

Environmental Public Health Performance Standards: Improving Service in Communities

What are the Environmental Public Health Performance Standards?

The Environmental Public Health Performance Standards (EnvPHPS) are a set of standards that describe the optimal performance and capacity for environmental public health systems and programs. The EnvPHPS aim to help make environmental public health programs and systems more effective. The EnvPHPS assess and improve how programs and systems provide communities with the 10 Essential Environmental Public Health Services. These 10 services identify the actions necessary to protect and improve environmental public health.

The EnvPHPS complement the National Public Health Performance Standards. They also provide for in-depth assessment of environmental public health programs and systems. An expert panel of environmental health managers developed the EnvPHPS with input from several organizations, including

- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP)
- Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- National Conference of Local Environmental Health Administrators (NCLEHA)
- National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)



Essential Environmental Public Health Services

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

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How do I use the Environmental Public Health Performance Standards?

Environmental public health program and system partners complete the self-assessment instrument. This instrument includes criteria to measure how much of each essential service your program provides. You can use the assessment instrument at multiple levels. For instance, you can use it to focus on a particular program such as food safety, drinking water, or vector control. You can use it to assess a specific environmental public health division or department, or to examine your entire environmental public health system. Many programs complete the self-assessment instrument only within their departments. However, assessing an environmental public health system as a whole can provide benefits as well, particularly if other organizations help to deliver services in a community.

What are the benefits of using the Environmental Public Health Performance Standards?

Benefits of the EnvPHPS process include

- Identifying how quality improvement efforts can address program strengths and gaps.
- Establishing optimal standards and measures to provide benchmarks for environmental public health practice improvements.
- Educating participants about environmental public health and the range of services and partners needed to improve public health.
- Increasing collaboration and coordination with others in the environmental public health system.
- Identifying information and data to document community environmental public health status and resource needs.
- Increasing accountability, credibility, and public confidence.
- Educating and orienting new or current staff members who are unfamiliar with environmental public health or the Essential Environmental Public Health Services.

Where can I learn more?

The EnvPHPS Web site has information on the standards and related resources: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EnvPHPS>

The National Public Health Performance Standards Program has information and guidance on this type of assessment: <http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/index.html>

