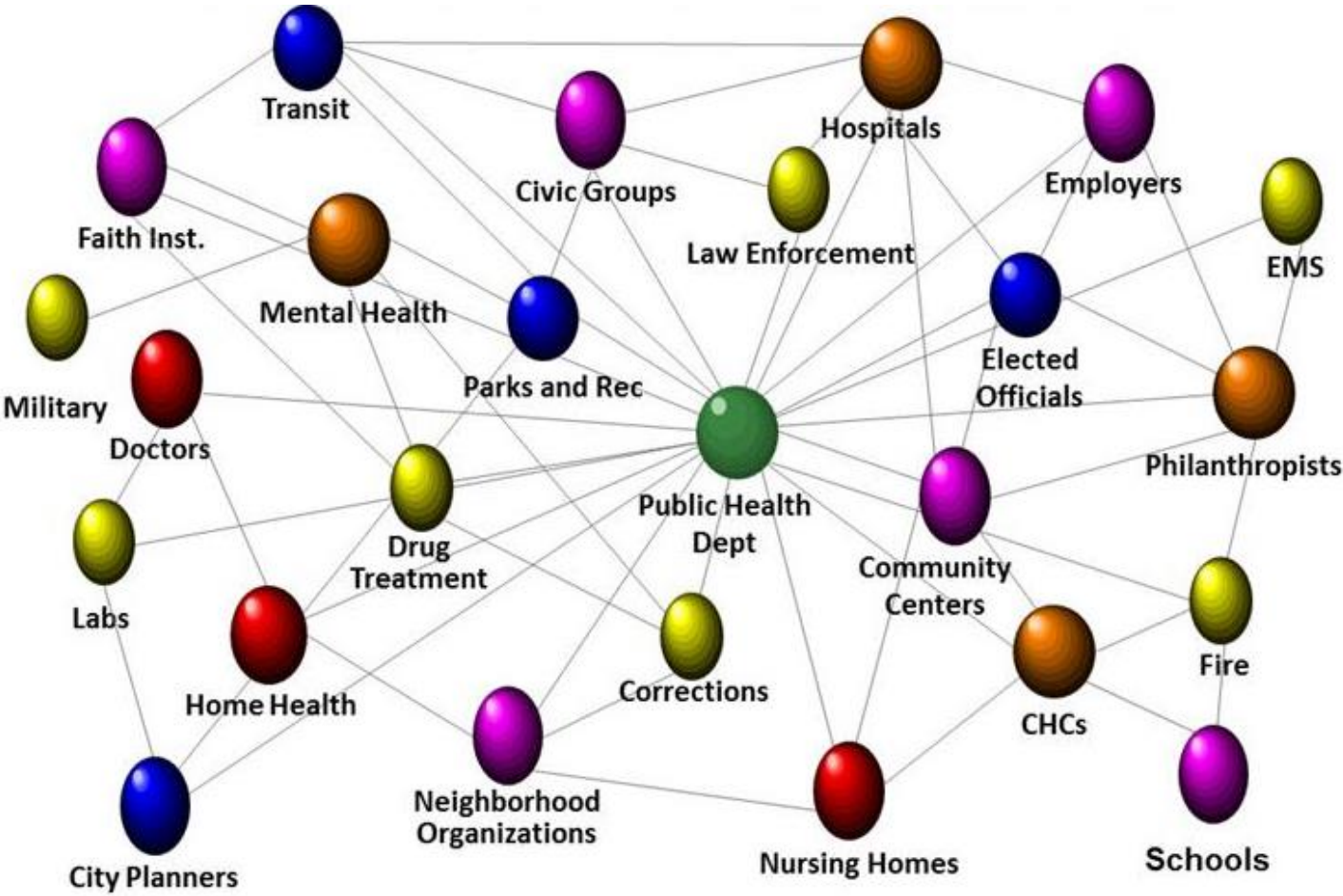


LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

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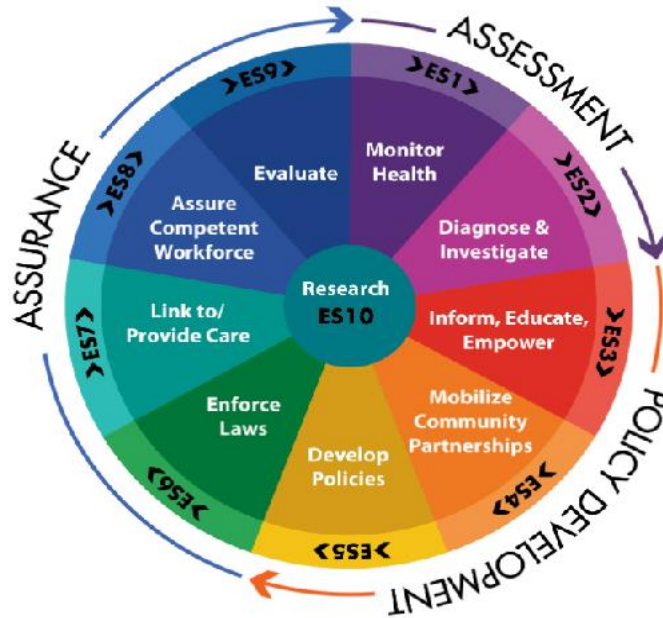


