

## LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

The National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) was developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide measurable performance standards that public health systems can use to ensure the delivery of public health services. The DHHS defines the Local Public Health System to include all public, private, and voluntary entities, as well as individuals and informal associations that contribute to the delivery of public health services within a jurisdiction. The Local Public Health System Performance Assessment Instrument was principally developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide the fundamental framework for the NPHPSP instruments, by describing the public health activities that should be undertaken in all communities. The Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee developed the framework for the Essential Services in 1994. The Local Assessment Instrument is divided into ten sections – one for each Essential Service. The 10 Essential Public Health Services are:

- Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

In 2011, the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County led a coordinated effort to assess the capacities of the local public health system in Pasco County. On September 14, 2011 a diverse group of public health professionals representing a wide spectrum of areas of expertise gathered for a 1 day session to assess the performance and capacity of Pasco's public health system. Prior to participation invitees were offered an orientation of the process through a self-paced power point presentation. The participants were guided through the instrument questions and assessment process by a skilled facilitator, supported by a recorder who took notes of discussion points.

The participants reviewed and discussed each of the ten essential services and activities related to each occurring in Pasco County. The members scored each service category by consensus, utilizing the recommended scoring levels provided by DHHS in the assessment instrument. The scoring methodology reflects a quartile scoring system in that activities that occur 0-25% of the time are considered with a "no" response; those that occur 26-50% of the time receive a "low partial" response; those that occur 51-75% of the time are considered as "high partial"; and those that occur 76-100% of the time are given a "yes" response.

Assessment results point to areas of relative strength and challenges for the county system. Pasco scored highest for capacity and performance in the following Essential Public Health Services (EPHS):

- EPHS 2: Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- EPHS 6: Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- EPHS 7: Link people to personal health services and assure provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

Lowest scores were recorded in the following areas:

- EPHS 4: Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- EPHS 8: Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce.
- EPHS 10: Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

## PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT RESULTS

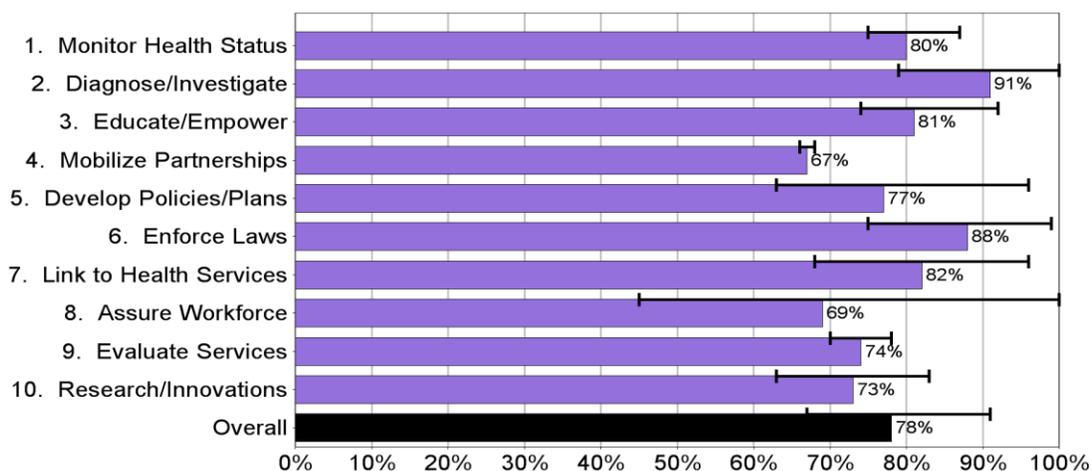
The Figure below provides the overall score for each of the ten essential services, as determined by the assessment team. Each EPHS score is a composite value determined by the scores given to those activities that contribute to each Essential Service. These scores range from a minimum value of 0% (no activity is performed pursuant to the standards) to a maximum of 100% (all activities associated with the standards are performed at optimal levels). (Figure 1)

**Figure 1:** Summary of performance scores by Essential Public Health Service (EPHS)

EPHS	Score
1 Monitor Health Status To Identify Community Health Problems	80
2 Diagnose And Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards	91
3 Inform, Educate, And Empower People about Health Issues	81
4 Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems	67
5 Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts	77
6 Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety	88
7 Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable	82
8 Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce	69
9 Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services	74
10 Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems	73
Overall Performance Score	78

