

Public Health Core Functions and 10 Essential Services

Core Function 1 – Assessment

Collecting and analyzing information about health problems.

Essential Service #1: Monitor health status to identify community health problems.

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

Core Function 2 – Policy Development

Broad-based consultations with stakeholders to weigh available information and decide which interventions are most appropriate and ensure that the public interest is served by measures that are adopted.

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

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

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

Core Function 3 – Assurance

Promoting and protecting public interests through programs, events, campaigns, regulations and other strategies, and making sure that necessary services are provided to reach agreed upon goals.

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

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

Essential Service #8: Assure a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.

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

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



Sources: The Future of Public Health, Institute of Medicine, 1988.

10 Essential Public Health Services, Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee, 1994.