

NPHPSP Online Resource Center *Categories Glossary*

The ***National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) Online Resource Center***, <http://www.phf.org/nphpsp>, is the only collection of resources designed to help state and local public health systems and boards of health improve their performance related to the ten Essential Public Health Services and the Model Standards.

The following search categories were developed using the [*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Public Health Infrastructure Pyramid*](#), the [*Turning Point Performance Management Framework*](#) and the [*National Public Health Performance Standards Program User Guide*](#).

Accreditation – The goal of public health accreditation is to improve and protect the health of every community by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is developing and implementing a national voluntary accreditation program for state, local, territorial and tribal public health departments (Source: [PHAB](#)). Resources in this category aim to assist public health departments with preparing for public health accreditation.

Communication – To inform and influence individual and community decisions that affect health (Source: [Department of Health and Human Services](#)). Resources in this category include information on health communication and risk communication (see [*NPHPSP Acronyms, Glossary, and Reference Terms*](#) for full definition), messages, related media used to communicate with a population of interest, fact sheets and brochures, etc.

Community Health Assessment and Data – A Community Health Assessment calls for regularly and systematically collecting, analyzing, and making available information on the health of a community (see [*NPHPSP Acronyms, Glossary, and Reference Terms*](#) for full definition). Resources in this category include health statistics and databases; data standards and interoperability; information management; population-level information on birth defects, cancer trends, infant mortality, mortality trends, preventable hospitalizations; the Healthy People 2010 Community Planning Guide; etc.

Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Laboratories – Epidemiological information can be used to plan and evaluate strategies to prevent illness and as a guide to manage the spread of disease. Surveillance is the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data (see [*NPHPSP Acronyms, Glossary, and Reference Terms*](#) for full definition). Resources in this category include information on surveillance and alert systems (disease prevention, detection, and control), including the CDC's Guidelines for Evaluating Public Health Surveillance Systems, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, the Association of Public Health Laboratories Online Resource Center, etc.

Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health – The absence of systematic disparities in health (or in the major social determinants of health) between groups with different levels of underlying social advantage/disadvantage—that is, wealth, power, or prestige. (Source: Braveman P, Gruskin S. Defining equity in health. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 2003;57:254-258). Resources in this category include the National Center for Cultural Competence, National Library of Medicine Special Populations Outreach Activities and Resources, etc.



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Law, Enforcement, and Regulatory Oversight – The government plays a unique role in enforcing public health laws, regulations, and ordinances. Resources in this category include information on federal regulations on public health, state health laws, National Conference of State Legislators publications, etc.

Partnerships – A collaborative relationship of individuals and/or organizations within which partners set aside personal or organization agendas to achieve the agenda of the partnership (see [NPHPSP Acronyms, Glossary, and Reference Terms](#) for full definition). Resources in this category include information on sustaining community partnerships, principles of community engagement, and how to identify and engage partners.

Performance Management and Quality Improvement – *Performance Management* is the practice of actively using performance data to improve the public's health. It involves strategic use of performance measures and standards to establish performance targets and goals (Source: [Turning Point](#)). *Quality Improvement* in public health is the use of a deliberate and defined improvement process, such as Plan-Do-Check-Act, which is focused on activities that are responsive to community needs and improving population health. It refers to a continuous and ongoing effort to achieve measurable improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes, and other indicators of quality in services or processes which achieve equity and improve the health of the community (Source: [Journal of Public Health Management and Practice](#)). A resource in this category is *From Silos to Systems: Using Performance Management to Improve the Public's Health*.

Policy Development – The means by which problem identification, technical knowledge of possible solutions, and societal values converge to set a course of action. Policy development is not synonymous with the development of laws, rules, and regulations (see [NPHPSP Acronyms, Glossary, and Reference Terms](#) for full definition). A resource in this category is *Stateline.org - Policy and Politics News*.

Preparedness – The process of preparing a community to meet the challenges of a potential public health emergency. Resources in this category are intended to help public health professionals and partners strengthen and enhance their capacity to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies. A resource in this category is *pandemicflu.gov* – Department of Health and Human Services avian and pandemic flu website.

Research – A systematic investigation, including research, development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalized knowledge (Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People 2010*. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services; 2000). Resources in this category include the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, AcademyHealth's *Health Research Web Links*, etc.



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State/Community Health Improvement Planning – This process involves an ongoing collaborative, community-wide effort at the state or local level to identify, analyze, and address health problems; assess applicable data; inventory community health assets and resources; identify community perceptions; develop and implement coordinated strategies; develop measurable health objectives and indicators; identify accountable entities; and cultivate community “ownership” of the entire process. A Resource in this category is [*Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnership - Field Guide*](#).

Strategic Planning – This process (completed by the health department) is a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization (or other entity) is, what it does, and why it does it. This process supports alignment of the goals and objectives of an organization or individual entities comprising the public health system with health improvement processes and resulting action plans (see [*NPHPSP Acronyms, Glossary, and Reference Terms*](#) for full definition). Resources in this category include guidance from the *Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnership - Strategic Issues*.

Workforce development, capacity and competency – A strong systems and organizational capacity gives public health entities the ability to use tools, information, and workforce to make an effective impact upon the health of our nation. Resources in this category include public health competencies, diversity, training and education, leadership development, recruitment and retention, and succession planning.

The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is continuously looking for opportunities to improve its websites. Please email us at PHF_Resources@phf.org to suggest site improvements, new resources, or to submit questions or feedback regarding resource center changes.

Access this document online:

http://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Online/NPHPSP_Online_Resource_Center_Categories_Glossary.pdf

