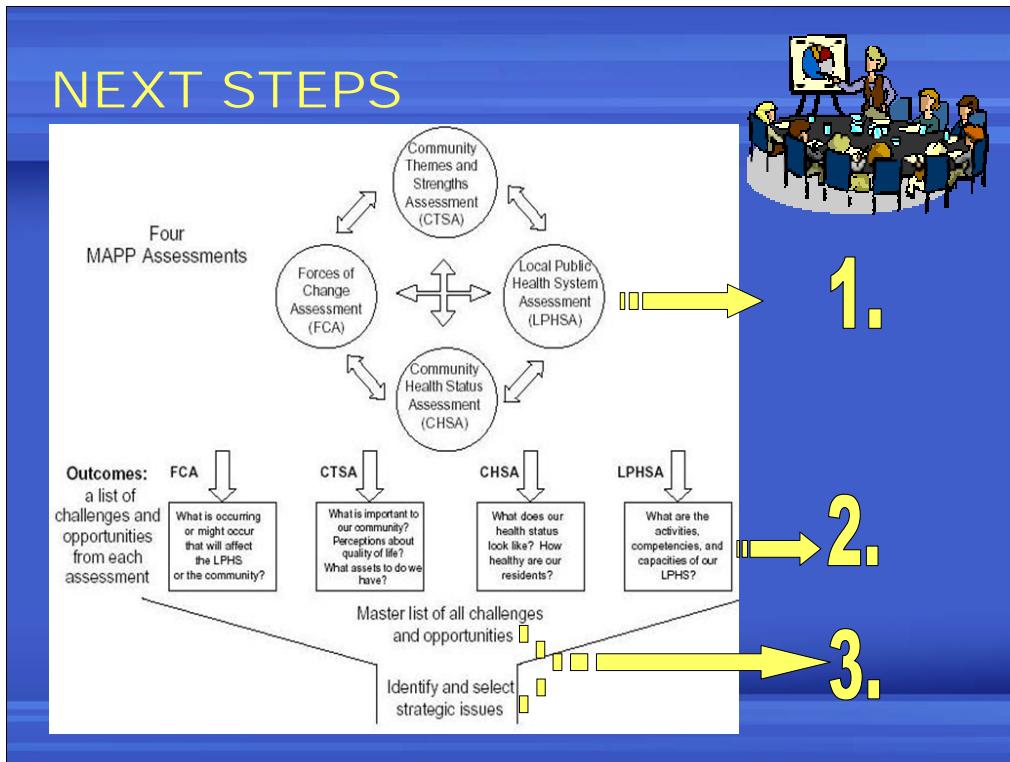
***This service includes:***

#### **For the local assessment**

A continuum of innovative solutions to health problems ranging from practical field-based efforts to foster change in ph practice, to more academic efforts to encourage new directions in scientific breakthrough

Linkages with institutions of higher learning and research

Capacity to mount timely epidemiological and health policy analysis and conduct health systems research.



Results of the Four MAPP Assessments interact to provide the basis for the development of community strategic issues.

The last step in the process is the most important, because this is where the participants discuss the results, identify opportunities and challenges, and then identify and implement strategies to address these priority issues. This is the process that ensures the performance standards results are used for quality improvement purposes.