

Kitsap Community Health Priorities

Local Public Health System Assessment Summary of Findings

The Local Public Health System Assessment answers the questions, "What are the activities, competencies, and capacities of our local public health system?" and "How well is the public health system doing in providing public health services to our community?" As part of the Kitsap County Health District (KCHD) strategic planning process, KCHD staff (n=68) and community partner agency representatives (n=171) evaluated the performance of the KCHD over the past five to ten years and suggested priority areas for the next five years using service areas based on the *Centers for Disease Control Ten Essential Public Health Services*. The Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP) Sponsor Group used these survey findings to complete this assessment.

Activities, competencies, and capacities of the KCHD

The Kitsap public health system encompasses a wide web of critical service providers and partners. This assessment focuses on performance of the KCHD in 9 Public Health Service Areas:

Areas of strength and weakness within the KCHD identified by KCHD staff and Community Partners

The KCHD has the best performance in the following three areas:

- Assessing health status and public health issues
- Enforcing public health laws and regulations
- Investigating health problems and environmental hazards

The KCHD is performing less successfully in the following four areas:

- Engaging the community to identify and address health problems
- Educating public about prevention, wellness and other public health issues
- Improving access to health care services
- Developing policies that help improve the community's health

Priority areas for the KCHD identified by KCHD staff and Community Partners

When KCHD staff and partners were asked to rate their first and second priorities for KCHD in the next five years, the following received the most first and second priority ratings:

- Assessing health status and public health issues
- Investigating health problems and environmental hazards
- Maintaining a competent public health workforce
- Enforcing public health laws and regulations

The following received the fewest first and second priority ratings:

- Contribute to evidence base for public health practice
- Improving access to health care services
- Engaging the community to identify and address health problems
- Educating public about prevention, wellness and other public health issues

KCHD staff and community partners diverged somewhat on their ratings. Community partners were much more likely than KCHD staff to rate “improve access to health care services” as a top priority. KCHD staff were much more likely than community partners to rate “engage community to identify and address health problems” as a top priority.