Our public health system includes many partnering public, private and voluntary organizations that contribute to health and wellbeing of those living in Henry County. These include obvious health systems like the hospital, physicians, clinics, health department, but also human service organization, schools, churches, charities, recreation, recovery services, first responders, local business, and residents.

Purpose

The purpose of the Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) answers the following questions:

- What are the activities, competencies, and capacities of the local public health system?
- How are the 10 Essential Public Health Services, that are illustrated below, being provided to the community?



The LPHSA was completed using a modified version of the National Public Health Performance Standards Local Instrument. The Instrument describes what the local public health system would look like if all organizations, groups, and individuals in the community worked together to ensure the essential services were delivered optimally. The descriptions of what should occur in the community serve as model standards of local health system performance. The instrument was divided in 10 sections to correspond with each of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

Methodology

The modified LPHSA was disseminated to Henry County Health Partners via Survey Monkey and reviewed for discussion at Henry County Health Partner meetings in 2022. Partners were asked to answer each question by responding with a percentage of agreement. After each Essential Function section, there was space for participants to include any comments. The same assessment was used in 2019 allowing for comparison. A total of 28 responses from partners were collected via Survey Monkey. The following scoring table provides assessment guidance for understanding:

Optimal Activity (76–100%)	Greater than 75% of the activity described within the question is met.
Significant Activity (51–75%)	Greater than 50% but no more than 75% of the activity described within the question is met.
Moderate Activity (26–50%)	Greater than 25% but no more than 50% of the activity described within the question is met.
Minimal Activity (1–25%)	Greater than zero but no more than 25% of the activity described within the question is met.
No Activity (0%)	0% or absolutely no activity.

Key Findings

Essential Service #1 Monitor health status to identify health problems	2019	2022
Conduct a community health assessment that includes indicators intended to monitor differences in health and wellness across populations, according to race, ethnicity, age, income, immigration status, sexual identify, education, gender, and neighborhood?	78	81 ↑
Analyze health data, including geographic information, to see where health problems exist?	72	81 ↑
Update the CHA with current information continuously?	70	78 ↑

“I feel very comfortable with the amount of programming and data sharing that occurs. Information is easily visible in the community via social media, which helps a lot.”

“Super proud to have leadership in all of this. Tremendous knowledge, passion, and expertise in getting these assessments and data collected and analyzed.”

“While I think we’re moving in the right direction, we have work to do to really encompass all the segments of the population. They’re difficult to reach and track.”

Essential Service #2 Diagnose, investigate health problems, and health hazards	2019	2022
Participate in a comprehensive surveillance system with national, state, and local partners to identify, monitor, and share information and understand emerging health problems and threats?	77	73 ↓
Have the necessary resources to collect information about specific health inequities and investigate the social determinants of health inequities?	67	67

“I think the pandemic has taught us how to collaborate locally, regionally and to some degree on a national scale. I think the region is doing a good job at learning how to access resources but I’m not sure that availability and accessibility is easily resolved.”

“Our system does an excellent job.”

“It is sometimes difficult to get information based on inequities because disparities are not always obvious.”

Essential Service #3 Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.	2019	2022
Provide policymakers, stakeholders, and the public with ongoing analyses of community health status and related recommendations for health promotion policies, including in the context of health equity and social justice?	65	69 ↑
Engage the community throughout the process of setting priorities, developing plans, and implementing health education and health promotion activities?	67	70 ↑

“I think this is the direction we are heading, but to my knowledge we have a lot of work to do before meaningful change in some of these areas and will require significant resources.”

“The system as a whole works to educate the community on priority health issues, including elected officials.”


“There is opportunity for improvement.”

Essential Service #4 Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems	2019	2022
Plan and conduct health promotion and education campaigns that are appropriate to culture, age, language, gender, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and sexual orientation?	73	70 ↓
Assess how well community partnerships and strategic alliances are working to improve community health?	64	76 ↑

“I think we have made significant progress to move this forward.”

“There is not a specific process for identifying key constituents; sometimes it is a struggle to get participants to the table and play an active role in health improvement.”



