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PUBLIC HEALTH
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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

AGENDA FOR CHANGE EFFORTS UPDATE

The *Agenda for Change* is a guide for transforming the governmental public health system in Washington State to better address our changing environment.

An initial draft of *Agenda for Change Action Plan* includes specific priorities to guide the public health system in the next 2 to 5 years. It has been shared widely with the governmental public health system for review and comment.

The posted version of the Action Plan is currently under revision based on the feedback and is being rewritten for a broader audience. The updated Action Plan will be available later this summer.

Priorities from the Action Plan are listed below. Please see the *Agenda for Change* [web page](#) for more information on specific strategies, action steps, roles for partners, and more.

Communicable Disease (CD) and Other Health Threats

- Increase immunization rates across the lifespan of all residents
- Standardize and prioritize CD surveillance and response
- Develop, maintain, integrate data collection system for CD surveillance

Healthy Communities and Environments

- Increase the number of healthy pregnancies and healthy babies delivered
- Increase the number of stable and healthy environments for children
- Increase the number of communities that encourage healthy choices for families

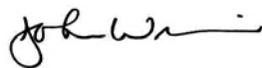
Public Health Partnering with the Health Care System

- Increase information about the communities' health and health care system
- Engage community leaders to identify and address community health problems
- Promote and adopt the use of evidence-based clinical prevention services and patient-centered health homes

Minimum Package of Public Health Services

- Foundational capabilities
- Essential programs

The Agenda for Change Workgroup welcomes you to join the conversation at www.doh.wa.gov/PublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/PublicHealthImprovementPartnershipPHIP/AgendaforChangeWorkgroup/2012Engagement.aspx



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ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

The 2011 count of public health activities and services conducted across the public health system is now complete. The data shows that local health agencies in Washington provide significant amount and variety of services. Some examples are:

- Permanent food service facilities were inspected 52,475 times
- 5,474 solid waste complaints were responded to
- 86,269 childhood vaccinations were administered
- 343,302 health care professionals were licensed
- 3,292 complaints about these health care professionals were investigated
- 142,724 WIC women and children were served
- 10,077,560 needles were exchanged to prevent communicable disease
- 32,087 family planning patient/client clinical visits were provided

Information on many more activities and services will be available after September 1st at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/phip/PHIP/>

In addition to publishing the 2011 data, this fall the Public Health Activities and Services Workgroup will:

- Conduct a survey of users to seek improvement
- Discuss capturing the public health activities and services provided by Washington's 29 tribes
- Identify performance measures for these activities

INDICATORS

The local public health indicators are a good place to find answers to questions like 'Are people healthier in some parts of the state than in others?'

For example:

What is percent of women giving birth who smoked any time during pregnancy? (Indicator)

The data shows that there is a wide variation across the state with Adams County having the lowest rate at 2% followed by King at 4%, to Cowlitz and Wahkiakum at 26% each. Wahkiakum reduced their rate from 30% in 2003 to 26% in 2008. State and national average is 10%.

While there are many reasons for this geographic variation, the indicators are designed to inform the programs and policy of public health agencies. This data also shows change over time.

The 35 local public health indicators measure a range of health status and determinants of health. Data is updated every two years. Please visit the indicators website at www.doh.wa.gov/lphi for more information and helpful resources.

This fall the Public Health Indicators Workgroup will:

- Conduct a survey to find out who is using the indicator data, in what way and are these the right indicators
- Update the indicators list
- Begin planning for the fourth indicator update which will take place in 2013

STANDARDS

The Public Health Standards Workgroup will meet this summer to consider the development of a limited set of standards based on the PHAB Version 1.0 standards for local health agencies not applying for PHAB accreditation.

Feedback from recent national discussions will help inform this decision with a focus on quality improvement. If the group goes forward with a 'limited set' of standards, these will be developed in the fall of 2012.

The workgroup will also discuss forming a standards coordinators subgroup to network on accreditation issues, with possible training opportunities. Partners from other states may join this subgroup.

A subset of the workgroup will work early in the fall to review and update the numbering of the 2011 exemplary practices compendium so it aligns with the most current PHAB standards numbering structure.

Many health departments are looking at the current list of exemplary practices and have difficulty aligning the compendium with the most recent PHAB version 1.0 standards.

To view the most current PHAB Version 1.0 standards, visit http://www.phaboard.org/wp-content/uploads/PHAB-Standards-and-Measures-Version-1_0.pdf