

Essential Functions of Public Health

Prepared by Conference of Local Health
Officials Standards Committee as an
orientation to the Minimum Standards for
Local Health Departments in Oregon

Functions or Services

Our standards refer to 10 Essential “Functions” rather than the more common “Services”. This is to avoid confusion with the 5 legislatively required public health services per ORS 431.416.

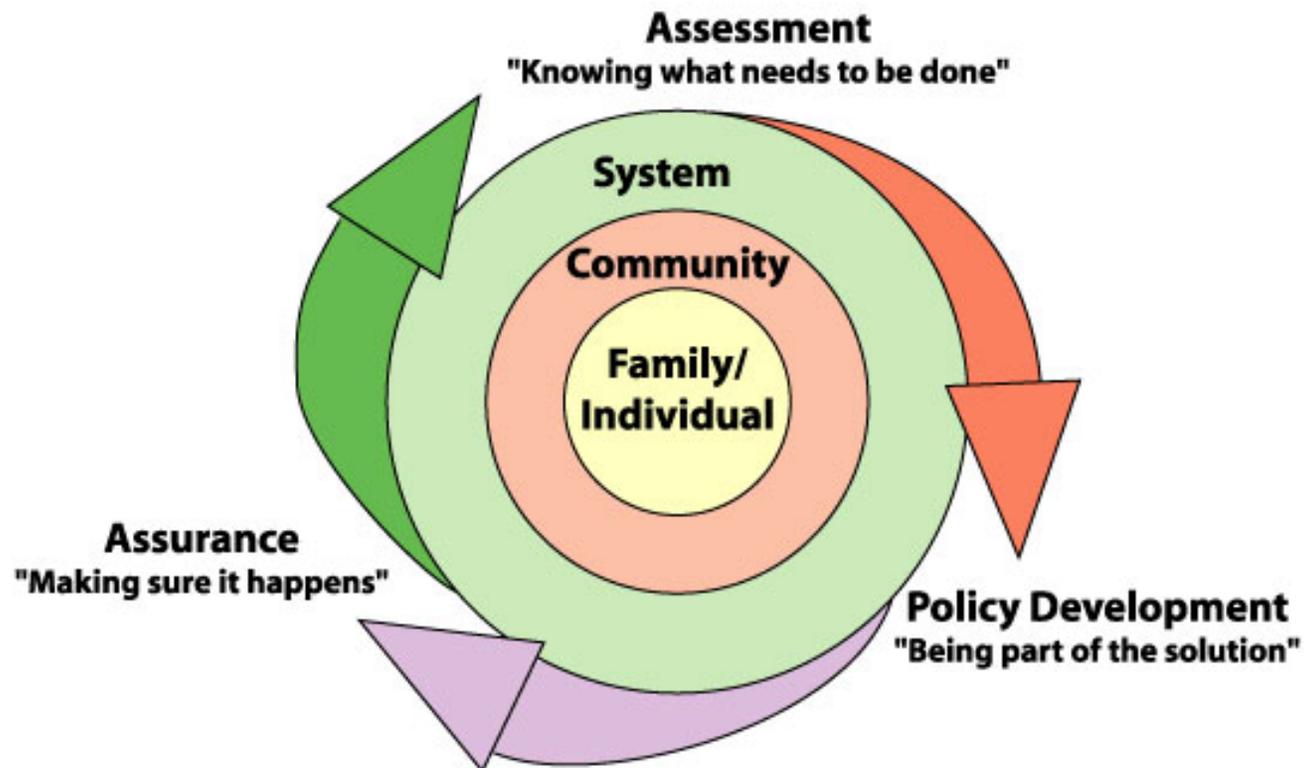
Long Term Goals

- Demonstrate the value and benefits of Essential Public Health Functions to assure a systematic approach to public health in Oregon
- Continuous progress toward meeting the Oregon minimum public health standards
- Clarify the role of local and state Public Health in Public Health Practice
- Align Public Health practice to address contemporary public health issues