“We do so much better than most communities but there is always room for improvement.”

Essential Service #5 Develop policies and plans that community health efforts support individual and community health efforts	2019	2022
Establish a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and develop strategies to achieve community health improvement objectives, including a description of organizations accountable for specific steps?	80	 78
Ensure that community-based organizations and individual community members have a substantive role in deciding what policies, procedures, rules, and practices govern community health efforts?	72	72

“These are the strengths of our Public Health System.”

“Great job in this area!”

“Due to completing demands, it’s difficult for all partners to engage in aspects of community improvement.”

Essential Service #6 Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety	2019	2022
Stay up to date with current laws, regulations, and ordinances that prevent health problems or that promote or protect public health on the federal, state, and local levels?	74	 77
Participate in changing existing laws, regulations, and ordinances, and/or creating new laws, regulations, and ordinances to protect and promote public health?	65	 61

“Performs well.”

“Advocacy throughout the entire system could be improved to effect change at a legislative level.”

“Starting this process but needs more work.”

Essential Service #7 Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable	2019	2022
Identify any populations that may experience barriers to personal health services based on factors such as age, education level, income, language barriers, race or ethnicity, disability, mental illness, access to insurance, sexual orientation and gender identity?	75	↑ 77
Coordinate the delivery of personal health and social services so that everyone in the community has access to the care they need?	71	↓ 69

“These are strengths of our public health systems.”

“Heading in the right direction.”

“There is so much more work that needs to go into this. I think that we are able to identify that we are working on this, but it is very limited across the country.”

Essential Service #8 Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce	2019	2022
Create and support collaborations between organizations within the local public health system for training and education?	71	↑ 80
Continually train the public health workforce to deliver services in a culturally competent manner and understand the social determinants of health?	74	↑ 83

“Very competent staff.”

“Community health workers make a real difference with the limited number of people and resources.”

“This is evident in our county.”

Essential Service #9 Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services	2019	2022
Evaluate how well population-based health services are working, including whether the goals that were set for programs and services were achieved and whether community members, including vulnerable populations, are satisfied with the approaches?	65	↑ 69
Use evaluation findings to improve plans, processes, and services?	68	↑ 73

“Improving.”

“Some have done better than others at evaluation.”

“I think we are moving this way.”

Essential Service #10 Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems	2019	2022
Partner with colleges, universities, or other research organizations to conduct public health research, including community-based participatory research?	58	↑ 63
Encourage staff, research organizations, and community members to explore the root causes of health inequity, including solutions based on research identifying the health impact of structural racism, gender and class inequity, social exclusion, and power differentials?	60	60

“I think it is a challenge for small, rural communities to drill down on real root causes for health inequity, but again, progress is being made.”

“Improving.”

“I do not feel the system itself stresses the importance of “root causes” of health inequity-but specific jobs in the area do focus on this more than others.”

Overview of Results

The results indicated by the Henry County Health Partners deem the local public health system working at significant to optimal activity, including many positive compliments to the overall system. There are areas in which improvement can be made, however.

Optimal Activity (76–100%)	Essential Services #1 and # 8
Significant Activity (51–75%)	Essential Services #2, #3, #4, # 5, #6, #7, #9 and #10
Moderate Activity (26–50%)	
Minimal Activity (1–25%)	
No Activity (0%)	

When analyzing the 21 subcategories, 9 fall into Optimal activity and 12 fall into Significant activity. This analysis allows for a deeper look for areas of opportunity for improvement. When we compare the same report for 2019, it is observed that there has been score improvement in 13 of 21 subcategories, while 5 subcategories dropped and 3 stayed the same.

The 3 lowest scores, indicating opportunities are:

60% Essential Service #10

Encourage staff, research organizations, and community members to **explore the root causes of health inequity**, including solutions based on research identifying the health impact of **structural racism, gender and class inequity, social exclusion, and power differentials**.

61% Essential Service #6

Participate in **changing existing laws, regulations, and ordinances**, and/or creating new laws, regulations, and ordinances **to protect and promote public health**.

63% Essential Service # 10

Partner with colleges, universities, or other research organizations to conduct public health research, including community-based participatory research.

The 3 highest scores, indicating growth are:

83% Essential Service #8

Continually train the **public health workforce to deliver services in a culturally competent manner and understand the social determinants of health**.

81% Essential Service # 1

Conduct a community health assessment that includes indicators intended to monitor differences in health and wellness across populations, **according to race, ethnicity, age, income, immigration status, sexual identify, education, gender, and neighborhood**.

81% Essential Services #1

Analyze health data, including geographic information, to see where health problems exist.