National Public Health Performance Standards Program

Orientation to the Essential Public Health Services

A little history…

- Three core functions (1988 IOM Report)
  - Assessment
  - Policy Development
  - Assurance
- Core Functions Steering Committee (1994)
  - *Public Health in America* statement

Essential Public Health Services

- Developed by the Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee (1994)
    - Included reps from national organizations and federal agencies
    - Charge: To provide a description and definition of public health
    - Developed the "Public Health in America" statement

Vision:
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Mission:
Promote Physical and Mental Health
and
Prevent Disease, Injury, and Disability

PUBLIC HEALTH IN AMERICA

Public Health

- Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protects against environmental hazards
- Prevents injuries
- Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors
- Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery
- Assures the quality and accessibility of health services

PUBLIC HEALTH IN AMERICA

Essential Services of Public Health

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose and investigate
- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Develop policies and plans

- Enforce laws and regulations
- Link people to needed services / assure care
- Assure a competent workforce
- Evaluate health services
- Research

The Essential Services as a Framework

- Used as a foundation for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) instruments
- Provides a foundation for any public health activity
- Describes public health at both the state and local levels
- NPHPSP Instruments include sections addressing each ES
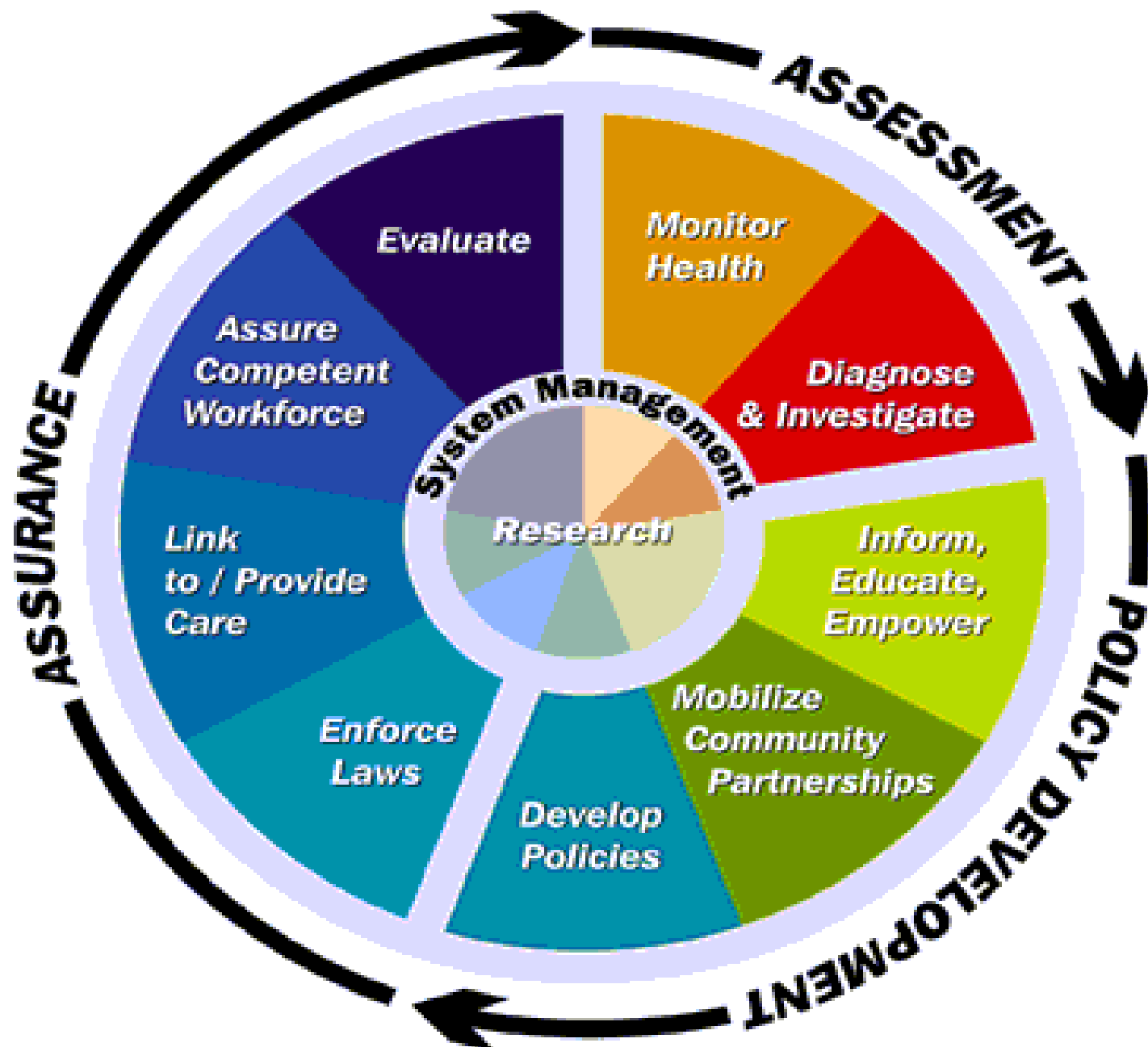
NPHPSP

