

# Five Year Impact of PHAB Accreditation

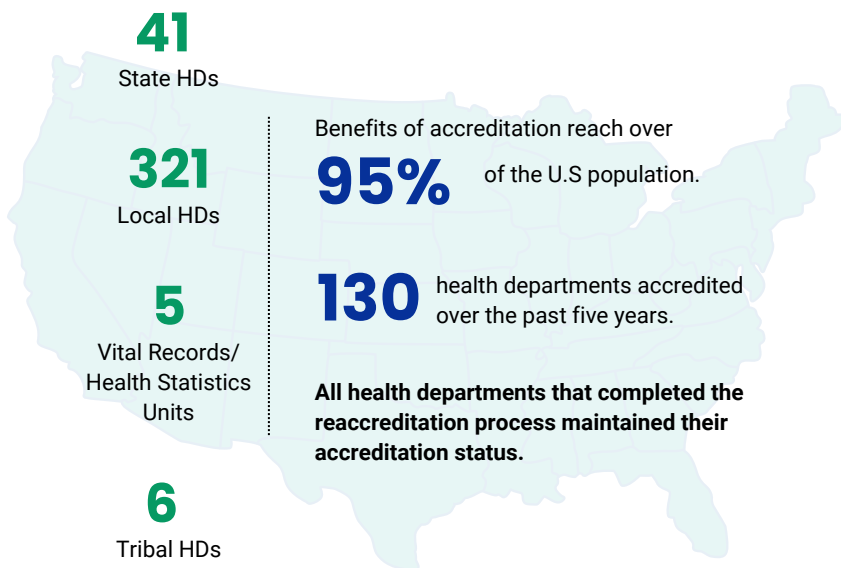
Outcomes of the PHAB accreditation program from 2018-2023.

Over the past five years, PHAB has continued to grow and evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our public health departments. The COVID-19 pandemic radically changed the way health departments do work, and pushed our public health system to confront the impact of chronic underfunding, staffing shortages, and burnout.

PHAB remained flexible during this time to support health departments. The official end to the COVID-19 emergency declaration, coupled with new investment from the CDC and a renewed energy surrounding public health transformation, we are optimistic about the future of PHAB and our governmental public health system.



## Demand for accreditation is growing.



## IMPACT OF ACCREDITATION

Health departments that sustain accreditation over time report a wide range of benefits from accreditation.

### Quality Improvement

**95%** report that accreditation has stimulated quality improvement and performance management opportunities within their health department

### Management

**85%** report that accreditation has improved the management processes used by the leadership team in the health department

### Partnerships

**76%** report that accreditation has strengthened the health department's relationship with key partners in other sectors

### Credibility

**75%** report that accreditation has improved the credibility of the health department within the community or state

### Reputation

**63%** report that accreditation has improved the health department's visibility or reputation to external stakeholders

### Collaboration

**58%** report that accreditation has led to increased collaboration with other health departments.

Findings on the impact of accreditation are from the [2023 NORC Evaluation survey](#).

# Highlights

3

health departments in process for initial accreditation using Version 2022

23

health departments in process for reaccreditation using Version 2022

100+

publications related to public health accreditation

56M

grant award to support health departments

## Version 2022 drives public health performance.

PHAB launched Version 2022 of the Standards & Measures in February 2022 to reflect the changing landscape of the public health field. Highlights include:

- 10 Domains, instead of 12, to align with the 10 Essential Public Health Services
- 90 fewer required documents for initial accreditation
- Foundational Capabilities are embedded and easily identified
- Health Equity is emphasized and considerations are included in every domain
- Updated preparedness requirements based on lessons learned during COVID-19

## Research, evaluation, and communication continues to grow.

PHAB is committed to research, evaluation, and data to drive quality improvement and build evidence around public health systems with over 100 publications related to public health accreditation published over the past five years including a supplemental issue of the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice focused on Transformation and Innovation in Public Health.

PHAB enhanced its communication efforts by developing a strategic communications plan, refreshing its website to streamline information and improve user experience, and updating materials for health departments, including the accredited health department communications toolkit. New training courses were also added to the Learning Center to support health departments through the accreditation process.

## CDC's investment in the PHAB mission increases capacity.

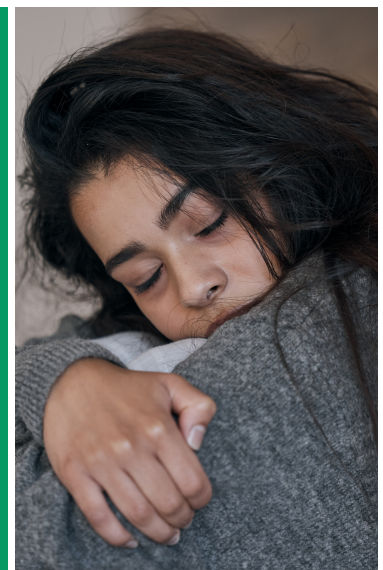
PHAB was awarded a grant from the CDC as part of the Public Health Infrastructure Grant program. As one of three national public health organization awarded, PHAB will support health department efforts to modernize data systems, recruit and retain a skilled public health workforce, and address public health infrastructure needs. Part of this grant work includes evaluating the initiative and implementing PH-LIFT, a public health infrastructure data system.

## Health Departments in Action

*[HD] has collaborated with a variety of different community partners in an effort to lower youth (ages 24 and under) suicide rates within the community. By July 2024, the target youth suicide rate in [HD] County will be 10 youth deaths per 100,000. The health department continuously collaborates with youth service providers and educational systems such as public school districts to collectively work towards this target. Examples include:*

- *providing technical assistance with developing,*
- *continuously assessing and updating, and*
- *implementing school districts suicide prevention, intervention, postvention plans.*

*This also includes providing recommendations and guidance on suicide prevention and mental health promotion evidence-based curricula, and providing best practice trainings in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.*



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