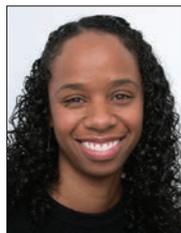


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Ana Pomales,
MScAdrienne Gill,
MPHJustin Andrew
Gerding, MPH,
DHA, REHS

Connecting Environmental Public Health With the Revised 10 Essential Public Health Services

Editor's Note: The National Environmental Health Association strives to provide up-to-date and relevant information on environmental health and to build partnerships in the profession. In pursuit of these goals, we feature this column on environmental health services from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in every issue of the *Journal*.

In these columns, authors from CDC's Water, Food, and Environmental Health Services Branch, as well as guest authors, will share tools, resources, and guidance for environmental health practitioners. The conclusions in these columns are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of CDC.

Ana Pomales is an environmental health scientist at the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) within CDC. Adrienne Gill is a public health advisor with the Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support within CDC. Justin Gerding leads the Environmental Health Practice Section within the NCEH Water, Food, and Environmental Health Services Branch.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services (10 Essential Services) provide a common understanding of what public health activities should occur in all communities. Since their release in the mid-1990s, the 10 Essential Services have helped drive public health practice in many ways, such as framing health department accreditation standards, being incorporated into state public health laws, and serving as the basis for discipline-specific modifications such as the 10 Essential Environmental Public Health Services (10 Essential EPH Services; Public Health National Center for Innovations [PHNCI], 2019).

While the 10 Essential EPH Services are closely aligned with the 10 Essential Services,

a specific and direct application to environmental public health practice was interwoven into the framework. Since their release in 2007, the 10 Essential EPH Services have served as the foundation for promoting the role of environmental health in broader public health performance improvement initiatives. Specifically, the 10 Essential EPH Services led to creating the Environmental Public Health Performance Standards (EnvPHPS) and informed the work of environmental public health think tanks with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). These think tanks focused on describing and understanding the role and contributions of environmental public health to the PHAB accreditation process and standards (Gerding et al., 2020).

Understanding the Revised 10 Essential Services

By 2020, the public health landscape had changed with an accompanying evolution of performance improvement initiatives. This evolution culminated in a collaborative and comprehensive revision of the 10 Essential Services (Figure 1). These revisions were led by a task force of public health experts and guided by significant input from the field (PHNCI, 2020). Field input guided the task force to “keep but revise” the original framework and provided input on a variety of revisions needed.

Key changes in the revised 10 Essential Services released in 2020 include:

- Centering the framework around equity and including a statement underscoring the role of the 10 Essential Services in achieving equity.
- Incorporating social determinants of health and equity throughout each Essential Service.
- Updating language to better reflect current public health practice, including changes in technology, data use, and communications.
- Refocusing Essential Service #9 around evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.
- Adding organizational infrastructure to the framework through revisions to Essential Service #10.

Like the original, the revised 10 Essential Services framework is already playing important roles with key public health initiatives, such as defining the scope of public health practice for revised Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals and providing an updated framing for PHAB Version 2022 of the health department accreditation standards.

FIGURE 1

The 10 Essential Public Health Services



1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets.
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health.
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

Connecting Environmental Public Health With the 10 Essential Services

Considering the revisions to the 10 Essential Services and advances in performance improvement, the National Center for Environmental Health, in collaboration with the Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support, developed a new website (www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/10-essential-services/index.html) with insights into the application of the 10 Essential Services for the practice of environmental public health. While this approach moves away from having a separate set of Essential Services specifically for environmental public health, it is an opportunity to renew guidance on environmental public health connections with the revised framework, strengthen the role of environmental public health in broader public health efforts and initiatives, and highlight contributions

to addressing public health priorities such as ensuring health equity.

Drawing on existing descriptions from EnvPHPS, updated language from the revised 10 Essential Services, and national accreditation standards from PHAB Version 2022, the new website from CDC describes potential ways for environmental health programs to connect with the revised 10 Essential Services. It identifies how environmental health programs can do the following:

- Help deliver the 10 Essential Services in their communities.
- Link to and support broader public health initiatives such as public health accreditation.

The website identifies potential environmental health program activities and services that could support and contribute to delivery of the 10 Essential Services. In addition, these examples highlight possible linkages between

Environmental Public Health and the 10 Essential Public Health Services

www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/10-essential-services/index.html

Use this new resource to:

1. Inform development, assessment, and improvement of comprehensive environmental health programs and activities that address environmental and public health priorities and issues.
2. Educate staff about environmental public health practice, connections with the 10 Essential Public Health Services, and how they are used to protect the public from environmental hazards and concerns.
3. Describe environmental public health practice linkages with national public health department accreditation standards.

Quick Links

- Review the 10 Essential Public Health Services and learn more: www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/publichealthservices/essentialhealthservices.html
- Align environmental health programs and activities with the systematic framework of the 10 Essential Public Health Services: www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/10-essential-services/index.html
- Learn more about the revised 10 Essential Public Health Services: <https://phnci.org/national-frameworks/10-ephs>
- Use Version 2022 of the Standards & Measures from the Public Health Accreditation Board for initial program accreditation and reaccreditation: <https://phaboard.org/accreditation-recognition/version-2022/>

environmental public health and PHAB accreditation standards and measures. Examples are not intended to provide all definitive linkages between PHAB standards and environmental health activities, nor is it a guarantee of conformity to PHAB documentation requirements. This resource is intended to support health department leaders, environmental health leadership, accreditation and performance improvement staff, and other program staff in recognizing important areas of connection.

Environmental public health has an important and critical role in the delivery of the 10 Essential Services to protect community health. We hope this web resource will help strengthen the integration of environmental public health practice through the 10 Essential Services and in meeting the needs of all communities. ✨

Corresponding Author: Ana Pomales, Environmental Health Scientist, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717. Email: apomales@cdc.gov.

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