

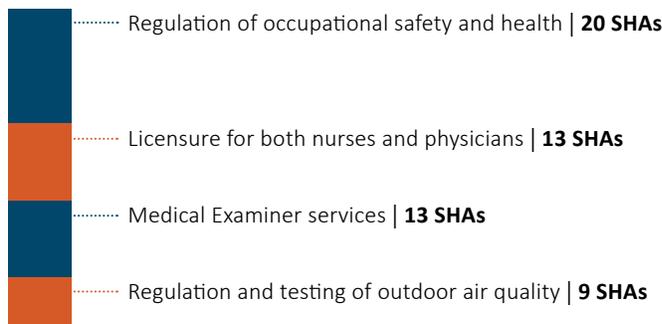
State Health Agency Activities: Why Agencies May Not Provide the Same Services

ASTHO's Profile of State and Territorial Public Health collects data on the activities and services provided by 50 state and territorial health agencies (S/THAs), Washington, D.C., and freely associated states. For the purposes of the Profile, a S/THA provides a service when either: (1) S/THA staff provide the service or activity directly or (2) the S/THA contracts with another organization (often, but not always, a local health department) to provide the service or activity. Including both ways of providing the service or activity better reflects the breadth of S/THA programs and makes the information more comparable among S/THAs. This fact sheet includes information from state health agencies (SHAs) and Washington, D.C., and explains why SHAs provide different activities and services.

States organize their government agencies differently.

SHAs can be independent agencies or a division within a larger health and human services agency. A service or activity that is provided by the public health agency in one state may be provided by a different government agency in another state.

Examples of Activities Completed by SHAs:



State health agencies fill different roles in the healthcare system.

Some SHAs provide a wide range of healthcare services to individuals, especially people who are un- or under-insured. Other SHAs provide a more limited range of healthcare services, focusing on communicable disease screening and treatment, and perhaps screening for certain non-communicable diseases. In these states, un- or under-insured people receive primary care from other types of safety net providers (such as community health centers or family planning clinics).

Examples of Activities Completed by SHAs:

Screening and treatment for communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS and STDs:

48 to 50 SHAs

Clinical preventive services, including administration of vaccines, family planning, and cancer screenings:

42 to 51 SHAs

Specialized treatment services, including breast cancer treatment and prenatal care:

27 to 29 SHAs

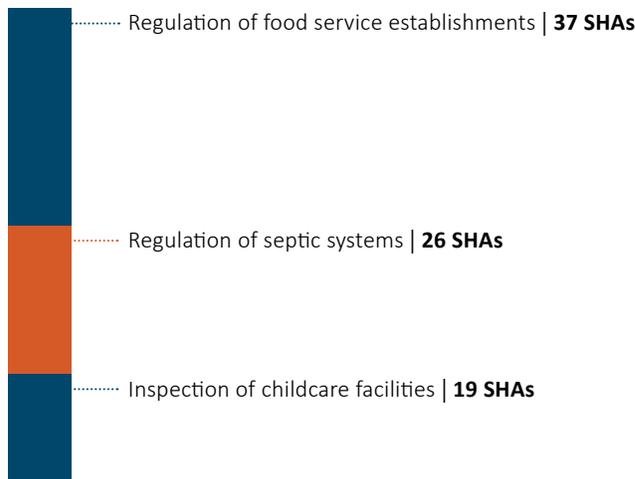
Comprehensive primary healthcare services for children and/or adults:

14 SHAs

Local government agencies may be responsible for different public health services and activities across states.

In states where local health departments are independent county or city agencies (rather than locally based units of the SHA), some public health activities may be provided by local government agencies with no or limited involvement from the SHA.

Examples of Activities Completed by SHAs:



Some public health services are not provided in all states.

Particularly for activities or services that do not receive federal funding, states make different choices about which public health services to provide based on the needs of their communities. These choices may be governed by laws that require certain public health activities or by choices that state legislatures make about funding public health programs.

Examples of Activities Completed by SHAs:

| Activity | Number of SHAs |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Needle/syringe safety programs: | 30 SHAs |
| Surveillance for neonatal abstinence: | 37 SHAs |
| Hepatitis C registry: | 35 SHAs |

Additional information about recent trends in SHA services and activities is available [here](#).

Profile data can be found on ASTHO's website at www.astho.org/profile. For additional information about the ASTHO Profile Survey, contact profile@astho.org.

This report was supported by grant or cooperative agreement number NU38OT000161, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services. Support for this publication was also provided in part by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.