Institute of Medicine Report

- 1988: The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report: *The Future of Public Health*
- Focusing on the core functions of public health
 - Assessment, Assurance,
Policy Development

Core Public Health Functions



IOM report primary finding

Public health system in “disarray”

- Chronic under funding
- Fragmented efforts
- Lack of trained resources
- Outdated technology
- Confusing legal authority

IOM report additional findings

- Disjointed policy development
- Fragmented service delivery
- Lack of accountability
- A weakened public health effort

Solutions to the IOM Report

- Communicating the core functions of public health
- Provide consensus on the purpose and practice of public health

Vision of Public Health in America

1994: The Vision of Public Health in America: *“Healthy People in Healthy Communities”*

- The Purpose of Public Health
- The Essential Services (Functions) of Public Health

Adopted: Fall 1994, Source: Public Health Functions Steering Committee, Members (July 1995):
American Public Health Association·Association of Schools of Public Health·Association of State and Territorial Health Officials·Environmental Council of the States·National Association of County and City Health Officials·National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors·National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors·Public Health Foundation·U.S. Public Health Service --Agency for Health Care Policy and Research·Centers for Disease Control and Prevention·Food and Drug Administration·Health Resources and Services Administration·Indian Health Service·National Institutes of Health·Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health·Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The Purpose of Public Health

- To prevent epidemics and the spread of disease
 - To protect against environmental health hazards
 - To prevent injuries
 - To promote and encourage healthy behaviors and mental health
 - To respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery
 - Assure the quality and accessibility of health services
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The Ten Essential Functions of Public Health ...

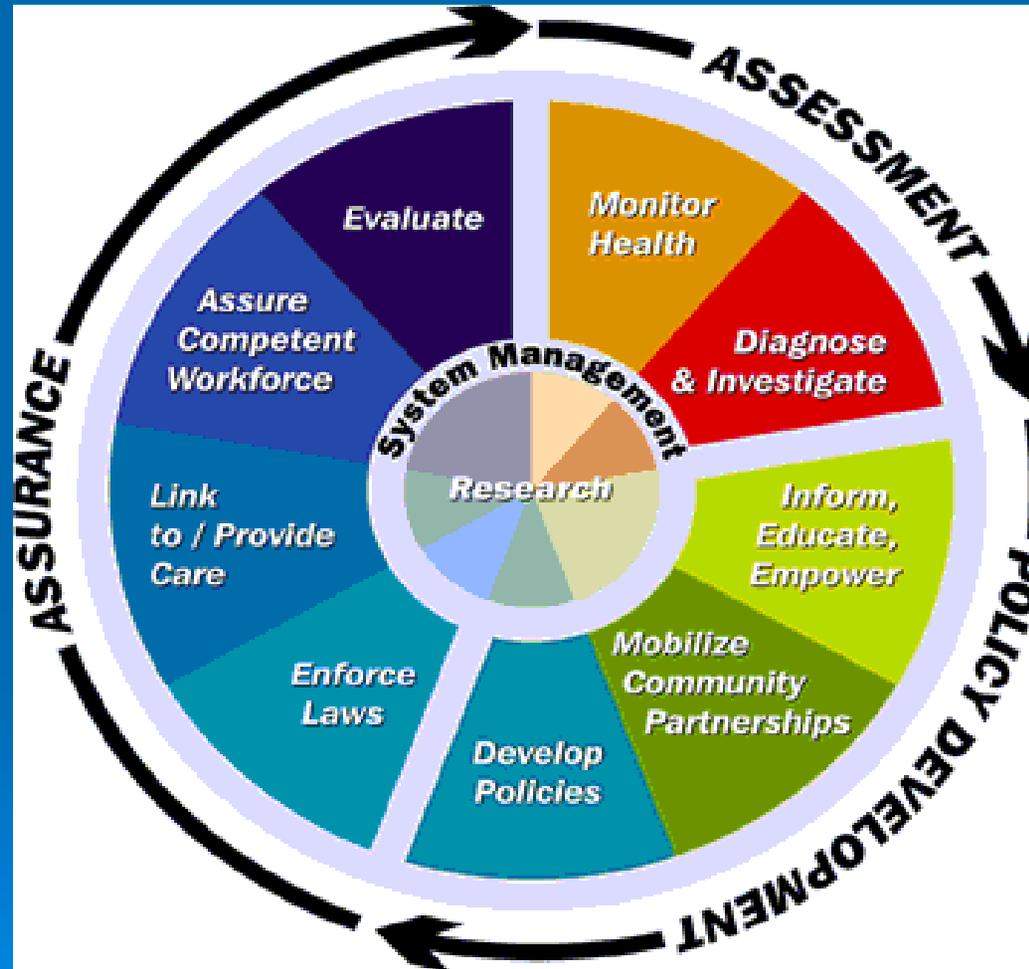
are **activities** which describe how the purpose of public health is achieved. Collectively, they provide a consensus statement on the **basic functions** of public health across the country.



