

# State Public Health System Assessment Results

**Pennsylvania  
Department of Health**

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**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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## Introduction

The State Public Health System Assessment (SPHSA) is a component of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) assessment. It provides a framework to assess the capacity and performance of the state public health system.<sup>1</sup> This assessment can help to identify partners and strengthen partnerships, improve communications, and identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within the public health system. The State Public Health System Assessment includes an assessment of the ten Essential Services.

The revised 10 Essential Public Health Services are:<sup>2</sup>

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve 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 and action 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 competent public 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

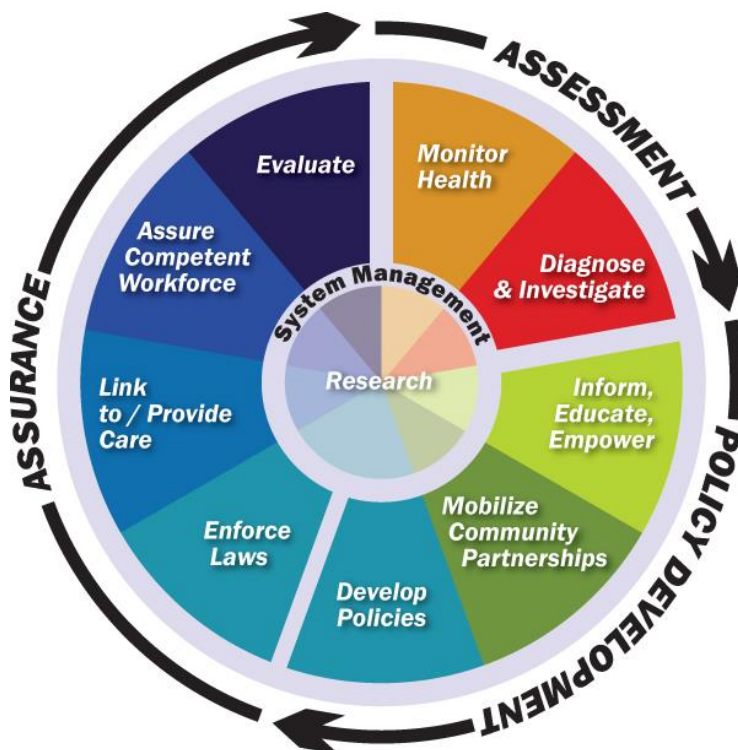


Figure 1: The Ten Essential Public Health Services

## Methods

In July 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Health worked with Harrisburg University to conduct the SPHSA. Information collection was done through a survey using the National Public Health Performance Standards - Version 3.0 guide.<sup>3</sup> The survey was distributed to 148 Healthy Pennsylvania Partnership members and there was a total of 67 responses. The Healthy Pennsylvania Partnership is a multi-sectoral collaboration of partners that identifies key health challenges in the commonwealth and works to solve them. The members include health care professionals, associations, health systems, health and human services organizations, community collaborations, local public health agencies, government agencies, and others.

The evaluation of each Essential Service is organized into four areas known as model standards, which represents the major components or practice areas of the Essential Service. The four model standards included in each Essential Service are:<sup>4</sup>

- 1) Planning and Implementation – focuses on collaborative planning and implementation of key activities to accomplish the Essential Services.
- 2) State-Local Relationships – focuses on assistance, capacity building, and resources that the state public health system provides to local public health systems in efforts to implement the Essential Services.
- 3) Performance Management and Quality Improvement – focuses on the state public health system's efforts to review the effectiveness of its performance and the use of these reviews to continuously improve performance in Essential Service.
- 4) Public Health Capacity and Resources – focuses on how effectively the state public health system invests in and utilizes its human, information, organizational and financial resources to carry out the Essential Services.

Under each model standard, there are assessment questions (referenced as items) which serve as measures of performance.<sup>3</sup> Each item was scored based on the level of activity categorized as 0% (no activity), 25% (minimal activity), 50% (moderate activity), 75% (significant activity) and 100% (optimal activity).

Scores for each individual item, model standard, Essential Service and overall were calculated using Microsoft Excel as follows:

- **Items score:** Each item score was obtained by calculating the average of responses. For example, the score for 1.1.1 was obtained by averaging the responses from the 57 participants who scored the question based on the categories 0=no activity; 25=minimal activity; 50=moderate activity; 75=significant activity; and 100=optimal activity.
- **Score for each Model Standard:** The score for each model standard was obtained by dividing the sum of the scores of the items included in that model standard by the number of questions. For example, there are three questions for model standard 1.1: Planning and Implementation; therefore, the score was obtained by dividing the sum of the scores for each item by 3.
- **Score for each Essential Service:** Scores for each Essential Service was obtained by averaging the scores of the four models. For example, the score for Essential Service #1 was obtained by dividing the sum of the scores for each model standard by 4.
- **Overall score:** The overall score was obtained by averaging the scores of all Essential Services.

Results of the assessment are presented below. For each Essential Service, the scores for each item, model standard, and Essential Service are presented in the following tables. Additionally, charts comparing model standards under each Essential Service are included below.

There is a limitation to consider when interpreting these results. When calculating the scores for each model standard, Essential Service and overall score, each component was given equal weight. Therefore, when interpreting the scores, it is important to look at the individual assessment questions to understand the details.

