



*Advancing  
public health  
performance*

Public Health Accreditation Board

# STANDARDS: AN OVERVIEW

**VERSION 1.5**  
Adopted December 2013

# STANDARDS: AN OVERVIEW

## ASSESS

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

**Standard 1.1:** Participate in or Lead 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

## INVESTIGATE

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

**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

## INFORM & EDUCATE

**DOMAIN 3:** Inform and educate about public health issues and functions

**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

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

**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

## POLICIES & PLANS

**DOMAIN 5:** Develop public health policies and plans

**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

## PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS

**DOMAIN 6:** Enforce public health laws

**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

## ACCESS TO CARE

**DOMAIN 7:** Promote strategies to improve access to health care

**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

## WORKFORCE

**DOMAIN 8:** Maintain a competent public health workforce

**Standard 8.1:** Encourage the Development of a Sufficient Number of Qualified Public Health Workers

**Standard 8.2:** Ensure a Competent Workforce through Assessment of Staff Competencies, the Provision of Individual Training and Professional Development, and the Provision of a Supportive Work Environment

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**DOMAIN 9:** Evaluate and continuously improve processes, programs, and interventions

**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

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

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

**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 the Current Body of Research Results, Evaluations, and Evidence-Based Practices with Appropriate Audiences

## ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

**DOMAIN 11:** Maintain administrative and management capacity

**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

## GOVERNANCE

**DOMAIN 12:** Maintain capacity to engage the public health governing entity

**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 Department's Overall Obligations and Responsibilities



The **PHAB STANDARDS** apply to all health departments—Tribal, state, local, and territorial. Standards are the required level of achievement that a health department is expected to meet. Domains are groups of standards that pertain to a broad group of public health services. The focus of the PHAB standards is “what” the health department provides in services and activities, irrespective of “how” they are provided or through what organizational structure. Please refer to the **PHAB Standards and Measures** Version 1.5 document, available at [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org), for the full official standards, measures, required documentation, and guidance.



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