

Part 1: Awareness of the existence of evidence-based processes

We will begin with a few questions about your agency's **use** of an evidence-based process to plan and carry out public health services, programs and policies. For the purposes of this interview, we define the evidence-based process as one that uses the following approaches:

- Making decisions based on the best available scientific evidence;
- Applying program planning and quality improvement frameworks;
- Engaging the community in assessment and decision making; and
- Conducting sound evaluation.

We will also be talking about **Evidence-based interventions**, which are programs and policies with evidence (based on published research) of improving health.

So that you can refer to them throughout the interview, these definitions can also be found on your information sheet.

1.1 Which of the following best describes the extent to which the *Guide to Community Preventive Services* (*Community Guide* or www.thecommunityguide.org) has been used to support or enhance decision making in your LHD over the past 12 months?

- LHD staff have not used the *Community Guide*
- LHD staff in a few programmatic areas have used the *Community Guide*
- LHD staff in many programmatic areas have used the *Community Guide*
- The *Community Guide* is used consistently by all relevant programmatic areas
- Do not know the extent of use of *Community Guide* within LHD

1.2 Are you aware of any evidence-based interventions conducted in your jurisdiction that you consider a good example? **Evidence-based interventions**, are programs and policies with evidence (based on published research) of improving health. This definition can also be found on your information sheet.

If Participant does not know about EBDM or EBPP you can ask "If you were going to design a program how would you go about doing that? Where would you get information?"

1.3 Does your department implement program planning and quality improvement processes? (For example: Balanced Scorecard, Baldrige Performance Excellence Criteria (or state version), Lean, Plan-Do-Check-Act or Plan-Do-Study-Act, Six Sigma)

Part 2: Administrative support for evidence based programs/policies

The next questions ask about your agency's **support** of the use of an evidence-based process to plan and carry out public health services, programs, and policies.

2.1 How would you describe the culture of your department as it relates to implementing evidence based processes?

2.2 What kind of access do you have to current research evidence for evidence based processes?

(e.g. Academic journals, Reports to funders, Press releases, Newsletters, Policy briefs, Email alerts, Targeted mailings, Academic conferences, Seminars or workshops (phone, webinars, or in-person), Face-to-face meetings with stakeholders, Media interviews, CD-ROMs, Social Media (Facebook, Twitter), Professional associations)

2.3 Do leaders in your institution provide support for an evidence based process?

2.4 Do you find administrative support (i.e. personnel, financial, access to information) for an evidence based process in your agency when you need it?

2.5 When thinking about an evidence based process, what is the type of support that you need most often?

2.6 In your experience in hiring employees, what qualifications do you seek in employees to be sure they can carry out activities in evidence based processes?

2.7 Have you ever hired a person specifically for the purpose of developing or using evidence based processes?

2.8 If you were able to change one thing related to the culture of your department and its support of an evidence based process, what would it be?

Part 3: Political climate and support for evidence based interventions

The next questions ask about the political climate and support for evidence based interventions. Please note that up till this point in the interview, we had been discussing evidence based processes. We are now discussing **Evidence-based interventions**, which are programs and policies with evidence (based on published research) of improving health. This definition can also be found on your information sheet.

3.1 Think about an evidence-based intervention you described earlier. Can you think of things that helped you to implement these interventions?

3.2 Can you think of any roadblocks to implementing evidence-based interventions?

3.3 When you think about your ability to sustain an evidence-based interventions, what are the contributing factors?

Part 4: Networks and partnerships to support evidence-based decision making

The next questions ask about networks and partnerships to support evidence-based processes. Collaborative **partnerships** (people and organizations from multiple sectors working together in common purpose) are a prominent strategy for community health improvement. This definition can also be found on your information sheet.

4.1 Does your department collaborate with partners in health the sector (i.e. medical providers, hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers) and/or outside the health sector (e.g. police departments, the United Way, parks & recreation departments, civic groups, chamber of commerce, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, academic partners)?

4.2 Thinking about the partnerships you just described, who are the top 5 organizations (outside of your LHD) with whom you most frequently collaborate with on health department activities?

4.3 Who are the top 5 colleagues within your LHD that you most frequently collaborate with on health department activities?

4.4 Do you think that collaboration and network are critical for your department to achieve its goals and mission? Why or why not?

4.5 What are the roadblocks for increasing collaboration?

4.6 In your partnerships, what type of resources do you share?

4.6.a. How do you feel this sharing supports collaborative work?

Part 5: Dissemination strategies that would further evidence based programs

The next set of questions asks about dissemination strategies related to evidence based interventions. We believe dissemination comprises an active and planned process rather than a passive approach to spreading evidence based interventions.

5. How does your health department disseminate evidence based programs and policies?

5.1. When you want to make decisions or influence decisions related to evidence based interventions in your department what are the most useful approaches to decision making?

5.1.a. How often do you use evidence based interventions?

5.2 What avenues allow you to learn about the current findings in evidence based interventions (e.g. peers from other LHDs, academic journals, conferences, government reports, social media, Reports to funders, Press releases, Newsletters, Policy briefs, Email alerts, Targeted mailings, Academic conferences, Seminars or workshops (phone, webinars, or in-person), Face-to-face meetings with stakeholders, Media interviews, CD-ROMs, , Professional associations)

5.2.a. How do you access these methods?

5.3. If you were going to enhance the use and dissemination of evidence based programs, what would need to happen?

Part 6: knowledge of the accreditation process for local and state health departments?

The next questions ask about your knowledge of the accreditation process for local and state health departments

6.1 What types of accreditation are you aware of?

6.1.a. Are you aware of the PHAB accreditation process?

If YES:

6.1.b. How ready do you feel your department is to participate in the National Voluntary accreditation process for local and state health departments?

6.2 In the PHAB Domain Standards, measure 10 states "*Identify and use applicable evidence-based and/or promising practices when implementing new or revised processes, programs and/or interventions*" More information about this standard is available on the information sheet. Do you feel your health department is currently able to meet this measure for PHAB?

We are almost done with the interview. I have just a few questions about your background.

Part 7: Biographical Information and Experience

7.1 What is your gender?

7.2 What is your age?

- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79

7.3 Do you hold a degree (e.g. BSc, MPH or PhD) or credentials in Public Health?

7.4 How do you best describe your job/current position?

- Public health manager
- Public health physician
- Environmental health worker
- Health educator
- Epidemiologist
- Nutritionist
- Public health nurse
- Public health informatics specialist
- Public information specialist
- Behavioral health professional
- Emergency preparedness staff
- Administrative or clerical personnel
- Administrator/Director
- Other (please specify) _____

7.5 How long have you been in your current position?

7.6 How long have you been with this agency or organization?

7.7 How long have you worked in public health overall?

7.7 Please describe the primary responsibilities of your position?