## Results of the PA State Public Health System Assessment, 2022

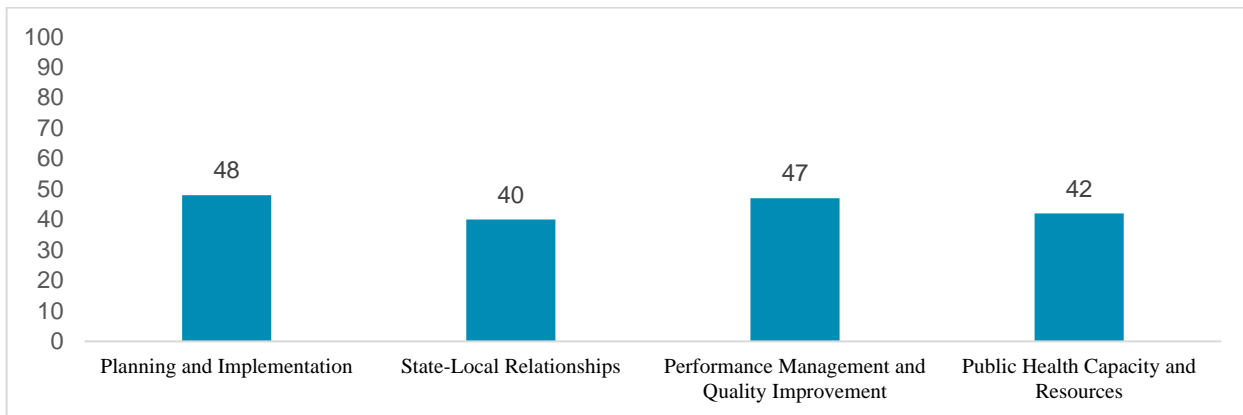
### 1. Essential Public Health Service #1: Monitor Health Status to Identify and Solve Community Health Problems

**Table 1. Essential Service 1 assessment questions and scores**

Essential Public Health Service #1 items	Item score	Model Standard scores	Total respondents
<b>1.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		48	
1.1.1 How well do State Public Health Systems (SPHS) partner organizations maintain data collection and monitoring programs designed to measure the health status of the state's population?	54		57
1.1.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations make health data accessible in useful health data products?	47		56
1.1.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to maintain a data reporting system designed to identify potential public health threats?	43		57
<b>1.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		40	
1.2.1 How well do statewide SPHS partner organizations assist (Example: through training or consultations) local public health systems in the interpretation, use, and dissemination of health-related data?	41		52
1.2.2 How well do partner organizations in the SPHS work collaboratively to regularly provide local public health systems with a uniform set of local health-related data?	40		52
1.2.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical support and assistance to local public health systems in the development of information systems needed to monitor health status at the local level?	38		52
<b>1.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		47	

1.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to review the effectiveness of their efforts to monitor health status?	46		49
1.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in health status monitoring?	47		50
<b>1.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		42	
1.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to commit financial resources to health status monitoring efforts?	33		45
1.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to monitor health status?	41		46
1.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to carry out health status monitoring activities?	51		45
<b>Essential Public Health Service #1 overall score</b>		<b>44</b>	

**Figure 2: Average Scores of Model Standards of Essential Public Health Service #1**



**2. Essential Public Health Service #2: Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community**

**Table 2. Essential Service 2 assessment questions and scores**

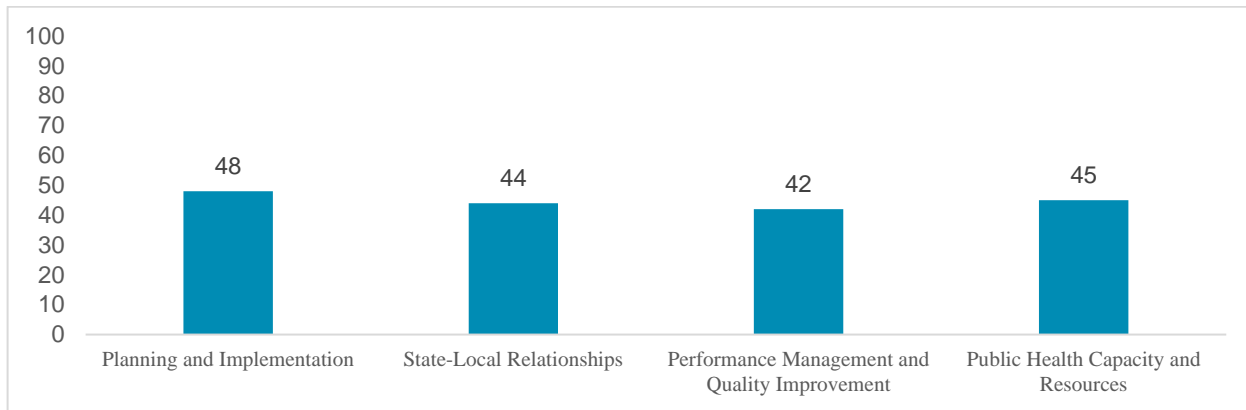
Essential Public Health Service #2 items	Item score	Model Standard scores	Total respondents
<b>2.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		48	
2.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations operate surveillance and epidemiology activities that	53		41