The graphic below displays performance scores for each Essential Service along with an overall score that indicates the average performance level across all 10 Essential Services. The range bars show the minimum and maximum values of responses within the Essential Service and an overall score. (Figure 1)

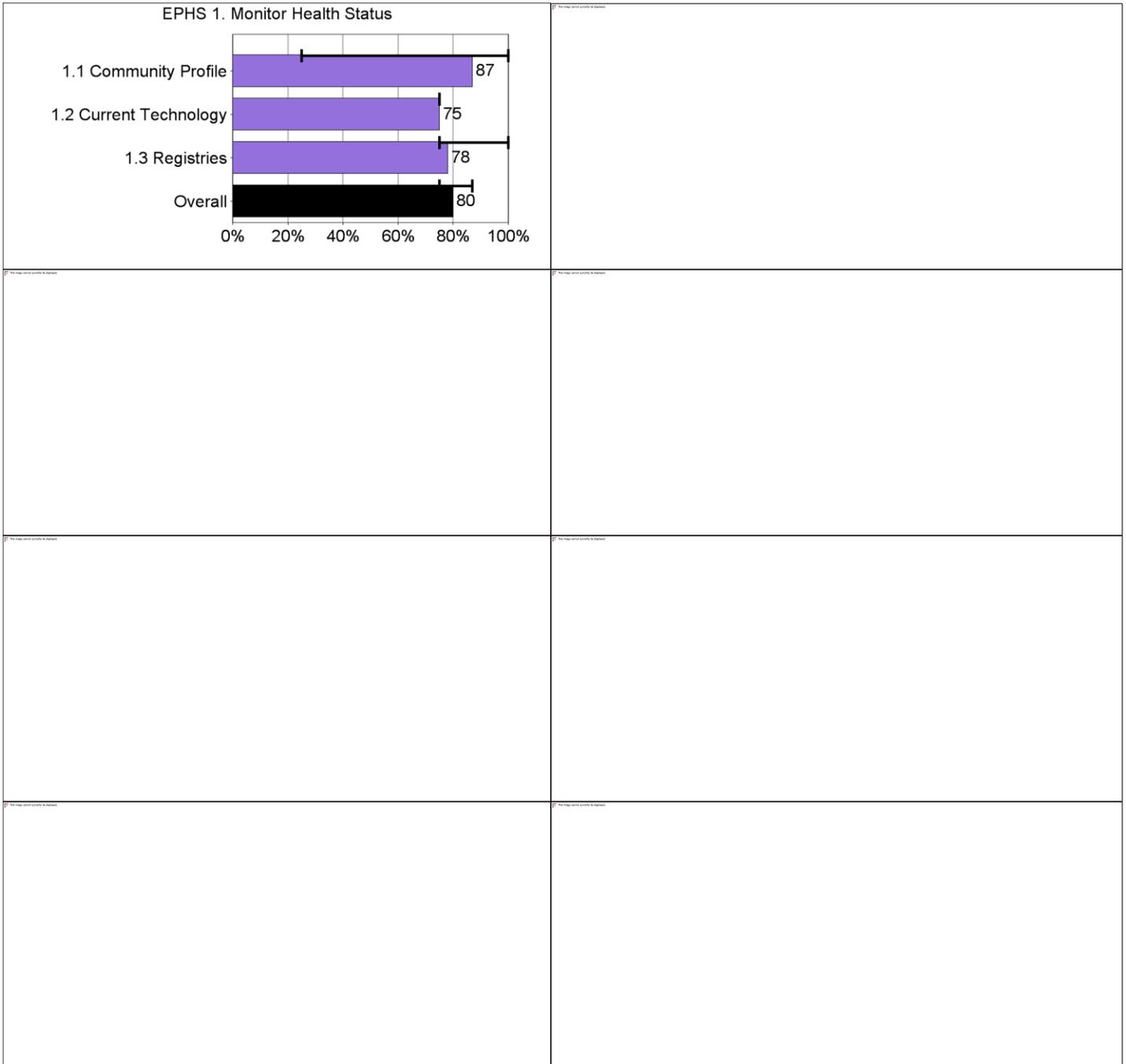
**Figure 2:** Summary of EPHS performance scores and overall score (with range)