Ten Essential Functions

1. Monitor health
 2. Diagnose & Investigate
 3. Inform, Educate, Empower
 4. Mobilize community partnerships
 5. Develop policies
 6. Enforce laws
 7. Link to / provide care
 8. Assure competent workforce
 9. Evaluate
 10. Research
- 

The linkage of Essential Functions Core Functions



In summary, the Essential Functions...

- Explain how public health is performed
- Clarify the role of public health in the overall health care system
- Provide accountability by linking public health performance to health outcomes

Today

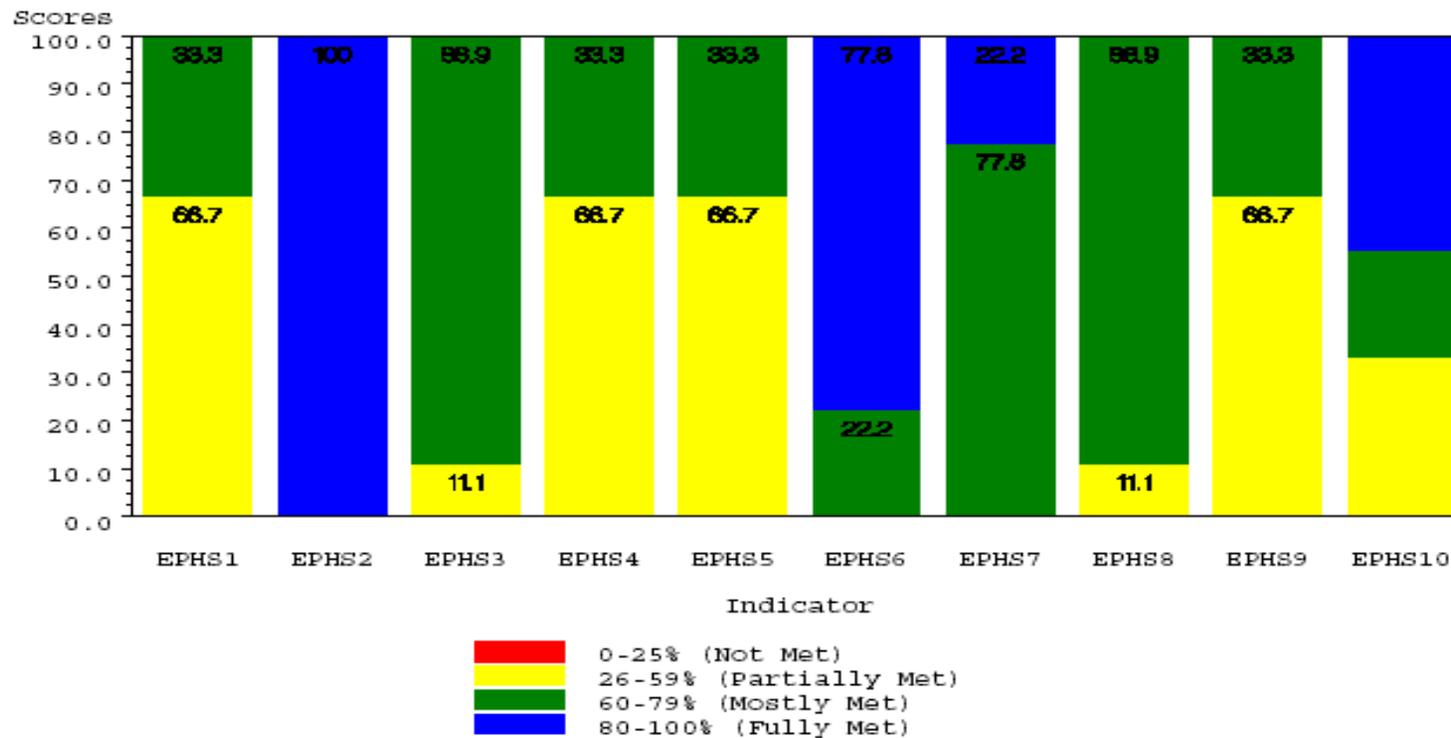
- From the IOM Report (1988) to the Vision of Public Health in America (1994) to the Future of the Public's Health (2002)
- Today: The minimum standards of Public Health in Oregon

