

# VERSION 2.0 WORK IN PROGRESS:

## Summary of Recommendations about Research Standards from the PHAB Research Advisory Council

### August 2019



The Public Health Accreditation Board is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments.



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On June 12, 2019, PHAB convened its Research Advisory Council, comprised of experts in public health research. The Council provided feedback on measures relating to public health research, found in Domain 10.

Below are several suggestions that emerged from the Council's discussion.

Measure	Potential Revisions
10.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large local health departments should be assessed on evidence-based practices.</li> <li>Comments suggested that the evidence used by health departments should be more rigorous or that sources of evidence should be tiered and the quality of the evidence used should be considered.</li> </ul>
10.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The phrasing of 'analyze research' may be confusing. A recommended alternative is "review and interpret evidence."</li> <li>It was suggested that examples be provided for documentation.</li> <li>There was also discussion about the difference between evaluation and research, and how those are addressed and defined in the S&amp;M. To avoid this confusion, it was suggested that Domain 10 be framed to be about the translation of existing evidence and its application to the department.</li> </ul>
10.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The phrase 'research' should be changed or elaborated on to include terms like 'peer-reviewed' and 'validated.'</li> <li>There was disagreement that local health departments should be required to share research findings with the state. It was considered more appropriate for local health departments to share with their constituents.</li> <li>Council members questioned why health departments would not be allowed to provide documentation of research conducted by their own agencies (as the Measure currently defines research as being published by those outside the department).</li> <li>They reflected on the fact that the current Standards do not require that health departments demonstrate how they are contributing to the evidence base. Council members suggested that could be a requirement for reaccreditation.</li> </ul>
10.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was recommended that a library assistance be provided for research capabilities.</li> </ul>

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