

# Appendix A

## Local Public Health Agency Services and Functions

There are several sources of law that influence the services provided by North Carolina local public health agencies. However, law is not the only determinant of the types of services that local public health agencies provide or the activities they engage in. Public health services are also influenced by changing public health conditions. For example, in the early 2000s, a series of unrelated events—the anthrax letter attacks of 2001, the appearance of West Nile virus in the United States, and the emergence of new illnesses such as SARS—resulted in increased attention to public health preparedness. Similarly, the increasing proportion of overweight children and adults has led to an increased focus on obesity prevention.

The determination about which public health services are provided is also influenced by deliberative processes, in which researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders review information about public health and reach conclusions about the services that are necessary to produce good population health outcomes. The ten essential public health services that are reflected in North Carolina’s local health department accreditation laws were the result of one such process.<sup>1</sup>

More recently, on April 10, 2012, the national Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report which, among other things, defines a *minimum package* of public health services. While the minimum package was based on the ten essential public health services, it is more specific about the foundational capabilities and basic programs that, according to the authors of the report, “no health department can be without.”<sup>2</sup> Although the minimum package approach is not presently reflected in North Carolina law, it will likely be a factor in future policy discussions regarding local public health.

Table 1 of this Appendix identifies the services and activities associated with the two components of the IOM’s minimum package: foundational capabilities and basic programs. Table 2 uses the IOM’s minimum package concept to organize and display the public health services that are addressed in North Carolina’s three main laws addressing services. The final column adds the list of services that local public health agencies are asked about in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services’ biennial survey on public health services. Some services or activities identified in North Carolina law or the DHHS survey are listed more than once in each column, as they relate to more than one of the IOM categories.

Tables 3–5 of this Appendix provide detailed information about the three main state laws that directly or indirectly address local services: the essential services statute (G.S. 130A-1.1), the mandated services statute and rules (G.S. 130A-9; 10A NCAC 46 .0201–.0216), and the statute and rules pertaining to local health department accreditation (G.S. 130A-34.1; 10A NCAC Ch. 48).

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1. See [www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html).

2. Institute of Medicine, Committee on Public Health Strategies to Improve Health, *For the Public’s Health: Investing in a Healthier Future* (2012). Pre-publication PDF version available at [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu).

Table 1: Institute of Medicine (IOM) Minimum Package of Public Health Services

Foundational Capabilities	Basic Programs
Information systems & resources, including surveillance & epidemiology	Maternal & child health promotion
Health planning, including community health improvement planning	Injury control
Partnership development and community mobilization	Communicable disease control
Policy development, analysis, and decision support	Chronic disease prevention, including tobacco control
Communication, including health literacy and cultural competence	Environmental health
Public health research, evaluation, & quality improvement	Mental health & substance abuse

Table 2. NC Public Health Services and the IOM's Minimum Package of Public Health Services

Minimum Package: Foundational Capabilities				
Foundational Capability	NC essential services law	NC mandated services laws	NC accreditation requirements	Services assessed in DHHS biennial survey
Information systems & resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vital event registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vital records registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vital event registration</li> <li>Public health surveillance and epidemiology</li> <li>Collect, manage and display health data<sup>^</sup></li> <li>Operate secure and effective information systems<sup>^</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration of vital events</li> <li>Epidemic investigations:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk assessment</li> <li>Pesticide poisoning</li> </ul> </li> <li>Health assessment:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Morbidity data</li> <li>Reportable disease</li> <li>Vital records and statistics</li> <li>Chronic disease surveillance<sup>^</sup></li> <li>Communicable disease surveillance<sup>^</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Health planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community health assessments</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community health assessments</li> <li>BOH participates in establishment of public health goals &amp; objectives<sup>^</sup></li> <li>BOH assures the availability of resources to implement essential services<sup>^</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive community health assessment</li> <li>Behavioral risk assessment</li> <li>Health planning<sup>^</sup></li> </ul>
Partnership development and community mobilization			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene and collaborate with community partners on community health problems</li> <li>Identify underserved populations and lead efforts to link individuals with preventive and other health services</li> <li>BOH promotes the development of public health partnerships<sup>^</sup></li> </ul>	
Policy development, analysis, and decision support			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support development of public health policy and law</li> <li>Understand, monitor, and enforce compliance with public health laws</li> <li>BOH engages in rule making<sup>^</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health code development and enforcement</li> <li>Health planning<sup>^</sup></li> </ul>

Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and patient health education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform and educate public</li> <li>• Health promotion activities^</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health education^</li> <li>• Community health education</li> <li>• Interpretation, spoken language^</li> <li>• Health promotion and risk reduction^</li> </ul>
Public health research, evaluation, & quality improvement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect, manage and display health data^</li> <li>• Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services</li> <li>• Use research to develop and evaluate public health programs</li> </ul>	