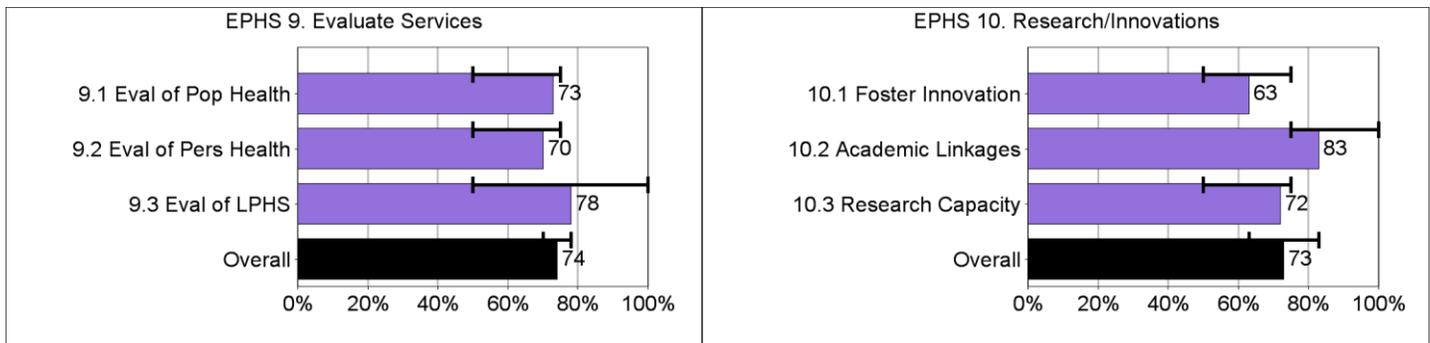


The results of performance on specific model standards are provided below and can be used to determine areas of need.

(Figure 3)

Figure 3: Performance scores for each model standard, by Essential Service





In addition to completing the instrument participants were asked to provide an optional priority rating to each of the essential public health services. The optional priority ranking can help identify areas for attention. Challenges identified include the following essential services:

- Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems
- Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts
- Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce
- Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services and model standards

Additional challenges based on the priority ranking include:

- Access to and Utilization of Current Technology to Manage, Display, Analyze and Communicate Population Health Data
- Health Education and Promotion
- Health Communication
- Constituency Development
- Community Partnerships
- Government Presence at the Local Level
- Community Health Improvement Process
- Involvement in the Improvement of Laws, Regulations, and Ordinances
- Assuring the Linkage of People to Personal Health Services
- Life-Long Learning Through Continuing Education, Training, and Mentoring
- Public Health Leadership Development
- Evaluation of Population-based Health Services
- Evaluation of Personal Health Care Services

## ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ASSESSMENT

On April 7, 2014 the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County and partners used the Environmental Public Health Performance Standards (EnvPHPS) to conduct an assessment of its environmental public health service delivery system. The EnvPHPS are a set of standards describing the level of performance and capacity to which all environmental public health (EPH) systems and programs should aspire. The organizational framework for the standards is the same ten Essential Environmental Public Health Services that outline the services in an EPH system or program necessary to effectively protect and improve environmental and public health. The EnvPHPS describe activities, actions, and processes that an EPH system or program performs to provide the essential services optimally.

During the 3 hour session participants were guided through the instrument questions and assessment process by a skilled facilitator, supported by a recorder who took notes of discussion points. The participants reviewed and discussed each of

the ten essential services and EPH activities related to each occurring in Pasco County. The participants scored each service category by consensus, utilizing the recommended scoring levels provided by DHHS in the assessment instrument. The scoring methodology reflects a quartile scoring system in that activities that occur 0-25% of the time are considered with a “no” response; those that occur 26-50% of the time receive a “low partial” response; those that occur 51-75% of the time are considered as “high partial”; and those that occur 76-100% of the time are given a “yes” response.

