

# The 10 Essential Public Health Services

## Glossary

**Community** is a group of people who have common characteristics; communities can be defined by location, race, ethnicity, age, occupation, interest in particular problems or outcomes, or other similar common bonds. Ideally, there would be available assets and resources, as well as collective discussion, decision-making and action. (Turnock, BJ. *Public Health: What It Is and How It Works*. Jones and Bartlett, 2009)

**Equity** is defined as a fair and just opportunity for all to achieve good health and well-being. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty and discrimination and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and healthcare. It also requires attention to health inequities, which are differences in population health status and mortality rates that are systemic, patterned, unjust, and actionable, as opposed to random or caused by those who become ill.

**Health** is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The bibliographic citation for this definition is: Preamble to the Constitution of WHO as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19 June - 22 July 1946; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of WHO, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948. The definition has not been amended since 1948.

**Healthcare sector** is defined as entities that provide clinical services, mental health services, oral health services, provide or pay for services for individuals, or facilitate the provision of services to individuals. Entities in this sector may include hospitals, health systems, health plans, health centers, behavioral health providers, oral health providers, etc. **Law(s)** refer to the aggregate of statutes, ordinances, regulations, rules, judicial decisions, and accepted legal principles that the courts of a particular jurisdiction apply in deciding controversies brought before them. The law consists of all legal rights, duties, and obligations that can be enforced by the government (or one of its agencies) and the means and procedures for enforcing them. (Garner, B.A. editor. *Black's Law Dictionary*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. West Group; 2004)

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**Population health** is the health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group. The field of population health includes health outcomes, patterns of health determinants, and policies and interventions that link these two. Population health approaches are community or policy non-clinical approaches that aim to improve health and wellbeing of a group of individuals. This differs from population health management which refers to improving clinical health outcomes of individuals through improved care coordination and patient engagement supported by appropriate financial and care models. (Adapted from Kindig and Stoddart).

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**Public health** is defined as the science of protecting the safety and improving the health of communities through education, policy making and research for disease and injury prevention. (CDC Foundation).

**Research** is a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalized knowledge. (United States Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People 2020*. Washington, DC)

- Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR) is a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities. (W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Community Health Scholars Program, 2001 quotes from Minkler M, and Wallerstein N, editors. *Community-Based Participatory Research for Health*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Inc.; 2003)

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