



**LOCAL  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
SYSTEM  
ASSESSMENT**

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## Assessment Instrument

The National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS) are the basis for the LPHSA. This standardized tool measures the performance of the local public health system (LPHS) – determined as the collective efforts of public, private, and voluntary entities, as well as individuals and informal associations that contribute to public health within a jurisdiction. This may include organizations and entities such as the local health department, other governmental agencies, healthcare providers, human service organizations, schools and universities, faith institutions, youth development organizations, economic and philanthropic organizations, and many others. Any organization or entity that contributes to the health or well-being of a community is considered part of the public health system. Ideally, a group that is broadly representative of these public health system partners will participate in the assessment process. By sharing their diverse perspectives, all participants will gain a better understanding of each organization’s contributions, the interconnectedness of their activities, and how the public health system can be strengthened.

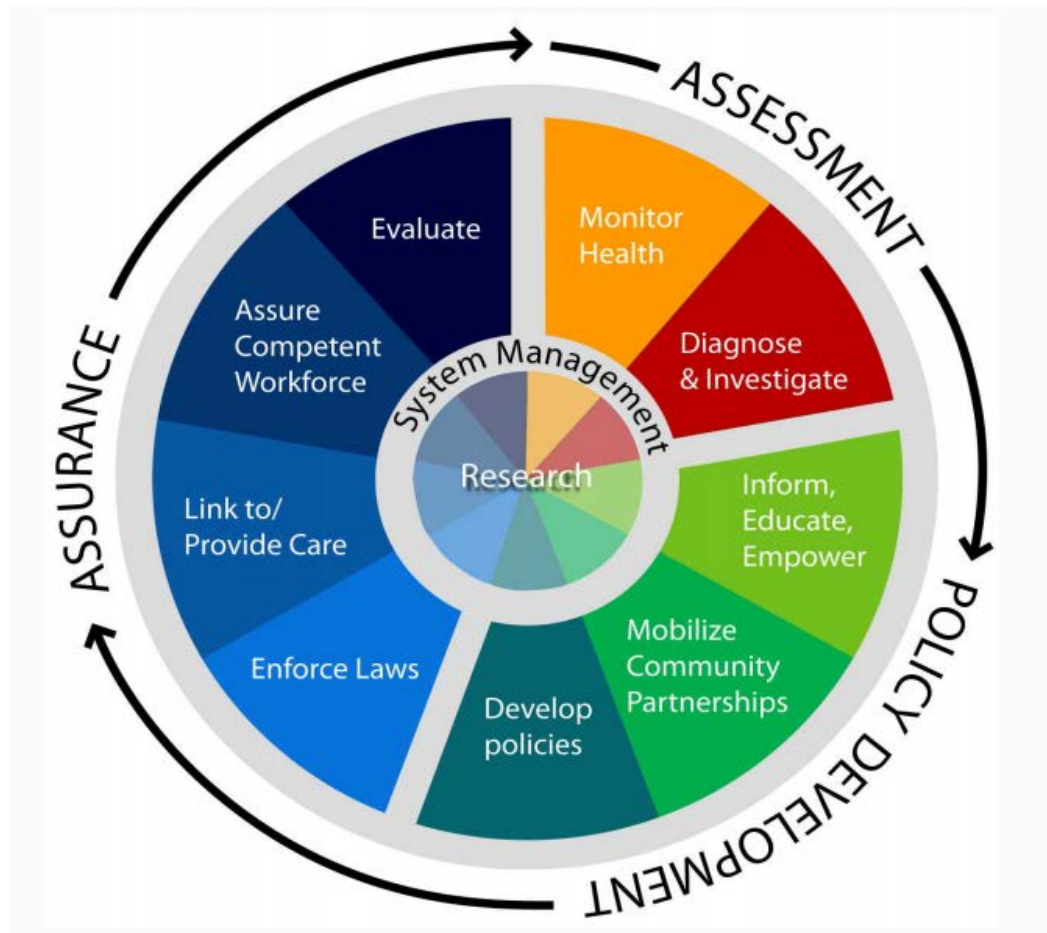
The NPHPS does not focus specifically on the capacity or performance of any single agency or organization. The instrument is framed around the 10 Essential Public Health Services (EPHS) that are utilized to describe the scope of public health. For each essential service in the local instrument, the model standards describe or correspond to the primary activities conducted at the local level. The number of model standards varies across the Essential Services; while some essential services include only two model standards, others include up to four.