identify and analyze health problems and threats to the health of the state's population?			
2.1.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations maintain the capability to rapidly initiate enhanced surveillance when needed for a statewide/regional health threat?	45		40
2.1.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations organize their private and public laboratories (within the state and outside of the state) into a well-functioning laboratory system?	41		37
2.1.4 How well do SPHS partner organizations maintain in-state laboratories with the capacity to analyze clinical and environmental specimens in the event of suspected exposure or disease outbreak?	45		38
2.1.5 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to respond to identified public health threats?	57		39
<b>2.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		44	
2.2.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide assistance (through consultations and/or training) to local public health systems in the interpretation of epidemiologic and laboratory findings?	40		36
2.2.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide local public health systems with information and guidance about public health problems and potential public health threats (Examples: health alerts, consultations)?	48		39
<b>2.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		42	
2.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations periodically review the effectiveness of the state surveillance and investigation system?	41		39
2.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in diagnosing and investigating health problems and hazards?	42		39
<b>2.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		45	
2.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to commit financial resources to support the diagnosis and investigation of health problems and hazards?	39		37
2.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to diagnose and investigate health hazards and problems?	44		36
2.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to identify and analyze public health threats and hazards?	53		37
<b>Essential Public Health Service #2 overall score</b>		<b>45</b>	



**Figure 3: Average Scores of Model Standards or Essential Public Health Service #2**



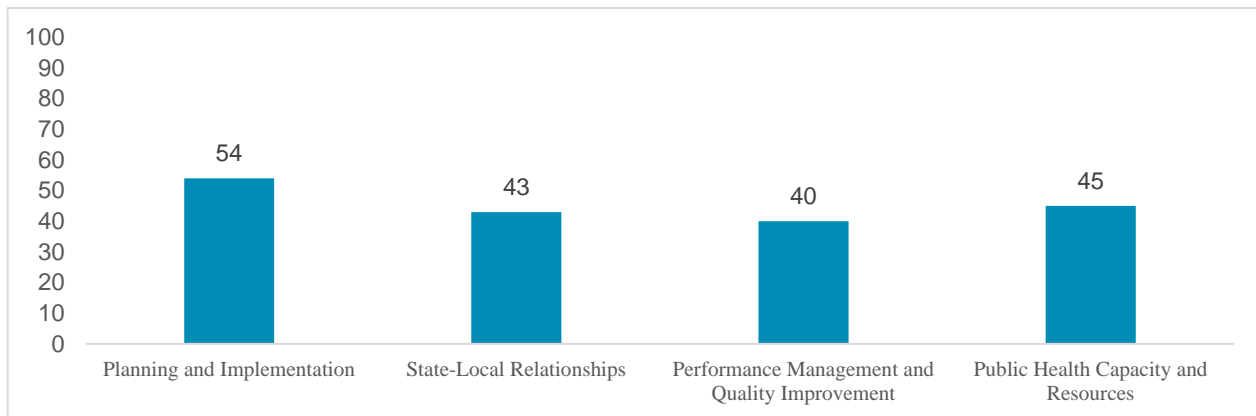
**3. Essential Public Health Service #3: Inform, Educate, and Empower People about Health Issues**

**Table 3. Essential Service 3 assessment questions and scores**

Essential Public Health Service #3 items	Item score	Model Standard scores	Total respondents
<b>3.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		54	
3.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations implement health education programs and services designed to promote healthy behaviors?	55		37
3.1.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations implement health promotion initiatives and programs designed to reduce health risks and promote better health?	56		36
3.1.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations implement health communications designed to enable people to make healthy choices?	52		36
3.1.4 How well do SPHS partner organizations maintain a crisis communications plan to be used in the event of an emergency?	52		37
<b>3.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		43	
3.2.1 How well do statewide SPHS partner organizations provide technical support and assistance to local public health systems (through consultations, training, and/or policy changes) to develop skills and strategies to conduct health communication, education, and promotion?	40		38
3.2.2 How well do statewide SPHS partner organizations support and assist local public health systems in developing effective emergency communications capabilities?	46		37
<b>3.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		40	
3.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations periodically review the effectiveness of health communication, education, and promotion services?	39		38

3.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance to inform, educate, and empower people about health issues?	40		36
<b>3.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		45	
3.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to commit financial resources to health communication, education, and promotion efforts?	38		36
3.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to implement health communication, education, and promotion services?	39		37
3.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to carry out effective health communication, education, and promotion services?	57		38
<b>Essential Public Health Service #3 overall score</b>		<b>45</b>	

**Figure 4: Average Scores of Model Standards for Essential Public Health Service #3**



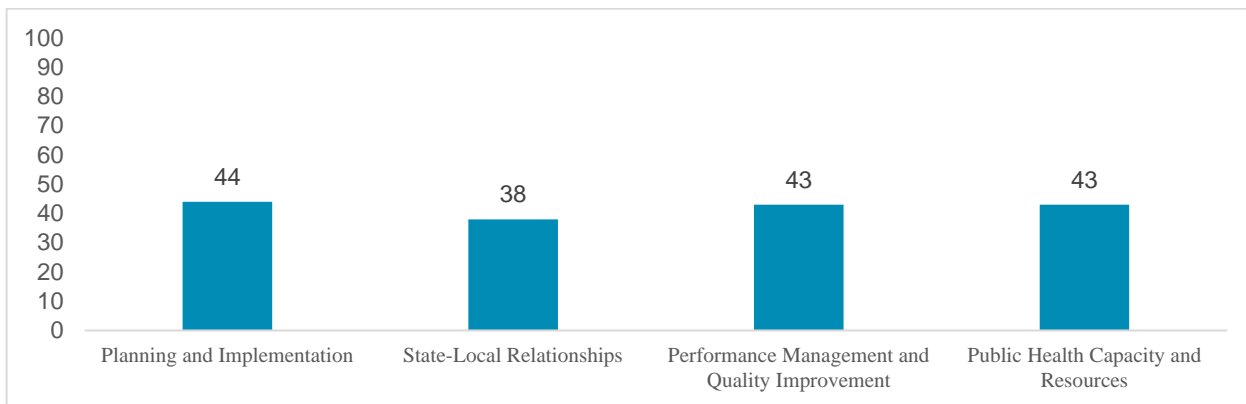
#### 4. Essential Public Health Service #4: Mobilize Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems

