Tips for Success: PH WINS and Accreditation

August 2021

PHAB has received questions about whether participation in the Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS) would count as documentation for accreditation. PHAB is a strong supporter of the PH WINS survey as a means to collect data on the interests and needs of the public health workforce. There are two places in Domain 8: Measure 8.2.1 and Measure 8.2.3, where PH WINS data/reports might apply. For Measure 8.2.1 (Workforce Development Plan), it is sufficient to use aggregate data about the needs, gaps, etc., as the basis for the plan, as long as the data are specific to the health department. So, for those state or local health departments that participate in PH WINS and get their health department-specific report back, it most definitely can be used to inform the development of their workforce development plan. PHAB doesn't dictate how a health department gets the information (needs assessment/gap analyses) from their staff, so they certainly can use their own surveys. However, with PH WINS already done for them, it seems like a win-win for them to use it to inform their plan. Health departments that don't participate in PH WINS, or local health departments that do not have sufficient sample size to receive department-specific reports, should be aware that regional reports are not specific enough and therefore cannot be used as the only source of information for the assessment in the workforce development plan.