The NPHPS Local Public Health System Assessment Report is designed to help health departments and public health system partners create a snapshot of where they are relative to the National Public Health Performance Standards and to progressively move toward refining and improving outcomes for performance across the public health system.

The NPHPS state, local, and governance instruments also offer opportunity and robust data to link to health departments, public health system partners and/or community-wide strategic planning processes, as well as to Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards. For example, assessment of the environment external to the public health organization is a key component of all strategic planning, and the NPHPS assessment readily provides a structured process and an evidence-base upon which key organizational decisions may be made and priorities established. The assessment may also be used as a component of community health improvement planning processes, such as Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) or other community-wide strategic planning efforts, including state health improvement planning and community health improvement planning. The NPHPS process also drives assessment and improvement activities that may be used to support a Health Department in meeting PHAB standards. Regardless of whether using MAPP or another health improvement process, partners should use the NPHPS results to support quality improvement.

The self-assessment is structured around the Model Standards for each of the 10 Essential Public Health Services, (EPHS), hereafter referred to as the Essential Services, which were developed through a comprehensive, collaborative process involving input from national, state and local experts in public health. Altogether, for the local assessment, 30 Model Standards serve as quality indicators that are organized into the 10 Essential Public Health Service areas in the instrument and address the three core functions of public health. The following image shows how the 10 Essential Services align with the three Core Functions of Public Health.

## 10 Essential Public Health Services



The 10 Essential Public Health Services describe the public health activities that all communities should undertake and serve as the framework for the NPHPS instruments. Public health systems should:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Each Essential Services model standard is scored by participants to assess system performance on the following scale:

Optimal Activity (76-100%)	The public health system is doing absolutely everything possible for this activity and there is no room for improvement.
Significant Activity (51-75%)	The public health system participates a great deal in this activity, but there remain opportunities for minor improvement.
Moderate Activity (26-50%)	The public health system somewhat participates in this activity and there is opportunity for greater improvement.
Minimal Activity (1-25%)	The public health system provides only limited activity and there is opportunity for substantial improvement.
No Activity (0%)	The public health system does not participate in this activity at all.

NPHPS results are intended to be used for quality improvement purposes for the public health system and to guide the development of the overall public health infrastructure. Analysis and interpretation of data should also take into account variations in knowledge about the public health system among assessment participants. These variations may introduce a degree of random non-sampling error.

# Assessment Methodology

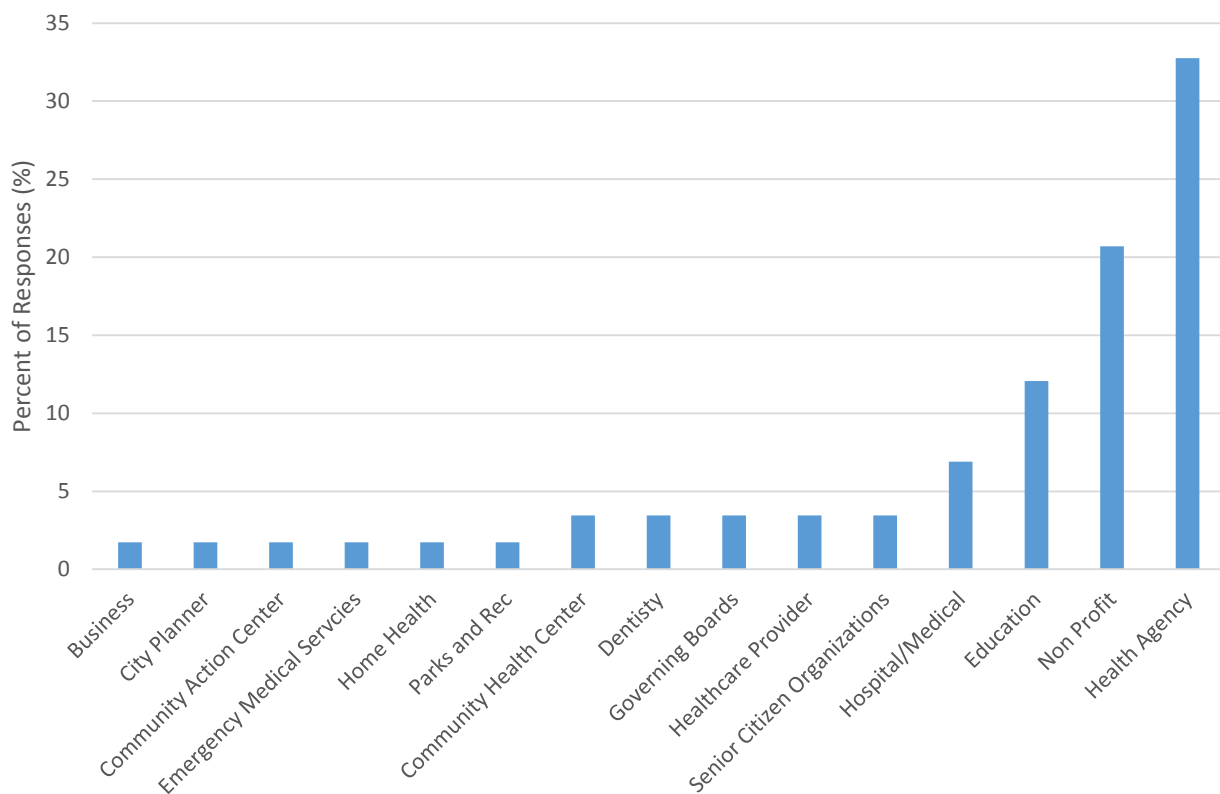
The LPHSA team met three times to discuss and brainstorm the strengths and weaknesses of the Public Health System and answer the questions of