**Table 4. Essential Service 4 assessment questions and scores**

Essential Public Health Service #4 items	Item score	Model Standard scores	Total respondents
<b>4.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		44	
4.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations mobilize task forces, ad hoc study groups, and coalitions to build statewide support for public health issues?	44		37
4.1.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations organize formal sustained partnerships to identify and solve health problems?	43		37
<b>4.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		38	

4.2.1 How well do statewide SPHS partner organizations provide assistance (through consultations and/or trainings) to local public health systems to build partnerships for community health improvement?	40		35
4.2.2 How well do statewide SPHS partner organizations provide incentives for broad-based local public health system partnerships (instead of only single-issue task forces) through grant requirements, financial incentives, and/or resource sharing?	35		35
<b>4.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		43	
4.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations review their partnership development activities?	43		37
4.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in partnership activities?	No data		
<b>4.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		43	
4.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations commit financial resources to sustain partnerships?	36		55
4.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to mobilize partnerships?	39		36
4.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to carry out partnership development activities?	55		37
<b>Essential Public Health Service #4 overall score</b>		<b>42</b>	

**Figure 5: Average Scores of Model Standards for Essential Public Health Service #4**



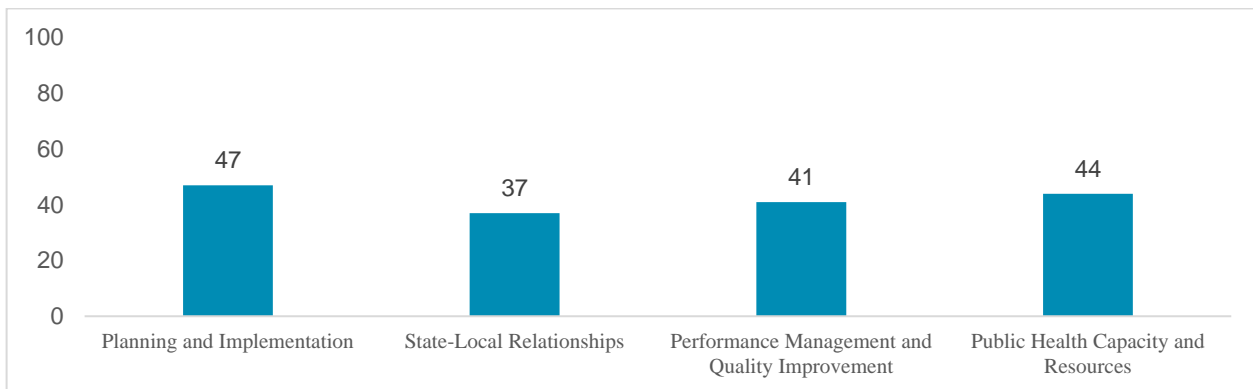
## 5. Essential Public Health Service #5: Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Statewide Health Effort

**Table 5. Essential Service 5 assessment questions and scores**

<b>Essential Public Health Service #5 items</b>	<b>Item score</b>	<b>Model Standard scores</b>	<b>Total respondents</b>
<b>5.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		47	
5.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations implement statewide health improvement processes that convene partners and facilitate collaboration among organizations to improve health and the public health system?	44		36
5.1.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations develop one or more state health improvement plan(s) to guide their collective efforts to improve health and the public health system?	52		37
5.1.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations have in place an all-hazards preparedness plan to guide their activities to protect the state's population in the event of an emergency?	49		35
5.1.4 How well do SPHS partner organizations conduct policy development activities?	41		35
<b>5.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		37	
5.2.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical assistance and training to local public health systems for developing community health improvement plans?	36		33
5.2.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical assistance in the development of local all-hazards preparedness plans for responding to emergency situations?	42		33
5.2.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical assistance in local health policy development?	33		33
<b>5.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		41	
5.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations review progress towards accomplishing health improvement across the state?	46		37
5.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations review new and existing policies to determine their public health impacts (Example: using a health in all policies impact assessment approach)?	37		35
5.3.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations conduct formal exercises and drills of the procedures and protocols linked to its all-hazards preparedness plan and make adjustments based on the results?	43		33
5.3.4 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in statewide planning and policy development?	39		34
<b>5.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		44	

5.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to commit financial resources to health planning and policy development efforts?	39		31
5.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to implement health planning and policy development?	39		32
5.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to carry out planning and policy development activities?	55		33
<b>Essential Public Health Service #5 overall score</b>		<b>42</b>	

