

## Public Health Improvement Resource Center *Categories Glossary*

The **Public Health Improvement Resource Center**, <http://www.phf.org/improvement>, is a searchable online database of resources and tools aimed to build better public health systems. More than 300 accessible resources organized here support the initiation and continuation of quality improvement efforts and promote performance management and quality improvement, community health information and data systems, accreditation preparation, and workforce development.

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

**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. When searching, a user can select “Accreditation” and/or one or more of the 12 Accreditation Domains from the [Version 1.0 PHAB Standards & Measures](#) (Approved May 2011).

**Community Health Information and Data Systems** – Resources in this category include information on surveillance and alert systems (disease prevention, detection and control); health statistics and databases; data standards and interoperability; information management; population-level information on birth defects, cancer trends, infant mortality, mortality trends, preventable hospitalizations.

**Performance Management System** – This practice involves strategic use of performance measures and standards to:

- Establish performance targets and goals
- Prioritize and allocate resources,
- Inform managers about needed adjustments or changes in policy/program directions to meet goals,
- Frame reports on the success in meeting performance goals,
- Improve the quality of public health practice.

Performance Management components include the Performance Standards, Performance Measurement, Reporting of Progress, and Quality Improvement Process. A Performance Management System is the continuous use of the above practices until they are integrated into the organization's core operations. Performance management can be completed at multiple levels, including the program, organization, community, and state levels. (Source: [Turning Point](#))

**Performance Management** – The practice of actively using performance data to improve the public's health (Source: [Turning Point](#))

**Performance Measurement** – Application and use of performance indicators and measures (Source: [Turning Point](#))



## Public Health Improvement Resource Center *Categories Glossary*

**Performance Standards** – Establishment of organizational or system performance standards, targets and goals, and relevant indicators to improve public health practice (Source: [Turning Point](#))

**Public Health Finance** – Examines the acquisition, utilization, and management of resources for the delivery of public health functions and the impact of those resources on population health and the public health system (Source: Amy BW, Honore PA. Public Health Finance: Fundamental Theories, Concepts, and Definitions. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*. 2007; 13(2):89-91)

**Quality Improvement Process** –Establishment of a program/process to manage change and achieve quality improvement in public health policies, programs or infrastructure based on performance standards, measurements and reports. (Source: [Turning Point](#))

**Reporting of Progress** – Documentation and reporting of progress in meeting standards and targets and sharing of such information through feedback (Source: [Turning Point](#))

**Workforce Development** – Improving outcomes (i.e., healthier people) by enhancing the training and skills of public health workers. Resources in this category include 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](mailto: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/Public\\_Health\\_Improvement\\_Resource\\_Center\\_Categories\\_Glossary.pdf](http://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Online/Public_Health_Improvement_Resource_Center_Categories_Glossary.pdf)