- What are the components, activities, competencies, and capacities of our local public health system?
- How are the Essential Services being provided to our community?

The LPHSA team utilized the following process to complete the assessment:

- 1) Review of the Local Public Health Status Assessment (1 meeting)
- 2) Brainstorming session of additional community members to invite to the assessment (1 meeting)
- 3) Discussion of the best way to ensure equal participation in results
- 4) LPHSA survey developed and sent to all participants
- 5) Results tallied and shared with LPHSA group (1 meeting)

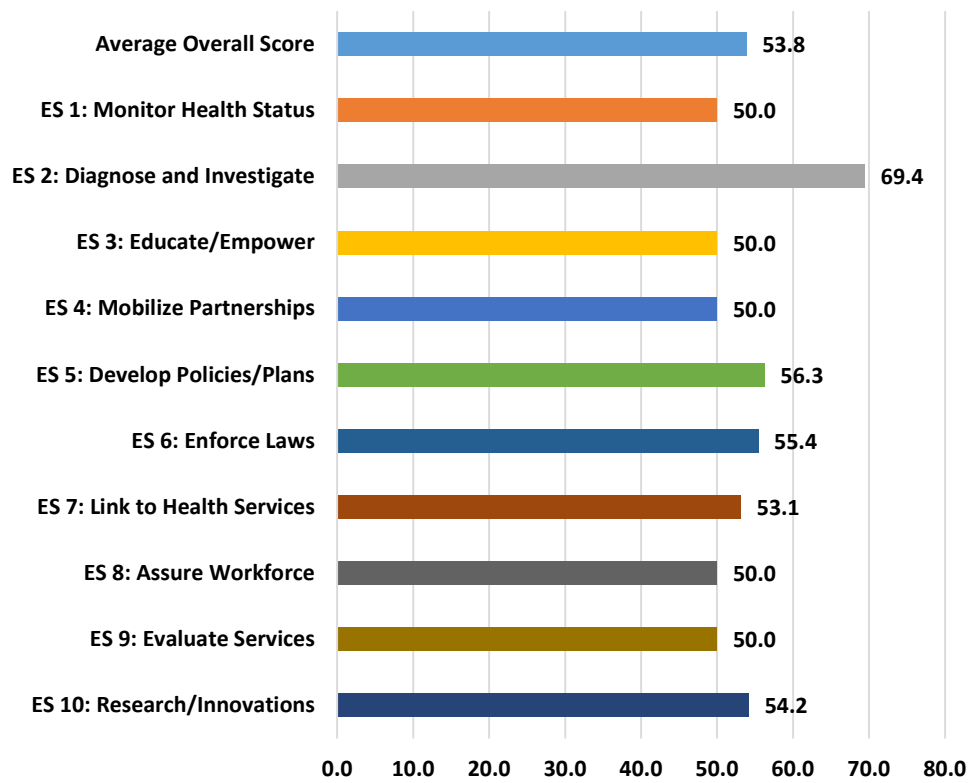
Local Public Health Assessment Survey Results  
Proportion of Responses by Sector



