

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM SURVEY- Other PH

Contact Information

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Short Title: Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program

Program Location: Michigan

Objectives and Goals:

The *Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program* is a mature, organized, and institutionalized accreditation program for Michigan's 45 local public health departments (LHDs). The program reviews LHDs on their ability to meet a set of standards that have been developed jointly by state and local public health professionals. The program's mission and goals are listed below.

The *mission* of this program is to assure and enhance the quality of local public health in Michigan by identifying and promoting the implementation of public health standards for local public health departments. The program evaluates and accredits LHDs on their ability to meet these standards.

The program's approach is to utilize continuous quality improvement methodology. Its *goals* are to assist in continuous quality improvement; assure a uniform set of standards that define public health; assure a process by which the state can ensure local level capacity to address core functions; and provide a mechanism for accountability.

Methods:

The Michigan Department of Community Health (lead agency and funder) facilitates and utilizes a committed and collaborative approach among partners (local health departments, the MI Public Health Institute, and the MI Depts. of Agriculture and Environmental Quality). All 45 local health departments have been or will be accredited for the third time. This means approximately 200 standards in 12 different public health program areas have been met on a repeated basis by all 45 local health departments.

Program Length:

1997 to present

Number of target population reached by effort:

All 9 million Michigan residents are reached by this effort via safer food, water, air, and improved community health.

Demographic Info:

Michigan's 83 counties comprise a combination of urban and rural settings having populations with diverse income levels and ethnicity.

Overall Cost:

Both LHDs and state agencies incur costs attributable to the program. Intensive preparation is required by LHDs, including allocation of time, staff, materials, and other resources. The state departments supply reviewers and bear all costs attributable to review teams such as salaries, travel, training, and materials. Additionally, the MDCH has costs attributable to administration and oversight. LHD and state data pertaining to time allocation and related costs of the program have not been collected. LHDs pay no fees for the review process and there are no financial incentives related to the program.

Funding Sources:

75% State
25% Local
percentages ARE estimates

Outcomes:

In 2003, an Accreditation Quality Improvement Process survey was used to evaluate the program. The survey found that:

- Accreditation has materially improved all local health departments in Michigan
- The Accreditation tool, self-assessment, on-site review report, and corrective plans of action are all valuable
- Michigan's Accreditation process should continue

A similar survey, conducted in 2008/2009 found that most respondents (88%) agreed the Accreditation program confers benefits such as improved program performance and 83% respondents agreed that accountability was improved. All MI LHDs are now Accredited.

Did you make any estimates regarding costs deferred, outbreaks averted or deaths prevented?

No

Additional Information:

Michigan's Accreditation Program for local health departments was the first in the nation. It has served and continues to serve as a model for a national system of accreditation currently under development by the Public Health Accreditation Board. The MI Accreditation Quality Improvement Process received the ASTHO/NACCHO 2007 Jim Parker Memorial Award for outstanding collaboration between state and local health departments.

Future Plans:

The MDCH and its partners are dedicated to preserving this program based on customer satisfaction and improved public health quality and performance.

However, due to the severity of Michigan's economic challenges, this program is at risk. It is unknown at this time whether the program can be sustained at the state level. Additionally, 56% of local health departments recently stated that limited funding and resources present a challenge to their participation in the program.