Continuing Problems

- Lack of relevant data
- Inadequate workforce
 - Competencies
 - Diversity
 - Leadership
- Lack of understanding about community perceptions, expectations, and needs around public health issues

NPHPSP Local Public Health System Performance Assessment Instrument

System Performance of Essential Public Health Services - Standards Met
 Statewide Report for Oregon State - All Responding Jurisdictions



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Public Health Practice Program Office
 Division of Public Health Systems Development and Research
 National Public Health Performance Standards Program
 1-800-PHPPD-49 or 1-800-747-7649

Therefore, what is needed?

To develop an approach to public health in Oregon that provides a common, consistent and accountable system to protect the public's health

Oregon's Public Health Standards will support:

- Articulating roles and responsibilities of state and local public health agencies and partners
- Developing a comprehensive public health system incorporating ten essential functions into public health practice
- Developing leadership, collaboration and partnership competencies across the Oregon public health system
- Meeting statutorily required definitions of public health standards

Following is an example of Essential Functions in action at the local level courtesy of Wasco Sherman Health Department



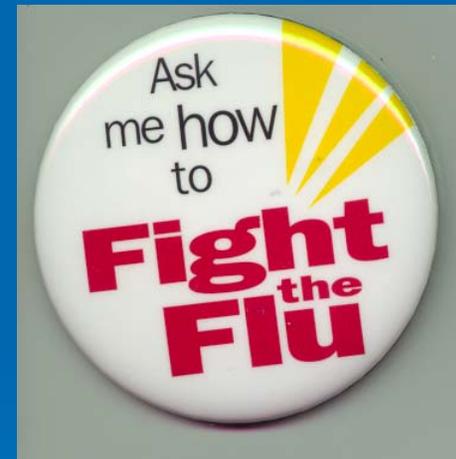
1. Monitors health status of population

- ALERT Immunization Data
- Monitor births & deaths
- Communicable Disease Reports
- Teen pregnancy rates



2. Diagnose & Investigate health problems & hazards

- Influenza, SARS, West Nile Virus, Avian Flu
- Bioterrorism Agents



3. Inform, educate and empower

- Media campaigns-
movie screen ads,
tobacco prevention
billboards
- WIC Nutrition
Education
- School Health
- WIC (Women, Infants
and Children)



4. Mobilizes community for action

- Immunization Coalition
- Car Seat Coalition
- Solid Waste & Household Hazardous Waste Advisory Groups



5. Develops policies & plans

- CLHO (County Local Health Officials)
- Strategic Planning
- Bioterrorism planning