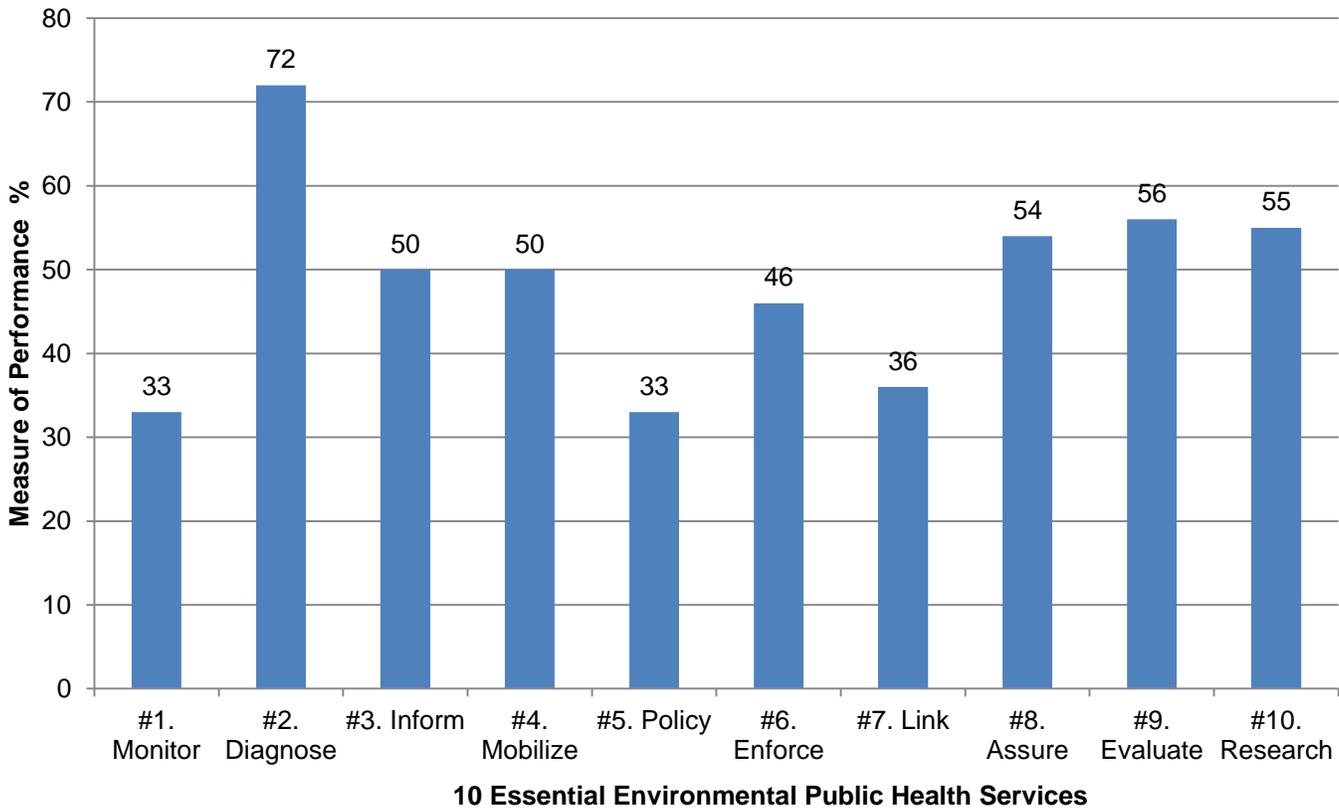
Pasco scored highest for EPH capacity and performance in the following Essential Public Health Services (EPHS):

- Diagnose and investigate environmental public health problems and health hazards in the community.
- Inform, educate, and empower people about environmental public health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve environmental public health problems.
- Assure a competent environmental public health workforce.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based environmental public health services.
- Research new insights and innovative solutions to environmental public health problems and issues.

Lowest scores were recorded in the following areas:

- Monitor environmental and health status to identify and solve community environmental public health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community environmental public health efforts.
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect environmental public health and ensure safety.
- Link people to needed environmental public health services and assure the provision of environmental public health services when unavailable.

Figure 4: EnvPHPS Assessment Results



The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County and partners discussed the resources and services and also discussed

gaps identified during the EnvPHPS assessment. A number of activities in each area were noted. The following opportunities are noted related to the environmental health system:

- Utilize data that is being collected to support local health profile and to identify and solve community problems
- Improve public/private partnerships and involve constituents in problem solving
- More consistent review of laws and regulations that protect environmental public health and safety
- Document issues that are being addressed through action plans

The following challenges were noted:

- Systems for educating the public may not be received by hard to reach populations
  - Technology may present barriers for some residents
  - Lack of transportation may be a barrier
  - There is uncertainty system wide if there is the flexibility to train.
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