

Environmental Public Health Performance Standards

Environmental Health Program Self-assessment Instrument (Version 2)

Note: Enter “unknown” if questions cannot be answered.

Information About the Organization

Agency, Department, or Program: _____

Address Line 1: _____

Address Line 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Information About the Self-assessment Team Lead

Name of Self-assessment Team Lead: _____

Team Leader Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Organization Demographics

Area Served:

___ (1) county/city/town/village/service unit

___ (5) territorial

___ (2) health district

___ (6) tribal

___ (3) state

___ (7) national

___ (4) region

___ (8) global

Square Miles of Service Area: _____

Total Population Served: _____

Total Budget of Public Health Department or Parent Agency: _____

Total Environmental Health Program Budget: _____

Proportion of Environmental Health Budget from

_____ (1) service fees

_____ (4) grants

_____ (2) local/city/county support

_____ (5) federal support

_____ (3) state support

_____ (6) other

Organization Staffing

Total Number of Environmental Health Program FTEs Available: _____

Total Number of Environmental Health Program FTEs filled: _____

Number of Contract Environmental Health Program FTEs: _____

Number of Seasonal or Temporary Environmental Health Program FTEs: _____

Total Number of Support Staff FTEs: _____

Self-assessment Team Demographics

Total Number of Staff on the Self-assessment Team: _____

Titles of Staff Completing This Self-assessment Instrument: _____

Total Number of Hours Required to Complete the Self-assessment Process (Consider Number of Hours per Team Member): _____

Date this form completed: _____

Essential Service #1: Monitor environmental and health status to identify and solve community environmental health problems

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%–25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%–50%)	Significant=3 (>50%–75%)	Optimal=4 (>75–100%)
1.1A	Has a community environmental health assessment been completed?					
1.1B	Is the community environmental health assessment updated at least every 3 years?					
1.1C	Are existing and potential environmental health trends identified by comparing analysis results to relevant benchmarks?					
1.1D	Have the data from the community environmental health assessment been compiled into an updated profile?					
1.1E	Are environmental health data prepared in a format that allows for the clear communication and interpretation by the public and policy makers?					
1.1F	Is information about the community environmental health status easily available to individuals, community groups, and other organizations in a printed and web-based version?					
1.2A	Are appropriate tools, such as GIS, used to support the profile databases?					
1.3A	Are data collected from a range of sources involved in environmental and public health protection (e.g. epidemiology, disease registries, tracking partners, local and state departments of environmental quality)?					
1.3B	Have plans been made to address gaps in information and data needed?					

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

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%-25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%-50%)	Significant=3 (>50%-75%)	Optimal=4 (>75-100%)
2.1A	Does the EH System or program operate or participate in an environmental health surveillance system that uses timely information from a variety of sources?					
2.1B	Does the EH System or program use protocols to investigate patterns and/or outbreaks of environmentally-related illness, disease, injury, environmental hazards, and risk factors?					
2.1C	Does the EH System or program have access to expertise in epidemiology and statistics such as Masters and/or Doctoral level statistical and epidemiological expertise?					
2.1D	Is key environmental health staff trained in the application of epidemiology and statistics?					
2.2A	Are roles and responsibilities of the local environmental health staff integrated into the all hazards emergency response plan?					
2.2B	Are written protocols available to guide immediate investigation of and response to public health threats and emergencies?					
2.2C	Does the EH System or program regularly update the roster of personnel with technical expertise to respond to potential natural disasters, biological, chemical or radiological public health emergencies?					
2.3A	Does the EH System or program have established agreements and/or procurement processes to access (24 hours-per-day/7 days-per-week) approved laboratories capable of supporting investigations of environmental health problems, hazards and emergencies?					
2.3B	Are guidelines or protocols in place to address handling of laboratory samples and reporting of findings?					

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

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%–25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%–50%)	Significant=3 (>50%–75%)	Optimal=4 (>75–100%)
3.1A	Does the EH System or program have a health communications plan that routinely provides the community (general public, policy makers, and public and private stakeholders) with EH information to enable effective individual, community and policy action?					
3.1B	Does the EH System or program work with the community to identify health education needs of different segments of the community?					
3.1C	Does the EH System or program develop appropriate and targeted messages for various segments of the community (e.g. vulnerable, sensitive or disproportionately impacted populations)?					
3.1D	Are broad-based partners (such as health department, planning and zoning, public works, building, environmental advocacy groups, and the media) working together on environmental health education and promotion activities?					
3.1E	Does the communications plan provide guidance on creating messages and materials appropriate to the differing communication channels (e.g. Internet, print, radio, and television)?					
3.2A	Does the EH System or program have emergency communication plan(s) to share information among key responders and the public in the event of potentially serious environmental health threats, disease outbreaks and other emergencies?					

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

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%-25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%-50%)	Significant=3 (>50%-75%)	Optimal=4 (>75-100%)
4.1A	Does the EH System or program maintain an up-to-date directory of key constituents and stakeholders for environmental health?					
4.1B	Does the EH System or program have a plan and process that employs a variety of methods to involve constituents in key decisions and policy development for environmental health issues?					
4.2A	Are partnerships among government agencies and the private sector used to enhance environmental health program effectiveness?					