6. Enforce laws to protect health & safety

- Quarantine/isolation
- Disease reporting



7. Link services to vulnerable populations

- La Clinica del Carino
- NORCOR



8. Assure competent PH workforce

- Bioterrorism training



9. Evaluate performance, effectiveness, and outcomes

- All programs
- Continual Improvement strategies



10. Research new insights solutions

- 100% access to prenatal care
- Prenatal partnership
 - Mid Columbia Medical Center
 - Columbia River Women's Clinic
 - Health Department



2003 Oregon Standards Revision

- Revised from prior categorical standards to incorporate national public health standards reflecting the Ten Essential Functions
- Approved by Conference of Local Health Officials Executive Committee, July 2003
- Approved by Department of Human Services, Health Services, October 2003
- Developed Communication and Implementation plan, October 2003
- Posted on DHS website, October 2003

Public Health Standards Next Steps

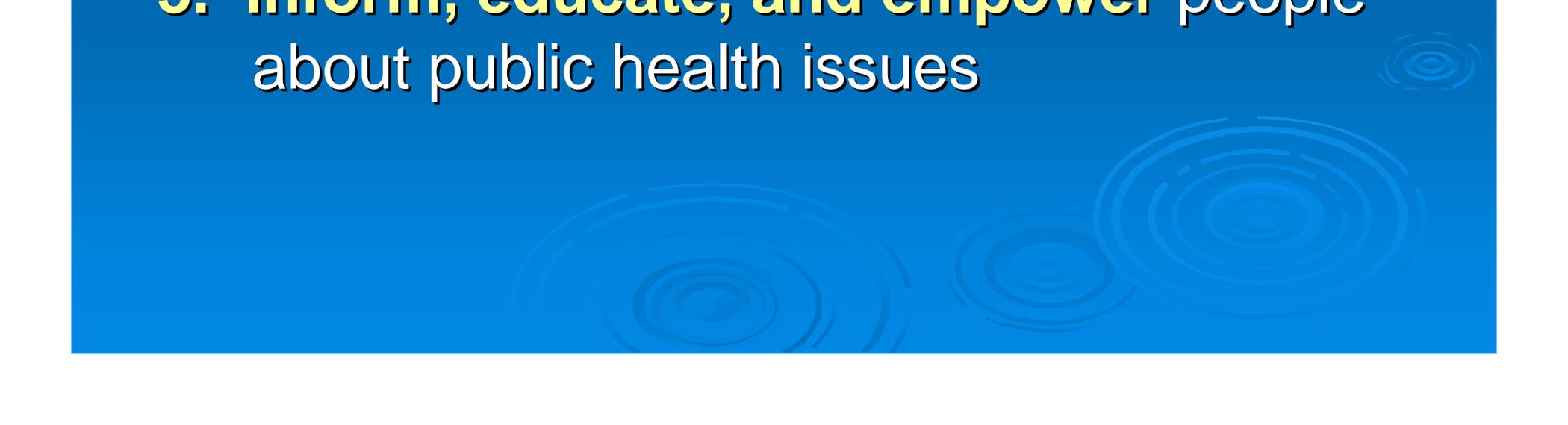
- Develop a training module to orient:
 - 1. CLHO Committees and Caucuses
 - 2. Local Health Department Administrators and Supervisors
 - 3. DHS/Public Health Services
- Develop a plan for incorporating the Essential Functions into practice

Next Steps Continued

➤ Engage Public Partners:

1. Association of Oregon Counties
2. Elected Officials
3. Local Governmental Advisory Committee
4. Schools of Public Health and higher education
6. Public Health Advisory Boards

