

*Public Health  
Department  
Accreditation and the  
Public Health Nurse*



Kaye Bender, President and CEO  
Public Health Accreditation Board  
North Dakota Public Health Nursing Conference  
Bismarck, ND  
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www.phnurse.org

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### Objectives

- Discuss the current status of national public health accreditation.
- Describe lessons learned to date from early data on the benefits of accreditation.
- Discuss the relationship between public health nursing and accreditation.
- Describe the role of the public health nurse in accreditation.



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### Current Status

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**Public Health Accreditation Board**

PHAB is national accrediting organization for **public health departments**:

- **State** health departments
- **Local** (city, county, regional) health departments
- **Tribal** health departments
- **Territorial** health departments



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**Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)**

*The goal of the voluntary national accreditation program is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments.*



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**What is Public Health Accreditation?**

- The measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards.
- The issuance of recognition of achievement of accreditation within a specified time frame by a nationally recognized entity.
- The continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.



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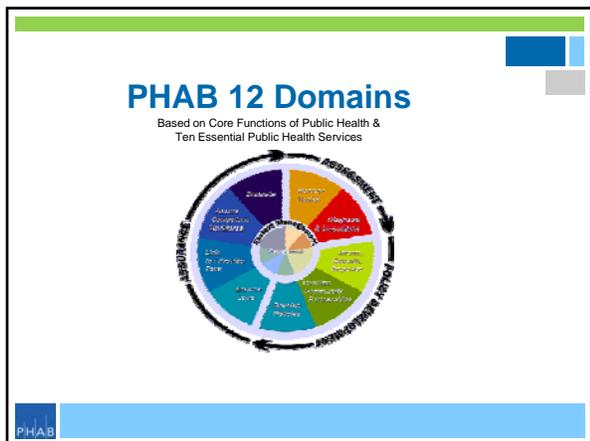
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- ### Twelve Domains
- ✓ Conduct assessments focused on population health status and health issues facing the community
  - ✓ Investigate health problems and environmental public health hazards to protect the community
  - ✓ Inform and educate about public health issues and functions
  - ✓ Engage with the community to identify and solve health problems
  - ✓ Develop public health policies and plans
  - ✓ Enforce public health laws and regulations
  - ✓ Promote strategies to improve access to healthcare services
  - ✓ Maintain a competent public health workforce
  - ✓ Evaluate and continuously improve processes, programs, and interventions
  - ✓ Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health
  - ✓ Maintain administrative and management capacity
  - ✓ Build a strong and effective relationship with governing entity
- PHAB

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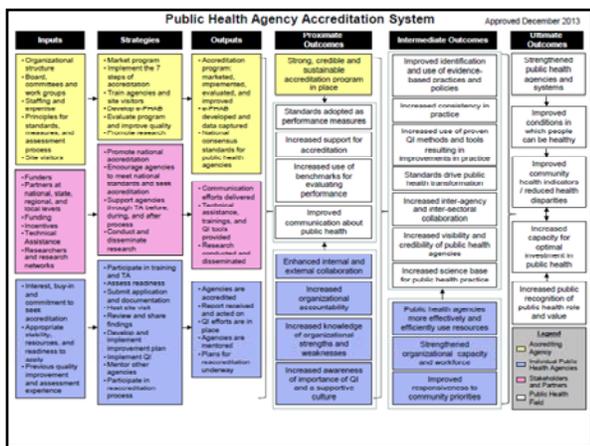
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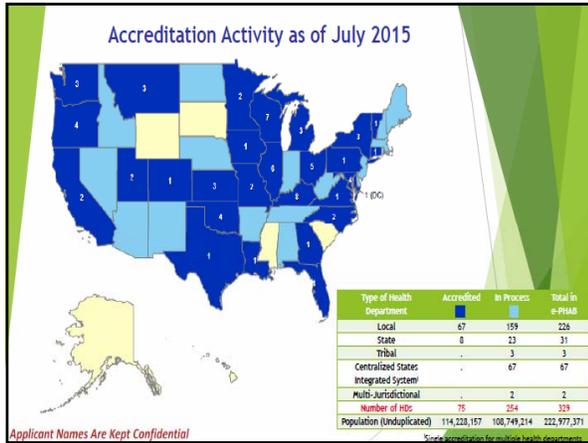
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### Special Emphasis in 2015

- Public Health and Health Care Intersection
- Vital Records/Statistics Customization
- Army Public Health Customization
- Small/rural/frontier
- QI Leaders Academy
- Foundational capabilities

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### Why Were The Initial Health Departments Interested in Accreditation?

- Transparency and Accountability
- Most other governmental and health related services are accredited: hospitals, schools, child care centers, police departments, fire departments, etc.
- Provides a priority setting framework
- Commitment to improving their services

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**Why Were The Initial Health Departments Interested in Accreditation?**

- Increased public engagement and support
- Increased staff morale
- Risk Management
- Potential for increased funding in the future; already using their accreditation certificate in grant proposals