**Figure 6: Average Scores of Model Standards for Essential Public Health Service #5**



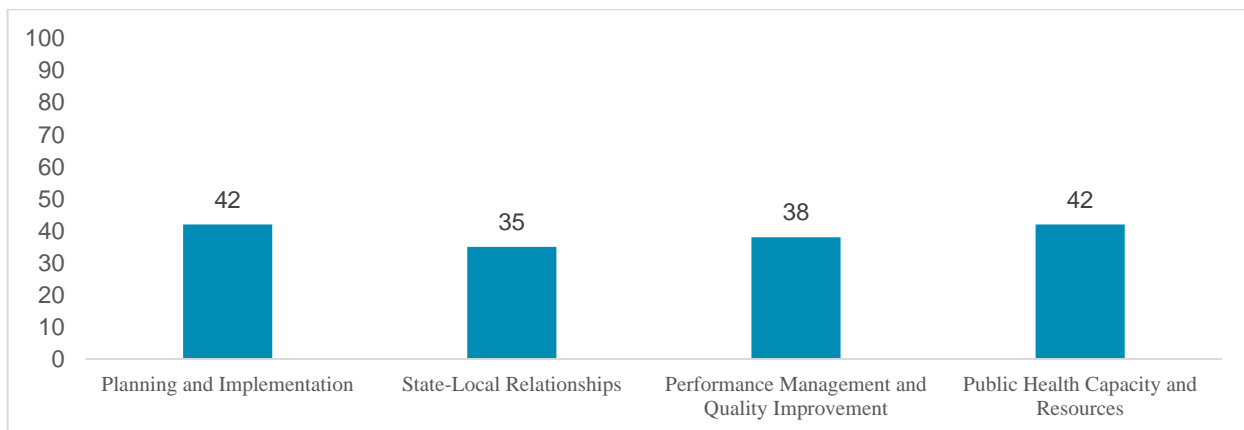
## 6. Essential Public Health Service #6: Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety

**Table 6. Essential Service 6 assessment questions and scores**

Essential Public Health Service #6 items	Item score	Model Standard scores	Total respondents
<b>6.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		42	
6.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations assure that existing and proposed state laws are designed to protect the public health and ensure safety?	43		31
6.1.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations assure that laws give state and local authorities the power and ability to prevent, detect, manage, and contain emergency health threats?	42		31
6.1.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations establish cooperative relationships between regulatory bodies and entities in the regulated environment to encourage compliance and assure that laws accomplish their health and safety purposes (Example: the relationship between the state public health agency and hospitals)?	43		29

6.1.4 How well do SPHS partner organizations ensure that administrative processes are customer-centered (Example: obtaining permits and licenses)?	38		30
<b>6.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		35	
6.2.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical assistance and training to local public health systems on best practices in compliance and enforcement of laws that protect health and ensure safety?	35		31
6.2.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations assist local governing bodies in incorporating current scientific knowledge and best practices in local laws?	34		30
<b>6.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		38	
6.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations review the effectiveness of their regulatory, compliance, and enforcement activities?	37		30
6.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in legal, compliance, and enforcement activities?	38		30
<b>6.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		42	
6.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations commit financial resources to the enforcement of laws that protect health and ensure safety?	35		31
6.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to comply with and enforce laws and regulations?	40		31
6.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to review, develop, and implement public health laws?	51		34
<b>Essential Public Health Service #6 overall score</b>		<b>39</b>	

**Figure 7: Average Scores of Model Standards for Essential Public Health Service #6**



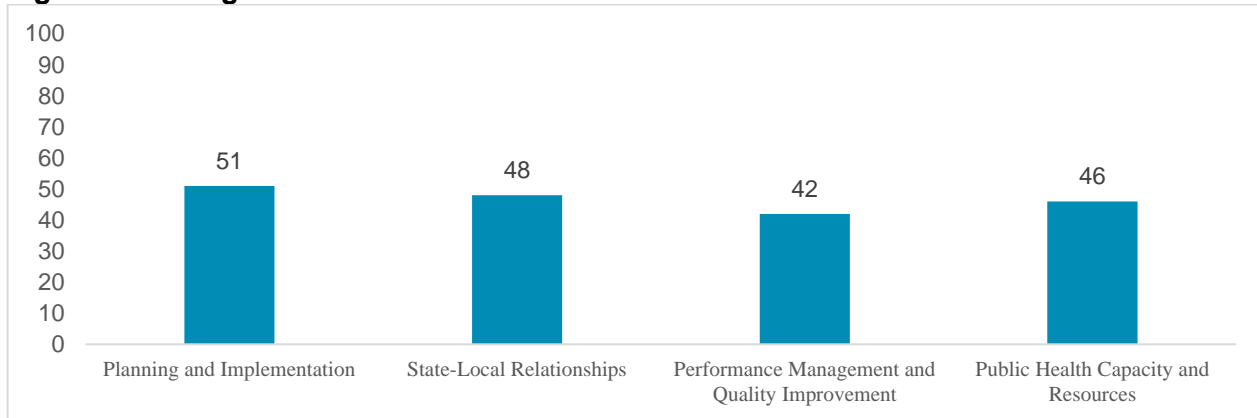
## 7. Essential Public Health Service #7: Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care When Otherwise Unavailable