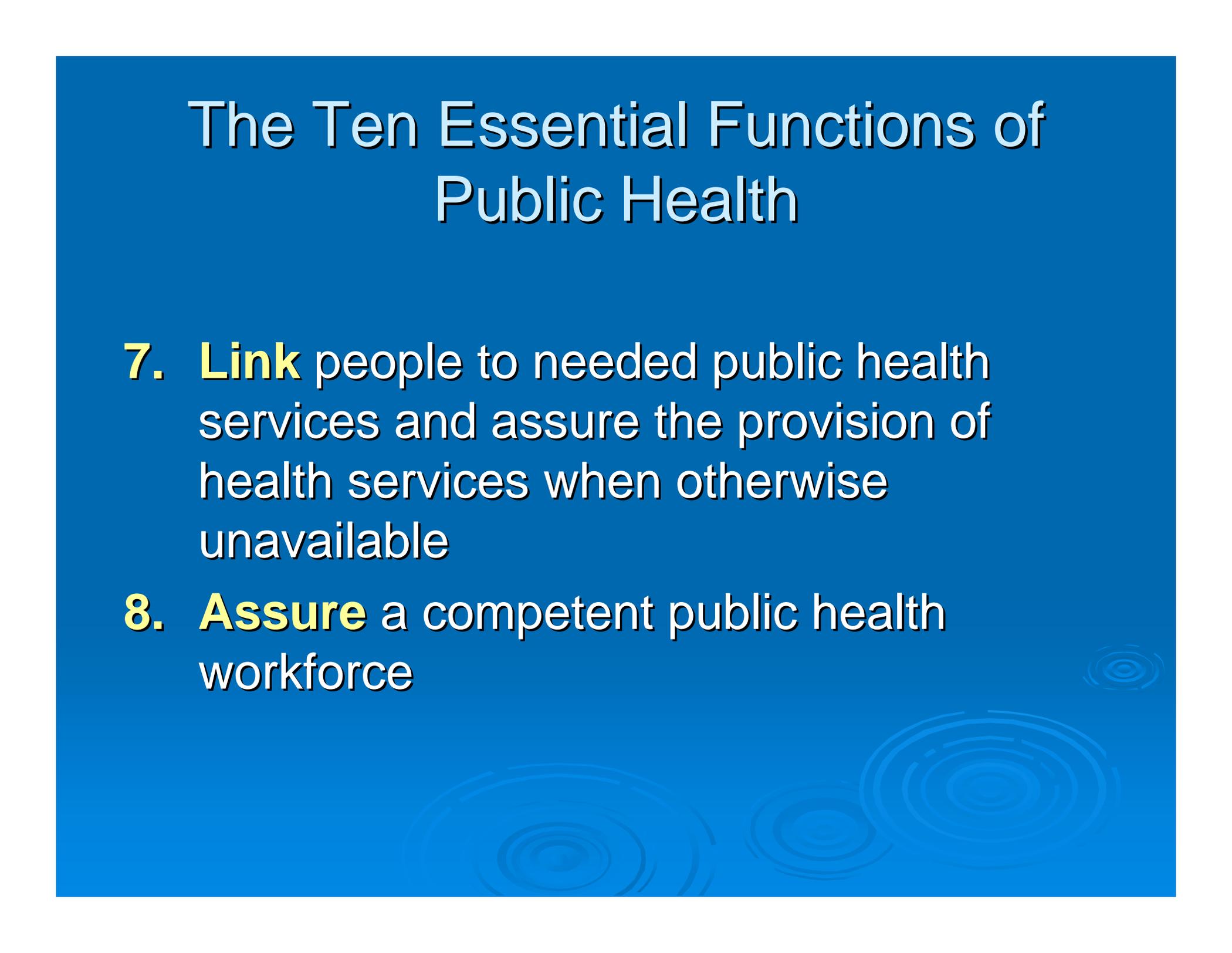
The Ten Essential Functions of Public Health

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community public health issues
 2. **Diagnose and investigate** public health problems and health hazards in the community
 3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about public health issues
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The Ten Essential Functions of Public Health

4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve public health problems
 5. **Develop** policies and plans that support individual and community public health efforts
 6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
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The Ten Essential Functions of Public Health

