

In June 2017, Oregon’s Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) established a set of accountability metrics to track progress towards statewide public health goals in a modern public health system.

Why were public health accountability metrics established?

In 2015, Oregon’s legislature passed House Bill 3100, which called for a new framework for public health in Oregon (Figure 1). This framework calls on the public health system to be accountable for improving health for every person in Oregon.

The 2017 Legislature passed House Bill 2310, which required the adoption of a set of accountability metrics to demonstrate that foundational capabilities and programs are being provided equitably across the state.

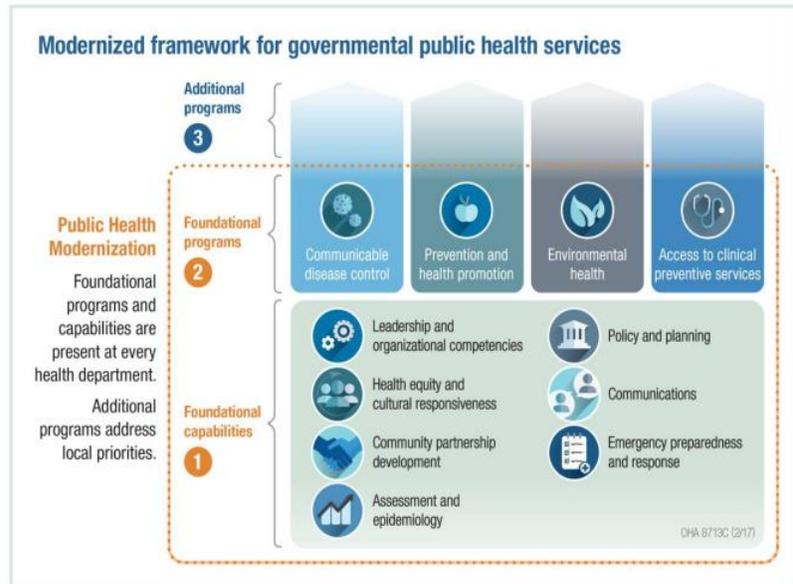


Figure 1

Why are these accountability metrics important?

Public health accountability metrics will help track progress towards the modernization of Oregon’s public health system, as well as help identify where change may be needed if goals aren’t being met. More importantly, these metrics emphasize Oregon’s population health priorities including areas where public health can work with other sectors to achieve shared goals (e.g. dental visits).

What metrics were selected?

Two metrics were selected for each foundational program:

Communicable Disease Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two-year old immunization rates - Gonorrhea rates 	Prevention and Health Promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adults who smoke cigarettes - Opioid overdose deaths
Environmental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active transportation - Drinking water standards 	Access to clinical preventive services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective contraceptive use - Dental visits for 0-5 year olds

How were these metrics selected?

The PHAB is responsible for establishing accountability metrics for the public health system. The PHAB consulted with state and local public health officials and conducted a survey of public health stakeholders prior to selecting these measures for 2017-2019.

The PHAB also reviewed metrics for Oregon’s coordinated care organizations and early learning hubs and aligned metrics where it made sense.

When will metrics be reported?

A baseline report on public health accountability metrics will be published in 2018 and at least every other year thereafter.

How frequently will these metrics be updated?

The PHAB will review and make changes to metrics every other year.

Are accountability metrics tied to funding?

Not at this time. However, the local public health funding formula in Oregon Revised Statute 431.380 requires that accountability metrics be used to award incentive payments to local public health departments. The PHAB will make recommendations for when incentive payments will be incorporated into local public health funding. Incentive payments will not be made in the 2017-19 biennium.

What’s next?

The Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division and local public health department staff are working together to develop a set of process measures for local public health departments that are tied to the public health accountability metrics. Whereas the eight accountability metrics listed above measure progress toward improving population health, the process measures will be used to monitor how the work of local public health departments contributes to achieving the accountability metrics.

For more information, visit healthoregon.org/modernization.