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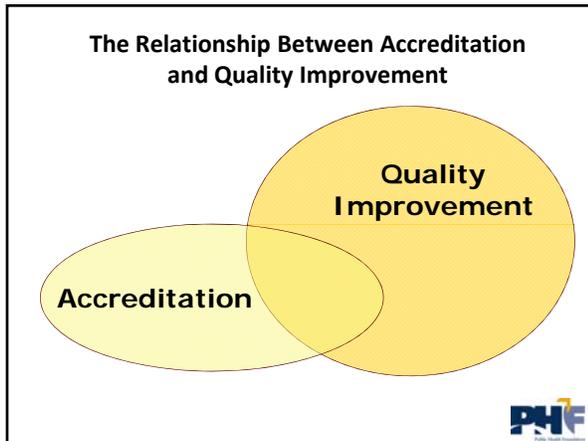
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**Lessons Learned to Date**

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## Free Online Issue of JPHMP

Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, January/February 2014 Issue totally dedicated to accreditation. It's free online at [www.jphmp.com](http://www.jphmp.com)



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## Early Evaluation Results

- 97% of health departments that have had their PHAB site visit strongly agree that "Going through the accreditation process has improved the performance of our health department."<sup>^</sup>
- According to HDs that have had their site visit, accreditation:
  - Identifies strengths and areas for improvement
  - Strengthens internal and external partnerships
  - Encourages HDs to prioritize and address long-standing concerns
  - Acts as a "stimulus...for continuous quality improvement and performance management in our daily practice"

<sup>^</sup> From PHAB evaluation of 33 health departments.

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## Early Evaluation Results

- Among health departments applying for accreditation, 95% or more believe that accreditation will:\*
  - Stimulate quality and performance improvement opportunities
  - Allow HD to better identify strengths and weaknesses
  - Improve management processes
  - Stimulate greater accountability and transparency within HD

\* From NORC at the University of Chicago evaluation survey of 62 health departments that have applied for accreditation.

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### Early Evaluation Results

- Health departments also reported the following motivators for applying for accreditation^
  - Accountability to external stakeholders
  - Documentation of HD's capacity to deliver the 3 core functions and 10 Essential Public Health Services
  - Credibility of HD within community
  - Relationships with community stakeholders
  - Competiveness for funding opportunities
  - Communication with governing entity

^From NORC at the University of Chicago evaluation survey of 62 health departments that have applied for accreditation.



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### Late Breaking Accreditation Evaluation Information



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### Public Health Nurses and Accreditation



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### Scope & Standards of Public Health Nursing Practice

- Purpose: to document and guide public health nursing practice.
- What it says:
  - Public health nurses focus on population health
  - Incorporate ongoing surveillance and assessment
  - Goals are to promote health & wellness, prevent disease, disability & premature death, and improve quality of life in communities
  - Interventions to address health priorities are performed through the identification, implementation and evaluation of evidence based programs and services

PHAB American Nurses Association. (2013). Scope and standards of practice: Public health nursing. Silver Spring, MD: Nurse Books.

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### Scope & Standards of Public Health Nursing Practice

- Core Public Health Functions (3 functions)
- Principles of Public Health Nursing Practice (8 principles)
- Essential Public Health Services (10 services)
- Core Competencies for Public Health Nursing Practice (8 Domains)
- ANA Standards of Public Health Nursing Practice (17 Standards)

PHAB American Nurses Association. (2013). Scope and standards of practice: Public health nursing. Silver Spring, MD: Nurse Books.

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### Core Competencies for Public Health Nurses

- Domain 1: Analysis & Assessment
- Domain 2: Policy Development & Program Planning
- Domain 3: Communication
- Domain 4: Cultural Competency
- Domain 5: Community Dimensions of Practice
- Domain 6: Basic Public Health Sciences
- Domain 7: Financial Planning & Management
- Domain 8: Leadership & Systems Level Thinking

American Nurses Association. (2013). Scope and standards of practice: Public health nursing. Silver Spring, MD: Nurse Books.

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**Public Health Nursing & Accreditation**

<p><b>Accreditation Domains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Monitor Health</li> <li>•Diagnose &amp; Investigate</li> <li>•Inform, Education, Empower             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Mobilize Community Partnerships</li> <li>•Develop Policies</li> <li>•Enforce Laws</li> </ul> </li> <li>•Link to/Provide Care</li> <li>•Assure Competent Workforce             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Evaluate</li> <li>•Research</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Core Competencies Nrsng.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Analysis &amp; Assessment</li> <li>•Policy Development &amp; Program Planning</li> <li>•Communication</li> <li>•Cultural Competency</li> <li>•Community Dimensions of Practice</li> <li>•Basic Public Health Sciences</li> <li>•Financial Planning &amp; Management</li> <li>•Leadership &amp; Systems Level Thinking</li> </ul>
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**It's All Related**

**The important public health concepts correlate to the prioritized competencies in public health nursing!!**

PHAB American Nurses Association. (2013). Scope and standards of practice: Public health nursing. Silver Spring, MD: Nurse Books.

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**Conclusion**

- The activities, skills, and knowledge of public health nurses relates to the process of accreditation
- Public health nurses model the efforts needed on the local, agency, or national scale to achieve accreditation
- The work of public health nurses contributes to the foundations that prepare health departments to pursue accreditation
- Public health accreditation engages health departments in critical thinking regarding their level of functioning in regards to the established essential services of public health

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**Contributions of Public Health Nurses to Accreditation**

- Committees, expert panels, and think tanks
- Accreditation Coordinators, PM/QI Directors, and other leadership positions
- Working with health department accreditation process before and after accreditation
- Site visitors for PHAB
- Technical assistance providers
- Graduate students

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**Public Health  
Accreditation Board**  
[www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org)  
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**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE PHAB NEWSLETTER**

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**Questions**

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