Assessment Instruments
- State public health system
- Local public health system
- Local governance

Partners
- CDC
- APHA
- ASTHO
- NACCHO
- NALBOH
- NNPHI
- PHF

The EPHS "in English"

1. Understand health issues at the state and community levels *(Or "what's going on in our state/community? Do we know how healthy we are?")*

2. Identify and respond to health problems or threats *(Or "Are we ready to respond to health problems or threats? How quickly do we find out about problems? How effective is our response?")*

3. Keep people informed about health issues and healthy choices. *(Or "How well do we keep all people and segments of our State informed about health issues?")*

The EPHS "in English"

4. Engage people and organizations in health issues. *(Or "How well do we really get people and organizations engaged in health issues?")*

5. Plan and implement sound health policies. *(Or "What policies promote health in our State? How effective are we in planning and in setting health policies?")*

6. Enforce public health laws and regulations. *(Or "When we enforce health regulations are we up-to-date, technically competent, fair and effective?")*

The EPHS "in English"

7. Make sure people receive the medical care they need. *(Or "Are people receiving the medical care they need?")*

8. Maintain a competent public health and medical workforce. *(Or "Do we have a competent public health staff? How can we be sure that our staff stays current?")*

9. Evaluate and improve programs. *(Or "Are we doing any good? Are we doing things right? Are we doing the right things?")*

10. Support innovation and identify and use best practices. *(Or "Are we discovering and using new ways to get the job done?")*

Monitor Health to Identify and Solve Community Health Problems

- Accurate, periodic assessment of the community's health status, including:
  - Identification of health risks
  - Attention to vital statistics and disparities
  - Identifications of assets and resources
- Utilization of methods and technology (e.g., GIS) to interpret and communicate data
- Population health registries

Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Hazards in the Community

- Timely identification and investigation of health threats
- Availability of diagnostic services, including laboratory capacity
- Response plans to address major health threats
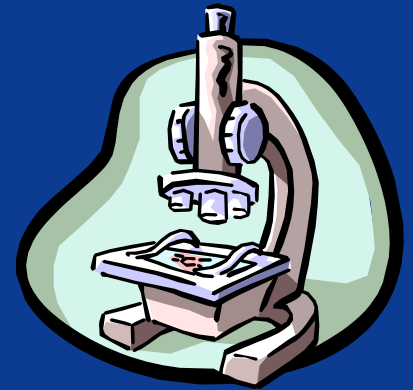
Inform, Educate, and Empower People About Health Issues