7. **Link** people to needed public health services and assure the provision of health services when otherwise unavailable
 8. **Assure** a competent public health workforce
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The Ten Essential Functions of Public Health

- 9. Evaluate** the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population based public health services.
 - 10. Conduct** research for new insights and innovative solutions to public health problems and issues.
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ESSENTIAL FUNCTION #2: DIAGNOSE AND INVESTIGATE HEALTH PROBLEMS AND HEALTH HAZARDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Standard 2.1

Public health systems have a plan for responding to disease outbreaks and environmental emergencies

CAPACITY OUTCOME MEASURE	LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURE	STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESOURCES NEEDED	EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS	CITATION
<p>Identification and response to the following public health emergencies is timely and appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Communicable disease outbreaks ♦ Environmental contamination ♦ Natural disaster ♦ Chemical or biological hazards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain a 24/7 system for reporting and responding to public health emergencies ▪ Conduct emergency preparedness exercises periodically and upgrade response plans as needed ▪ Investigate deaths of public health significance in coordination with medical examiner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain a system for investigating public health emergencies that includes clinical and environmental lab testing ▪ Participate in emergency preparedness exercises ▪ Provide technical assistance on emergency response standards and epidemiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written policies and procedures describe the role and responsibilities of state and local staff when responding to a public health emergency ▪ Policies and procedures for reporting emergencies ▪ A statewide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency Operations Plan ▪ Health Alert Network Plan ▪ Written agreements with local emergency management and public safety agencies ▪ Evidence that interventions are based on reliable data ▪ Documentation of emergency response exercises 	<p>431 33-019-000 through</p>

CAPACITY OUTCOME MEASURE	LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURE	STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESOURCES NEEDED	EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS	CITATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inform citizens of actual and potential health threats ▪ Conduct population health risk behavior surveys and publish results ▪ Use data when selecting interventions to mitigate environmental hazards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inform citizens of actual and potential threats and how to report emergencies ▪ Conduct population health risk behavior surveys and publish results 	<p>surveillance system that is integrated with local and national surveillance systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership with local emergency management, medical examiner, and public safety agencies 		

ESSENTIAL FUNCTION #5: DEVELOP POLICIES AND PLANS THAT SUPPORT INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH EFFORTS

Standard 5.1

An organized, identified public health authority exists for every county

CAPACITY OUTCOME MEASURE	LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURE	STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESOURCES NEEDED	EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS	CITATION
The public health authority fulfills responsibility for delivering essential functions of public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Involve constituents in achieving and monitoring health objectives and evaluating improvement in community health status ▪Develop and manage a local operating budget that reflects priorities ▪Comply with federal, state, and local regulations on accounting practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Involve partners and constituents in developing a strategic plan for improving the state's health ▪Develop and manage a state operating budget that reflects priorities ▪Provide technical assistance and training in strategic planning models, application of health data, criteria for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Policies and procedures enacted within existing legal scope of authority ▪References on accepted accounting practices ▪References on accepted personnel management standards ▪Community planning team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Long range strategic plan with agency objectives for improving the public's health ▪Budget addressing priorities ▪Evidence of community involvement ▪Audit results comply with federal, state, and local regulations 	431.478 431.014 431.385 431.415 431.035 431.045 431.110 431.120 333-014-0050 333-014-0060 33-014-0070(5) OMB Circular A-87 OMB Circular A-102

CAPACITY OUTCOME MEASURE	LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURE	STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESOURCES NEEDED	EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS	CITATION
	<p>and personnel management systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify, collect and analyze data to evaluate policies and plans and disseminate the results ▪ A local Board of Health meets regularly to approve public health policies 	<p>selecting strategies to address public health priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comply with federal, state, and local regulations on accounting practices and personnel management systems ▪ Coordinate and integrate data collection and analysis to improve local and state analysis of policies and plans 			

Standards Website

<http://www.healthoregon.org/lhd/stnds992.pdf>