# Summary / Results

After reviewing the results of the LPHSA, services with strong performances and services with lesser performances were identified. The following results represent those areas:

## Summary of Average Essential Services Performance Score



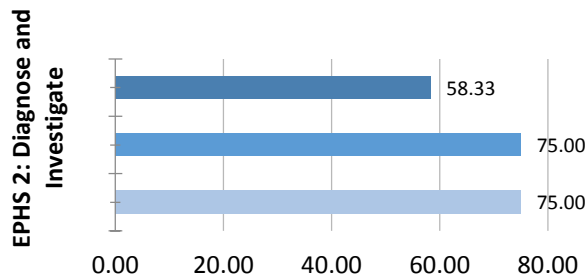
The areas in which Macomb County provides services the best are:

Essential Service 2: Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community

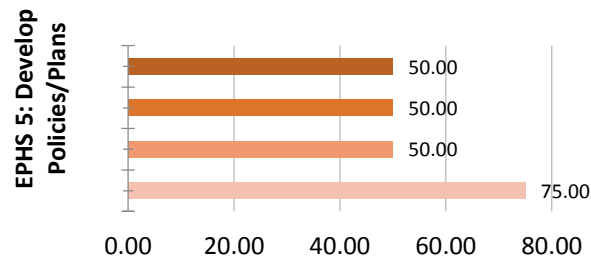
Essential Service 5: Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts

Essential Service 6: Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

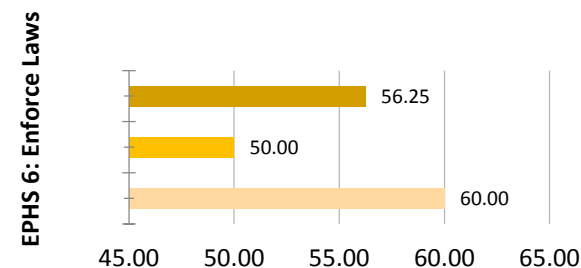
Essential Service 10: Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems



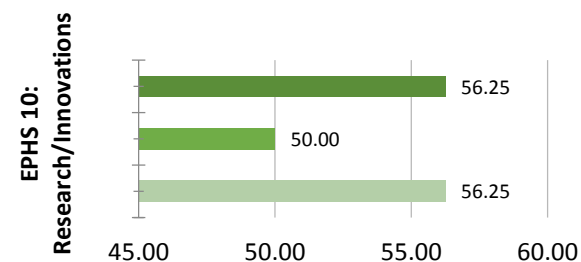
- 2.1 - Identification and Surveillance of Health Threats
- 2.2 - Investigation and Response to Public Health Threats and Emergencies
- 2.3 - Laboratory Support for Investigation of Health Threats



- 5.1 - Governmental Presence at the Local Level
- 5.2 - Public Health Policy Development
- 5.3 - Community Health Improvement Process and Strategic Planning
- 5.4 - Plan for Public Health Emergencies



- 6.1 - Review and Evaluation of Laws, Regulations, and Ordinances
- 6.2 - Involvement in the Improvement of Laws, Regulations, and Ordinances
- 6.3 - Enforcement of Laws, Regulations, and Ordinances



- 10.1 - Fostering Innovation
- 10.2 - Linkage with Institutions of Higher Learning and/or Research
- 10.3 - Capacity to Initiate or Participate in Research



The Essential Services in which Macomb County still has room for improvement are:

Essential Service 1: Monitor health status to identify community health problems

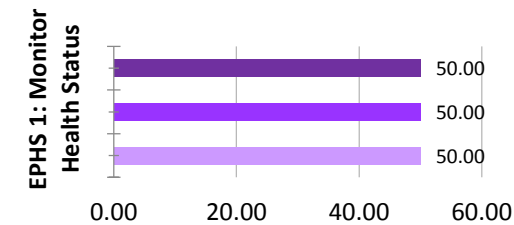
Essential Service 3: Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues