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

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%-25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%-50%)	Significant=3 (>50%-75%)	Optimal=4 (>75-100%)
5.1A	Does the environmental health system provide a governmental environmental health entity (i.e. local environmental health department or local office of a state health or environmental health department) to assure the delivery of the Essential Environmental Health Services to the community?					
5.2A	Has the EH System or program developed a community environmental health improvement process in which environmental health policy needs are identified?					
5.2B	Does the system/program advocate for prevention and protection policies for those in the community who bear a disproportionate burden of mortality or morbidity, or that are particularly sensitive to some environmental health issues?					
5.2C	Is a process in place to review existing policies every two years?					
5.3A	Has the EH System or program incorporated the Community Environmental Health Assessment and stakeholder input into a community environmental health improvement plan which identifies environmental health priorities, policies and resources?					
5.4A	Does the EH System or program have an all-hazards emergency preparedness and response plan?					

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

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%–25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%–50%)	Significant=3 (>50%–75%)	Optimal=4 (>75–100%)
6.1A	Are state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances reviewed, at least once every five years, to assess their impact on the environmental health of the community and determine whether they need updating?					
6.2A	Are gaps identified in public health and environmental laws, regulations, or ordinances?					
6.2B	Does the EH System or program participate in the updating and/or modification of existing, or the formulation of new laws, regulations, and ordinances designed to assure and improve the public's health and the quality of the environment that may impact human health?					
6.3A	Does the EH System or program provide timely, consistent and equitable enforcement of environmental health protection laws, regulations, ordinances, and policies within all segments of the jurisdiction?					
6.3B	Does the EH System or program provide information about the meaning and purpose of public and environmental health laws, regulations and ordinances to the individuals and organizations that are required to comply with them?					
6.3C	Has the compliance and responsiveness of regulated organizations and entities been evaluated in the past five years?					

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

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%-25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%-50%)	Significant=3 (>50%-75%)	Optimal=4 (>75-100%)
7.1A	Are populations with limited access or barriers to a coordinated environmental public health services identified?					
7.2A	Does the EH System or program have an active outreach and referral mechanism in place to link constituents to environmental public health and protection services?					
7.2B	Are there memorandums of understanding, or some other written agreements, among the entities with responsibility for aspects of environmental health protection within the EH System or program?					
7.2C	Does the EH System or program periodically convene the multiple agencies with responsibility in areas of environmental health in order to assure a program delivery system that is coordinated, timely and responsive to all constituents?					

Essential Service #8: Assure a competent environmental health workforce

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%–25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%–50%)	Significant=3 (>50%–75%)	Optimal=4 (>75–100%)
8.1A	Are gaps within the workforce relative to the needs of the community identified?					
8.1B	Is a workforce development plan in place to address gaps in workforce?					
8.1C	Has the EH System or program established requirements for licensure, registration and certification of the environmental health workforce for relevant areas of environmental public health services such as the requirement for the REHS or RS credential?					
8.1D	Does the plan encourage and/or give preference to graduates of accredited undergraduate and/or graduate programs of environmental health or public health and/or to candidates with RS or REHS credentials?					
8.1E	Are gaps within the workforce (including but not limited to workforce training and staffing needs) communicated to key stakeholders including governing bodies, advisory groups, academic institutions, and public and private agencies?					
8.2A	Are environmental health workforce standards linked to job performance through clearly written position descriptions?					
8.2B	Is workforce performance routinely evaluated?					
8.2C	Are specific plans made to enhance individual skills and competencies?					
8.3A	Are there continuing education opportunities available that address the specific needs of the environmental health workforce?					
8.3B	Are there incentives provided (e.g. improvements in pay scale, release time, tuition reimbursement) for the workforce to pursue education and training?					
8.4A	Are there formal or informal opportunities for leadership development?					
8.4B	Does the EH System or program actively identify and invest in future environmental health leaders?					

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

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%-25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%-50%)	Significant=3 (>50%-75%)	Optimal=4 (>75-100%)
9.1A	Are environmental public health programs and services routinely evaluated with a focus on accomplishments and achievement of program goals?					
9.1B	Is an assessment completed that measures the satisfaction of stakeholders and residents with environmental public health services?					
9.1C	Is an action plan in place and implemented to address needed improvements to services and policies identified through evaluations?					
9.2A	Has the EH System or program evaluated the effectiveness of the multiple agencies with responsibility in areas of environmental health in terms of their coordinated and timely responses to all constituents?					

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

Number	Measure	No=0 (0%)	Minimal=1 (>0%–25%)	Moderate=2 (>25%–50%)	Significant=3 (>50%–75%)	Optimal=4 (>75–100%)
10.1A	Are environmental health staff encouraged and supported to identify new or innovative solutions to environmental health problems?					
10.1B	Is environmental health staff encouraged and supported in identifying areas needing additional research to improve services and conditions?					
10.1C	Are best practices for environmental public health services routinely identified and applied to program activities?					
10.1D	Does the EH System or program initiate and/or participate in research that contributes to improved environmental health system performance?					
10.2A	Does the EH System or program partner with institutions of higher learning or research organizations as well as the public conduct research related to environmental health?					