**Table 7. Essential Service 7 assessment questions and scores**

<b>Essential Public Health Service #7 items</b>	<b>Item score</b>	<b>Model Standard scores</b>	<b>Total respondents</b>
<b>7.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		51	
7.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations assess the availability of and access to personal health services in the state?	47		32
7.1.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively take policy and programmatic action to eliminate barriers to access personal health care services?	47		31
7.1.3 How well does SPHS organizations work together to establish and maintain a statewide health insurance exchange to assure access to insurance coverage for personal health care services?	61		32
7.1.4 How well do SPHS organizations mobilize their assets, including local public health systems, to reduce health disparities in the state?	50		33
<b>7.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		48	
7.2.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical assistance to local public health systems on methods for assessing and meeting the needs of underserved populations?	47		31
7.2.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical assistance to providers who deliver personal health care to underserved populations?	48		31
<b>7.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		42	
7.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to review the quality of personal health care services?	40		31
7.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to review changes in barriers to personal health care?	44		31
7.3.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in linking people to needed personal health care services?	43		30
<b>7.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		46	
7.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to commit financial resources to assure the provision of needed personal health care?	38		30
7.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to provide personal health care?	42		29
7.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to carry out the functions of linking people to needed personal health care?	57		32
<b>Essential Public Health Service #7 overall score</b>		<b>47</b>	



**Figure 8: Average Scores of Model Standards for Essential Public Health Service #7**



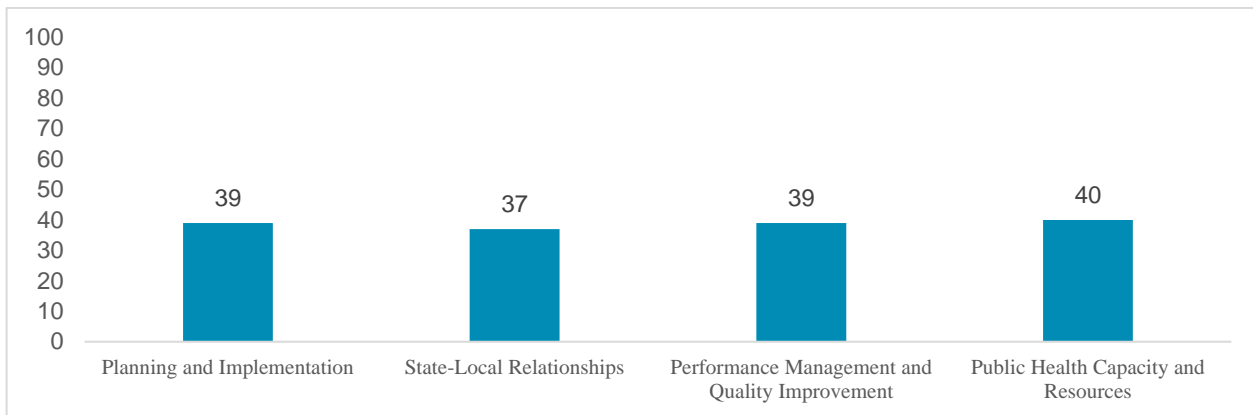
**8. Essential Public Health Service #8: Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce**

**Table 8. Essential Service 8 assessment questions and scores**

Essential Public Health Service #8 items	Item score	Model Standard scores	Total respondents
<b>8.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		39	
8.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to develop a statewide workforce plan that guides improvement activities in population-based workforce development, using results from assessments of the workforce needed to deliver the Essential Services?	38		32
8.1.2 How well do SPHS organizations work together to develop a statewide workforce plan(s) that guides improvement activities in personal health care workforce development, using results from assessments of the workforce needed to deliver effective personal health care services?	38		30
8.1.3 How well do SPHS partner human resources development programs provide training to enhance the technical and professional competencies of the workforce?	36		30
8.1.4 How well do SPHS partner organizations assure that individuals in the population-based and personal health care workforce achieve the highest level of professional practice?	41		29
8.1.5 How well do SPHS partner organizations support initiatives that encourage life-long learning?	43		31
<b>8.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		37	

8.2.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations assist local public health systems in planning for their future needs for population-based and personal health care workforces, based on workforce assessments?	35		29
8.2.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations assist local public health system organizations with workforce development?	39		30
<b>8.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		39	
8.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations review their workforce development activities?	39		28
8.3.2 How well do SPHS academic-practice collaborations evaluate the preparation of personnel entering the SPHS workforce?	40		29
8.3.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in workforce development?	37		28
<b>8.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		40	
8.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations commit financial resources to workforce development efforts?	40		30
8.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to effectively conduct workforce development activities?	40		31
8.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to carry out workforce development activities?	No response		
<b>Essential Public Health Service #8 overall score</b>		<b>39</b>	

**Figure 9: Average Scores of Model Standards for Essential Public Health Service #8**



## 9. Essential Public Health Service #9: Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services

**Table 9. Essential Service 9 assessment questions and scores**

Essential Public Health Service #9 items	Item score	Model Standard scores	Total respondents
<b>9.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		42	
9.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations evaluate the effectiveness of personal health services in the state?	41		29
9.1.2 How well do SPHS organizations evaluate the performance of the state public health system?	41		32
9.1.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations seek appropriate certifications, accreditation, licensure, or other third-party evaluations and designations of high-performing organizations?	48		31
<b>9.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		39	
9.2.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical assistance (Example: consultations, training) to local public health systems in their evaluation activities, including evaluations of population-based and personal health services and the local public health system?	37		28
9.2.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations share results of state-level performance evaluations with local public health systems for use in local planning processes?	41		31
9.2.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations assist their local counterparts to achieve certifications, accreditation, licensure, or other third-party designations of high-performing organizations?	40		31
<b>9.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		35	
9.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to regularly review the effectiveness of their evaluation activities?	34		29
9.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in evaluation activities?	35		29
9.3.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations promote systematic quality improvement processes throughout the state public health system?	36		30
<b>9.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		44	
9.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to commit financial resources for evaluation?	40		29
9.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to conduct evaluations of population-based and individual health care services?	39		29