- Initiatives using health education and communication sciences to:
    - Build knowledge and shape attitudes
    - Inform decision-making choice
    - Develop skills and behaviors for healthy living
- Health education and health promotion partnerships within the community to support healthy living
- Media advocacy and social marketing
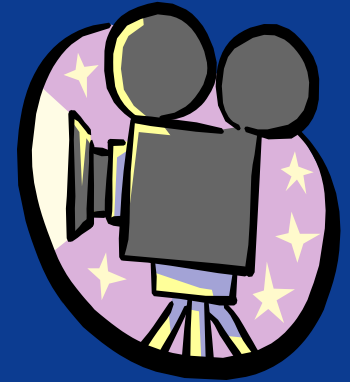
Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems

- Constituency development and identification of system partners and stakeholders

- Coalition development

- Formal and informal partnerships to promote health improvement
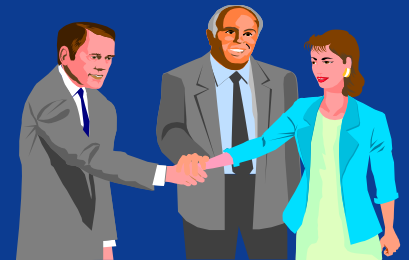
Develop Policies and Plans That Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

- Policy development to protect health and guide public health practice

- Community and state planning

- Alignment of resources to assure successful planning

# Enforce Laws and Regulations That Protect Health and Ensure Safety
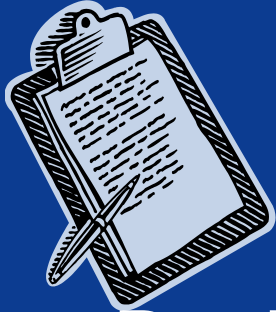
- Review, evaluation, and revision of legal authority, laws, and regulations

- Education about laws and regulations

- Advocating of regulations needed to protect and promote health

- Support of compliance efforts and enforcement as needed

Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable

- Identifying populations with barriers to care
- Effective entry into a coordinated system of clinical care
- Ongoing care management
- Culturally appropriate and targeted health information for at risk population groups
- Transportation and other enabling services
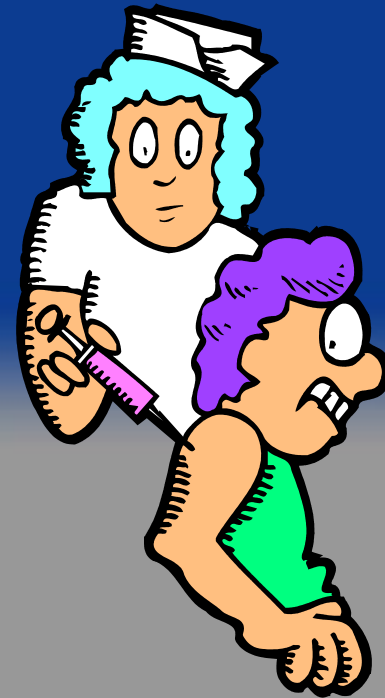
Assure a Competent Public and Personal Healthcare Workforce

- Assessment of the public health and personal health workforce
- Maintaining public health workforce standards
  - Efficient processes for licensing / credentialing requirements
  - Use of public health competencies
- Quality improvement and life-long learning
  - Leadership development
  - Cultural competence
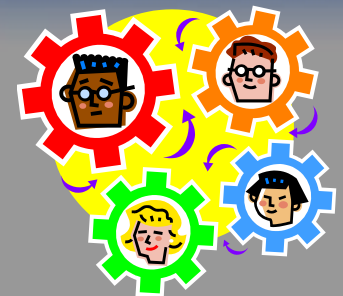
Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-based Health Services

- Evaluation answers
  - Are we doing things right?
  - Are we doing the right things?
- Evaluation must be ongoing and should examine:
  - Personal health services
  - Population based services
  - The public health system
- Evaluation should drive resource allocation and program improvement

Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems

- Identification and monitoring of innovative solutions and cutting-edge research to advance public health

- Linkages between public health practice and academic / research settings

- Epidemiological studies, health policy analyses and health systems research.