

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATOR SELECTION

In 2006, the Key Health Indicators committee identified the following criteria for the selection of indicators. These criteria were used as guiding principles to ensure that the selected measures would be relevant across Washington's diverse communities and the reported data would be valid, reliable, and accessible.

Each indicator should be:

1. **Actionable** - the public health system can implement activities to improve performance against the measure
2. **Important** - measure an important aspect, result, or outcome of public health's work (Measure either health determinants or status)
3. **Population-based** – data can be generalized to populations as a whole
4. **Measurable** – over time and defined in standard and specific terms
5. **Collectable** - data are feasible (and not too expensive) to collect
6. **Reportable** - at least 80% of local health jurisdictions, meeting requirements regarding sample size and margin of error
7. **Consistent** - with local, state, and national measures (such as Healthy People 2010)
8. **Measurable for population sub-groups** - (age, gender, race, etc.) to identify disparities across groups
9. **Understandable** – and not require extensive explanation
10. **Valid and reliable**