9.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to carry out evaluation activities?	52		31
<b>Essential Public Health Service #9 overall score</b>		<b>40</b>	

**Figure 10: Average Scores of Model Standards for Essential Public Health Service #9**



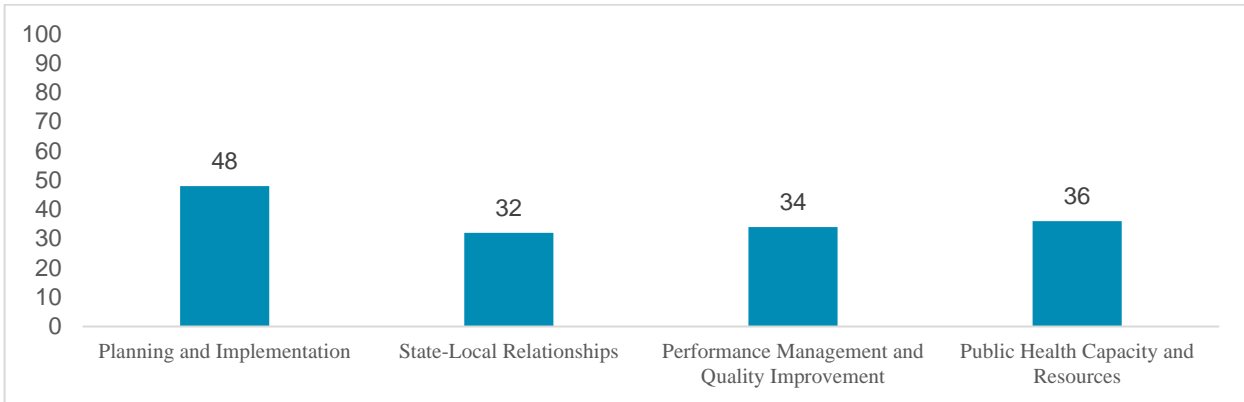
**10. Essential Public Health Service #10: Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems**

**Table 10. Essential Service 10 assessment questions and scores**

Essential Public Health Service #10 items	Item score	Model Standard scores	Total respondents
<b>10.1 Planning and Implementation</b>		48	
10.1.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations organize research activities and disseminate and use innovative research findings in practice, through the work of active academic-practice collaborations?	46		33
10.1.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations participate in and conduct research to discover more effective methods of improving the public’s health?	49		33
<b>10.2 State-Local Relationships</b>		32	
10.2.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations provide technical assistance to local public health systems in research activities?	33		30
10.2.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations assist local public health systems in their use of research findings?	30		30
<b>10.3 Performance Management and Quality Improvement</b>		34	

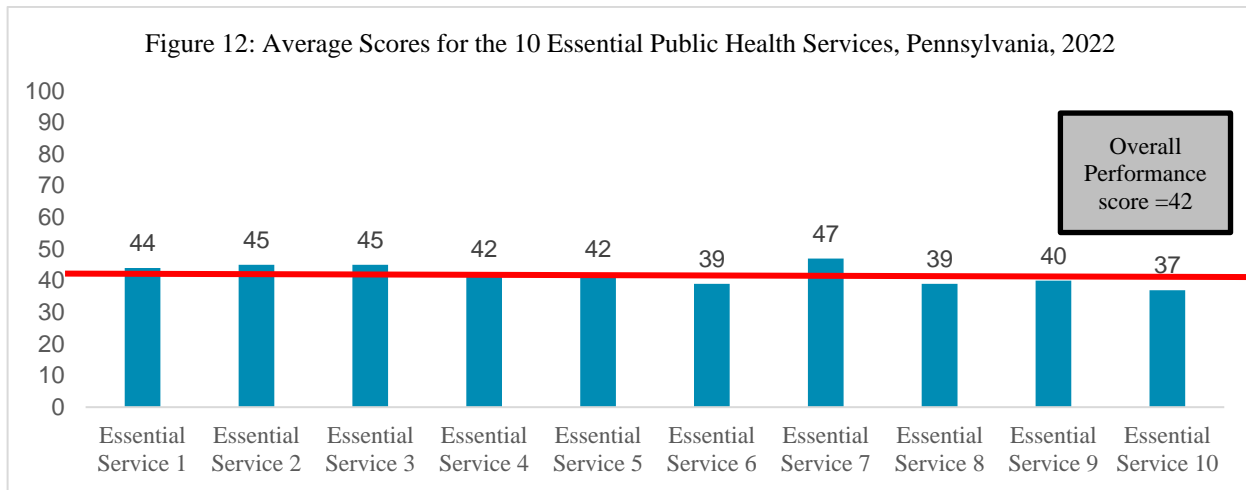
10.3.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to review their public health research activities?	34		31
10.3.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations actively manage and improve their collective performance in research and innovation?	33		30
<b>10.4 Public Health Capacity and Resources</b>		36	
10.4.1 How well do SPHS partner organizations work together to commit financial resources to research relevant to health improvement?	33		29
10.4.2 How well do SPHS partner organizations align and coordinate their efforts to conduct research?	28		31
10.4.3 How well do SPHS partner organizations collectively have the professional expertise to carry out research activities?	48		32
<b>Essential Public Health Service #10 overall score</b>		<b>37</b>	

