Public Health Accreditation and Health Equity

CDC Support of Accreditation and Health Equity Activities

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CDC’s Role in Accreditation Support

- Supporting the national program through PHAB
- Advancing readiness in the field
  - Funding national partner organizations that provide technical assistance, educational resources, and trainings
  - Accreditation Support Initiative
  - National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII)
  - Public Health Performance Improvement Network (phPIN)
  - Annual Public Health Improvement Training (PHIT)
- Establishing incentives – for preparing and for accreditation status
- Building connections to CDC-supported areas and funding streams
Major Areas of Effort in Accreditation Readiness

- Building awareness and communication
- Self-assessment against PHAB standards
- Cross-agency coordination, identification of documentation, and accreditation process
- Prerequisites/other key plans and systems
  - Community Health Assessment (CHA) (Standard 1.1)
  - Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) (Standard 5.2)
  - Strategic Plan (Standard 5.3)
  - Workforce Development Plan (Standard 8.2)
  - Performance Management System (Standard 9.1)
  - Quality Improvement (Standard 9.2)
Paving the Road to Health Equity

Health Equity is when everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

Programs
Successful health equity strategies

Measurement
Data practices to support the advancement of health equity

Policy
Laws, regulations, and rules to improve population health

Infrastructure
Organizational structures and functions that support health equity

Community Health Assessment/Improvement Plans

- Major area of activity in the field

- PHAB analysis of early CHAs/CHIPs
  - In-depth analysis of first 53 accredited sites (46 local, 7 state)
  - Assessed under Version 1.0 standards
  - Broad range of partner organizations identified – e.g.,
    - 98.1% partnered with healthcare organizations
    - 94.3% partnered with education
    - 58.5% partnered with faith-based organizations
  - Diverse types of indicators – population outcomes, community outcomes, process outcomes
    - Many included attention to specific populations
  - **69.8% of CHIPs included indicators addressing social determinants of health/health equity**

- Evaluation data show influence of PHAB standards even among those not formally engaged in accreditation

Source: Data provided by the Public Health Accreditation Board.
Data from Accredited Sites – Selected Measures

- **Measure 3.1.2 – *Health education and health promotion strategies***
  - 86% (n=175) of health departments fully or largely demonstrated the Version 1.0 measure
  - Equally positive results for sites using Version 1.5

- **Measure 11.1.3 (11.1.4 in V 1.5) – *Socially, culturally, and linguistically appropriate approaches in health department processes, programs and interventions***
  - 94% (n=175) of health departments fully or largely demonstrated the Version 1.0 measure
  - Equally positive results for sites using Version 1.5

Source: Data provided by the Public Health Accreditation Board.
Annual Reports from Accredited Sites

- Accredited health departments that have completed at least one cycle of annual reports
  - 73/94 (78%) indicate they have worked on health equity
  - 21 reports provide more detail, such as
    - Partnering/coordinating with other organizations
    - Doing more in-depth analyses of disparities (three sites discuss work at the zip code level)
    - Creating more opportunities for individuals in disadvantaged communities to provide input to health department
    - Working on social determinants such as education, employment-related services, payday loans
    - Training to staff to help them better view work with a health equity lens; four health departments describe creating internal offices or councils focused on health equity
    - Working in areas hit hard by crime or partnering with criminal justice system

Source: Data provided by PHAB.
Quotes from the Field

“The importance of health equity in framing public health efforts has grown substantially within the past few years at the [health department]. Through the use of improved data analysis and sharing, the agency has begun partnering with other organizations on how to best address the barriers and gaps in obtaining optimal health.”

—Quote from an annual report submitted to PHAB by an accredited health department.

Accreditation is “one of the best leverage points” to improve the public health system and success on objective health measures.

—Statement from a focus group participant in NORC evaluation conducted about PHAB, 2016.
Peer Interaction and Sharing in the Field

- Health equity as a key topic of interest at major performance improvement meetings
- Popular query for learning community and performance improvement network exchanges
- Activities from national partner organizations supporting accreditation readiness and related efforts
  - Health equity resources (e.g., health equity supplement to MAPP)
  - Trainings
  - Issue briefs and stories from the field
  - Health equity-focused workgroups
Selected Resources — Accreditation

- PHAB: [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org)
- CDC accreditation web page: [www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/accreditation](http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/accreditation)
- Partner accreditation web pages:
  - State: [www.astho.org/Programs/Accreditation-and-Performance/](http://www.astho.org/Programs/Accreditation-and-Performance/)
  - Local: [www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/accreditation/index.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/accreditation/index.cfm)

Thank you!
Discussion and Questions

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.