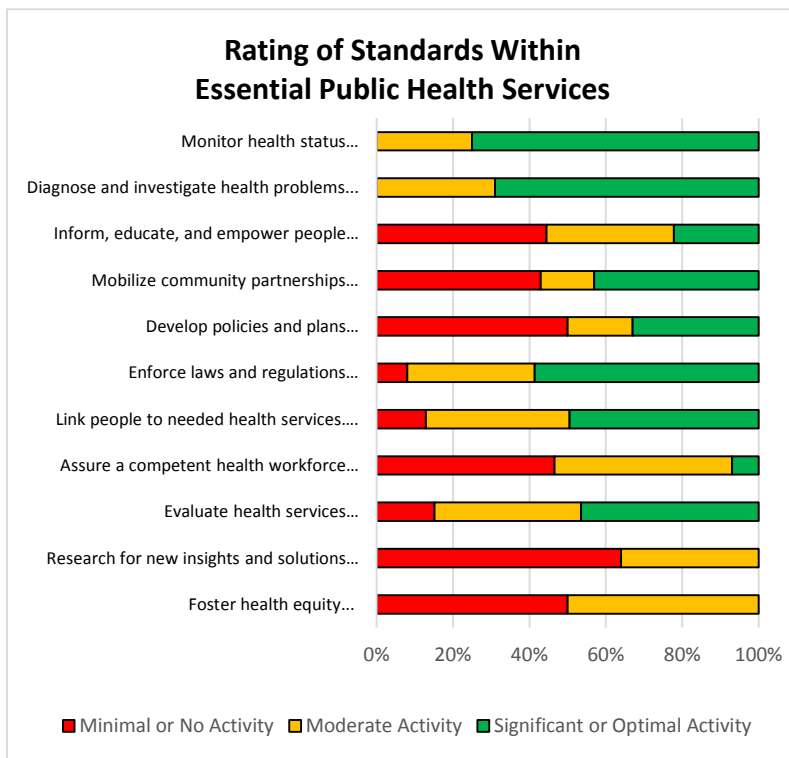


SACRAMENTO COUNTY LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

SPRING 2016 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (SCPH) undertook a Local Public Health System Assessment to better understand the activities and capacities of the overall public health system and how well essential public health services are being provided in Sacramento County. The process engaged 34 public health stakeholders in assessing 114 recommended activities across 11 essential public health services. The assessment was modeled on the National Public Health Performance Standards Local Assessment Instrument. Findings provide a foundational understanding of where strengths can be leveraged and gaps can be addressed through policies, programs, or other strategies.



Across all the rated standards, 30% of the standards received a rating of Minimal or No Activity occurring in Sacramento County; 33% received a rating of Moderate Activity occurring in Sacramento County; and 36% received a rating of Significant or Optimal Activity occurring in Sacramento County.

The **most favorably rated essential services** were monitoring health status; diagnosing and investigating health problems; enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety; linking people to needed personal health services; and evaluating the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of services.

The **least favorably rated essential services** were researching for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems; developing policies and plans that support health efforts; fostering health equity by ensuring all people full and equal access to opportunities; assuring a competent public health and personal care workforce; and informing, educating, and empowering people about health issues.

A number of themes emerged across the essential services. Among the most **frequently cited strengths** were the abundance of health assessments conducted in the area; the willingness of stakeholders to collaborate; and the expediency of SCPH in alerting stakeholders to emerging community health issues. Conditions **frequently cited as challenges** included siloed, uncoordinated work; inadequate communication and information sharing among providers; insufficient detail of health data to be able to pinpoint disadvantaged populations; and insufficient resources available to fulfill needed public health activities.

Through the assessment process, participants suggested more than two dozen actions for improving the overall state of public health. Analysis of the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and recommendations offered by assessment participants led to the development of six cross-cutting recommendations to drive systemic impact on the public health system.

- A) Target and actively solicit non-traditional public health champions.
- B) Seek funding resources from outside the local geography.
- C) Establish a central, multi-sector, multi-issue community health coalition.
- D) Establish a county-wide health information exchange.
- E) Define goals for and evaluate impact of all public health activities.
- F) Collect more precise level of detail in reporting.