**Figure 11. Average Scores of Model Standards for Essential Public Health Service #10**

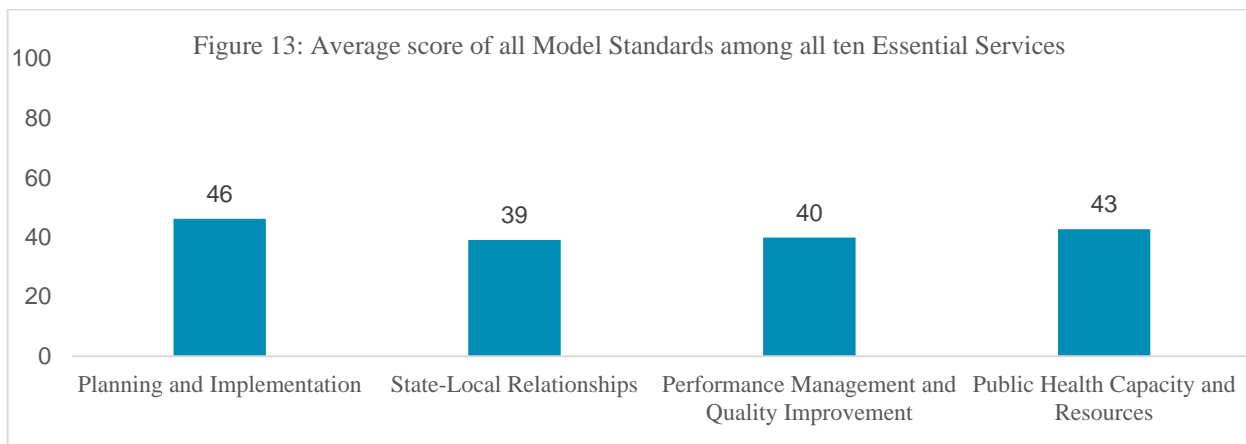


## Average score of all Essential Services

**Figure 12: Average Scores for the 10 Essential Public Health Services**



**Figure 13: Average score of all Model Standards among all ten Essential Services**



**Table 11: Highest scoring and lowest scoring Essential Services**

High scoring essential services	Low scoring essential services
ES 7: Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care When Otherwise Unavailable	ES 10: Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems
ES 3: Inform, Educate, and Empower People about Health Issues	ES 6: Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety
ES 2: Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community	ES 8: Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce

**Table 12: Highest scoring and lowest scoring items across all Essential Services**

High scoring items	Score	Low scoring items	Score
7.1.3 Establish and maintain a statewide health insurance exchange to assure access to insurance coverage	61	10.4.2 Coordinate efforts to conduct research	28
2.1.5 Respond to identified public health threats	57	10.2.2 Assist local public health systems to use research findings	30
3.4.3 Have the professional expertise to carry out effective health communication, education, and promotion services	57	5.2.3 Provide technical assistance in local health policy development	33
7.4.3 Have the professional expertise to carry out the functions of linking people to needed personal health care	57	10.2.1 Provide technical assistance to local public health systems in research activities	33
3.1.2 Implement health promotion initiatives and programs designed to reduce health risks and promote better health	56	10.3.2 Manage and improve collective performance in research and innovation	33
3.1.1 Implement health education programs and services designed to promote healthy behaviors	55	1.4.1 Work together to commit financial resources to health status monitoring efforts	33
4.4.3 Have the professional expertise to carry out partnership development activities	55	10.4.1 Work together to commit financial resources to research relevant to health improvement	33
5.4.3 Have the professional expertise to carry out planning and policy development activities	55	6.2.2 Assist local governing bodies in incorporating current scientific knowledge and best practices in local laws	34
1.1.1 Maintain data collection and monitoring programs	54	9.3.1 Work together to regularly review the effectiveness of evaluation activities	34
2.1.1 Operate surveillance and epidemiology activities that identify and analyze health problems and threats	53	10.3.1 Work together to review their public health research activities	34
2.4.3 Have the professional expertise to identify and analyze public health threats and hazards	53	4.2.2 Provide incentives for broad-based local public health system partnerships	35
3.1.3 Implement health communications designed to enable people to make healthy choices	52	6.2.1 Provide technical assistance and training to local public health systems on best practices in compliance and enforcement of laws that protect health and ensure safety	35



3.1.4 Maintain a crisis communications plan	52	8.2.1 Assist local public health systems in planning for their future needs based on workforce assessments?	35
5.1.2 Develop one or more state health improvement plan(s)	52	9.3.2 Manage and improve collective performance in evaluation activities	35
9.4.3 Have the professional expertise to carry out evaluation activities	52	6.4.1 Commit financial resources to the enforcement of laws that protect health and ensure safety	35
1.4.3 Have the professional expertise to carry out health status monitoring activities	51	8.1.3 Provide training to enhance the technical and professional competencies of the workforce	36

## References

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4. National Public Health Performance Standards - Version 2.0. State Public Health System Performance Assessment- Model Standards. Accessed January 19, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/documents/final-state-ms.pdf>.