Essential Service 4: Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems

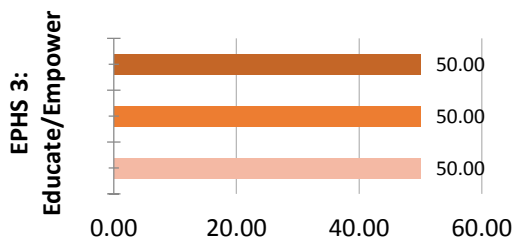
Essential Service 7: Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable

Essential Service 8: Assure competent public and personal health care workforce

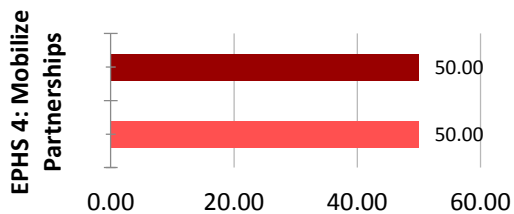
Essential Service 9: Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services



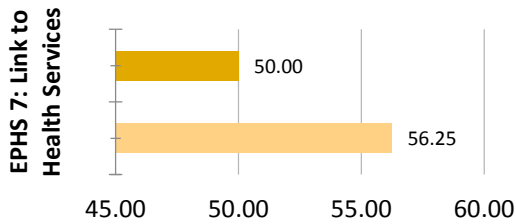
- 1.1 - Population-Based Community Health Assessment
- 1.2 - Current Technology to Manage and Communicate Population Health Data
- 1.3 - Maintenance of Population Health Registries



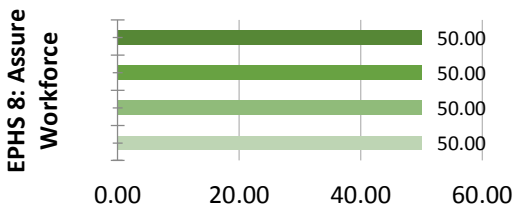
- 3.1 - Health Education and Promotion
- 3.2 - Health Communication
- 3.3 - Risk Communication



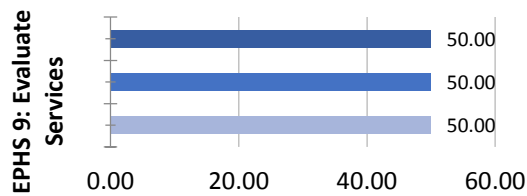
- 4.1 - Constituency Development
- 4.2 - Community Partnerships



- 7.1 – Identification of Personal Health Service Needs of Populations
- 7.2 – Assuring the Linkage of People to Personal Health Services



- 8.1 – Workforce Assessment, Planning, and Development
- 8.2 – Public Health Workforce Standards
- 8.3 – Life-Long Learning through Continuing Education, Training, and Mentoring
- 8.4 – Public Health Leadership Development



- 9.1 – Evaluation of Population-Based Health Services
- 9.2 – Evaluation of Personal Health Services
- 9.3 – Evaluation of the Local Public Health System

## Conclusion

Overall, Macomb County scored in the Significant Activity category for the assessment of services. However, while the LPHSA demonstrated that some of 10 Essential Services provided in Macomb County fall within the Significant Activity category many also fall within the Moderate Activity category. None of the 10 Essential Services were rated as Optimal, Minimal or No Activity.

These results indicated that room for improvement exists within each of the 10 Essential Services provided in Macomb County.

In addition, discussion at the LPHSA meetings identified several recurring issues:

- 1) Need for more integration among leaders of County programs and services
- 2) Lack of knowledge about public health programs and services offered at agencies and partners in Macomb County
- 3) The lack of knowledge at these partnering agencies directly correlates to the lack of knowledge within the resident of our community surrounding available public health programs and services

## Community Members Who Participated

### **Advantage Health Center**

Javar Jackson

### **Beaumont Health System**

Julie Kitchen

### **CARE of Southeastern MI**

Paddy Laske

### **Henry Ford Health System**

Kaylia Miehke

Jill Yore

### **Macomb Community Action**

Katherine Benford

### **Macomb County Community Mental Health**

Sue Gough

### **Macomb County Health Department**

Jenny Gubler

Whitney Litzner

Bill Ridella

Niki Ross

Ricki Torsch

### **Macomb County Medical Control Authority**

Luke Bowen

Debbie Condino-Bell

### **McLaren Macomb**

Maureen Decker

### **MIHP – My Pregnancy Coach**

Amy Fratarcangeli

### **MyCare Health Center**

Darlene Vasi