



*Advancing  
public health  
performance*

Public Health Accreditation Board

# STANDARDS: AN OVERVIEW

**VERSION 1.0**

APPLICATION PERIOD 2011–2012

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## 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 Conduct 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 services

**Standard 7.1:** Assess Health Care 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:** Assess Staff Competencies and Address Gaps by Enabling Organizational and Individual Training and Development

## 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 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 1.0 document, available at [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org), for the full official standards, measures, required documentation, and guidance.

# ELIGIBLE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Health departments must submit their community health assessment, community health improvement plan, and department strategic plan to PHAB in order to be eligible to apply for accreditation.

## TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

A Tribal health department is defined, for the purposes of PHAB accreditation, as a federally recognized Tribal government,<sup>1</sup> Tribal organization or inter-Tribal consortium, as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended. Such departments have jurisdictional authority to provide public health services, as evidenced by constitution, resolution, ordinance, executive order or other legal means, intended to promote and protect the Tribe's overall health, wellness and safety; prevent disease; and respond to issues and events. Federally recognized Tribal governments may carry out the above public health functions in a cooperative manner through formal agreement, formal partnership or formal collaboration.

1. As evidenced by inclusion on the list of recognized Tribes mandated under 25 U.S.C. § 479a-1. Publication of List of Recognized Tribes.

## STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

A state or territorial health department is defined, for the purposes of PHAB accreditation, as the governing entity with primary statutory authority to promote and protect the public's health and prevent disease in humans. This authority is defined by state or territorial constitution, statutes or regulations, or established by Executive Order. State or territorial health departments may also apply if they are part of an umbrella organization, super public health agency, or super agency that oversees public health functions as well as other government functions. However, PHAB will review and accredit only the public health function of the health department.

## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

A local health department is defined, for the purposes of PHAB accreditation, as the governmental body serving a jurisdiction or group of jurisdictions geographically smaller than a state and recognized as having the primary statutory authority to promote and protect the public's health and prevent disease in humans. This authority is defined by the state's constitution, statute, or regulations or established by local ordinance or through formal local cooperative agreement or mutual aid. The entity may be a locally governed health department, a local entity of a centralized state health department, or a city, city-county, county, district, or regional health department.



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**The goal** of national public health department accreditation is to improve and protect the public's health by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments.

The **Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)** is the national organization that accredits Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments.

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