

**Small Area Health Data Needs,  
Challenges, and Possibilities  
from the Lens of  
Public Health Department  
Accreditation**



*Advancing  
public health  
performance*

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# Describing the Lens

- The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is the national, non-profit organization that administers accreditation for state, local, tribal and territorial health departments.
- Located in Alexandria, VA; incorporated in 2007.
- Besides the health departments that are still going through initial accreditation, there are others who are working on reaccreditation.
- In early 2019, PHAB will add customized accreditation for Army Public Health/Preventive Medicine Department, Vital Records/Health Statistics accreditation.



# Three Areas of Challenges

- Community health assessment and improvement planning- small area data
- Population health benchmarking
- Education

# Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Improvement Planning (CHIP)

- Data from various sources
- Quantitative and qualitative
- Focused on the population served
- Broken down by sub-groups as indicated
- Measurable outcomes/indicators of health improvement
- Measurable actions
- Monitoring of the CHIP throughout the five year period and into reaccreditation

# Population Health Outcomes

## Health department:

- Will report on 5 – 10 outcomes with reaccreditation
- Will report on the same outcomes with each Annual Report (Section III, submitted with Section II)
- May add outcomes to report on with the Annual Reports if health department and community revise objectives they are tracking



# Population Health Outcomes

- Establish a national data base of health outcomes and their associated objectives that accredited health departments have chosen to monitor
- Document how the ongoing work of maintaining accreditation can contribute to better health outcomes
- Encourage the systematic tracking and use of data indicators by health departments
- Provide information to PHAB concerning what outcomes are priorities and are being tracked by health departments

# Population Health Outcome

- Health department will select topic and report:
  - a specific measurable objective
  - benchmark data source
  - target
  - baseline data
  - updated data
  - data source for the measurement report
  - whether the objective is included in CHA, CHIP, strategic plan, or PHAB standard or measure





# Education

This is where the possibilities lie in educating the public health workforce about:

- Setting measurable goals and targets
- Tracking and monitoring those goals and targets
- All in the context of small populations of interest

Thank you!

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