

Using NPHPSP to Guide State Health Improvement Activities

Florida Department of Health



The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides health promotion, treatment, protection, and disease prevention services to more than 18 million people. In 2011, FDOH completed the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) state public health system assessment to support efforts to develop a new State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). FDOH self-rated its activities related to delivering the ten Essential Public Health Services (EPHS) and identified system-wide strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement. Current FDOH activities by select EPHS include:

- 7 Monitoring health status (EPHS 1)
- 7 Investigating health problems (EPHS 2)
- 7 Engaging in community redevelopment and partnerships (EPHS 4)
- 7 Improve access to care for chronic disease (EPHS 7)
- 7 Increase workforce development through training, accreditation preparation, and HIT implementation (EPHS 8)

From Data to Action

FDOH is incorporating insights learned from the NPHPSP assessment results directly into its state strategic priority areas such as improve access to care, increase opportunities for workforce development, and increase use of health information technologies (HIT).

In preparation for SHIP implementation, FDOH is in the process of revamping its performance management data reporting system to increase HIT implementation through quarterly performance improvement reports. FDOH will also use the reporting system to help manage and document activities for public health accreditation.

Specific goals related to improving access to care and developing the public health workforce will also be articulated as FDOH continues to shape its SHIP. As FDOH rewrites their SHIP, their goal is to provide clear guidance on agency priorities based on data.

Success Factors

- 7 Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) was utilized for the state-wide strategic planning process
- 7 Leadership support contributed to agency-wide motivation
- 7 Open communication has led to effective collaboration between state and local health departments

Support of performance improvement activities in agency-wide initiatives is a key strength of the FDOH leadership.

Christine Abarca
Performance Improvement Manager
Florida Department of Health

Essential Public Health Services (EPHS)

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

Related Links and Resources

- 🔗 Florida Department of Health - www.doh.state.fl.us
- 🔗 NPHPSP Overview - www.cdc.gov/nphpsp
- 🔗 Ten Essential Public Health Services - www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/EssentialServices
- 🔗 NPHPSP Online Resource Center - www.phf.org/nphpsp

About NPHPSP and Public Health Foundation (PHF)

The NPHPSP is a national initiative that has developed a set of standardized goals for state and local public health systems and boards of health. PHF administers the NPHPSP Data Reporting Page, the Online Resource Center, and provides technical assistance on performance management, quality improvement, and workforce development.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Christine Abarca at FDOH for providing content for this story. Funding for this story was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under Cooperative Agreement Number 5U38HM000518-03. The contents of this document are solely the responsibility of PHF and do not represent the official views of the sponsor.