**Minimum Package: Basic Programs**

<b>Foundational Capability</b>	<b>NC essential services law</b>	<b>NC mandated services laws</b>	<b>NC accreditation requirements</b>	<b>Services assessed in DHHS biennial survey</b>
Maternal & child health promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child health</li> <li>• Family planning</li> <li>• Maternal health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maternal health</li> <li>• Child health</li> <li>• Family planning</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead abatement^</li> <li>• Primary care—pediatric^</li> <li>• Maternal health^ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prenatal and postpartum care</li> <li>• Maternity care coordination</li> <li>• SIDS counseling</li> <li>• WIC services —mother</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Family planning^ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-conceptual counseling</li> <li>• Contraceptive care</li> <li>• Fertility services</li> <li>• Pregnancy prevention—adolescent</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Child health^ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-child services</li> <li>• Genetic services</li> <li>• Services to developmentally disabled children</li> <li>• Child service coordination</li> <li>• Adolescent health services</li> <li>• School health services^</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Injury control				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead poisoning services</li> <li>• WIC services—children</li> <li>• Immunizations^</li> <li>• Newborn home visiting services</li> <li>• Behavioral health services^</li> <li>• Children with special health care needs services</li> </ul>
			• Health promotion activities^	• Health promotion & risk reduction: injury control^
Communicable disease control	• Communicable disease control	• Communicable disease control	• Case investigation protocols for rapid detection and containment of communicable disease outbreaks, environmental health hazards, and other threats^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicable disease surveillance^</li> <li>• Child health: immunizations^</li> <li>• Communicable disease control^               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuberculosis control</li> <li>• Acute communicable disease control</li> <li>• STD control training/education</li> <li>• STD control screening</li> <li>• AIDS/HIV screening</li> <li>• Hepatitis A &amp; B</li> <li>• Rabies control</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Chronic disease prevention</b>	• Chronic disease control	• Adult health^	• Health promotion activities^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic disease surveillance^</li> <li>• Chronic disease early detection &amp; referral^</li> <li>• Chronic disease patient education^</li> <li>• Chronic disease monitoring and treatment^</li> <li>• Health promotion and risk reduction^               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition counseling</li> <li>• Injury control^</li> <li>• Tobacco cessation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Environmental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and food safety and sanitation</li> <li>• Lodging and institutional sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food, lodging, and institutional sanitation</li> <li>• Individual on-site water supply</li> <li>• Sanitary sewage</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurant/lodging/institutional sanitation and inspections</li> <li>• On-site sewage and wastewater disposal</li> <li>• Water sanitation and safety</li> <li>• Private water supply</li> </ul>

Mental health & substance abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation of on-site wastewater systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>collection, treatment, and disposal</li> <li>Grade-A milk sanitation*</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milk sanitation*</li> <li>Shellfish sanitation*</li> <li>Public swimming pool</li> <li>Bedding control*</li> <li>Pest management: mosquito</li> <li>Pest management: rodent**</li> <li>Pest management: tick**</li> <li>Lead abatement^</li> <li>Child health: behavioral health services^</li> </ul>
<b>Other Public Health Services/Activities in North Carolina</b>				
<b>Service/Activity</b>	<b>NC essential services law</b>	<b>NC mandated services laws</b>	<b>NC accreditation requirements</b>	<b>Services assessed in DHHS biennial survey</b>
Personal health programs not reflected in minimum package		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serve as health care provider when local needs and authority exist and agency has capacity and resources^</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary care—adult</li> <li>Home health services</li> <li>Migrant health</li> <li>Refugee health</li> <li>Public health nurse pharmacy dispensing</li> <li>Other pharmacy services</li> </ul>
Dental public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental public health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental public health</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental health education</li> <li>Topical fluoride application</li> <li>Sealant application</li> <li>Dental screening &amp; referral</li> <li>Dental treatment</li> <li>Community fluoridation</li> <li>“Into the Mouths of Babes” dental preventive services</li> </ul>
Public health laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public health laboratories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public health laboratory support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public health laboratory support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory services</li> </ul>
School health				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School nursing services</li> <li>Child health: school health services</li> </ul>
Public health preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public health preparedness</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24/7 public health alerts and public health emergency response capability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioterrorism &amp; other emergency preparedness and response planning &amp;</li> </ul>

Workforce and agency support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case investigation protocols for rapid detection and containment of communicable disease outbreaks, environmental health hazards, and other threats^</li> </ul>	assessment
Local agency governance – activities of the local board of health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assure a competent public health workforce and health care workforce</li> <li>• Provide facilities and administrative services</li> <li>• Operate secure and effective information systems^</li> <li>• Assure financial accountability</li> <li>• Rule making^</li> <li>• Adjudication</li> <li>• Participate in training</li> <li>• Develop, implement, &amp; evaluate services and programs</li> <li>• Participate in establishment of public health goals &amp; objectives</li> <li>• Assure the availability of resources to implement essential services</li> <li>• Advocate on behalf of public health</li> <li>• Promote the development of public health partnerships</li> </ul>	

^ This item is listed more than once in this column.

\*This program was transferred to another state agency in FY 2011–2012.

\*\*\* This program was abolished in FY 2011–2012.



Table 3. Essential public health services in North Carolina (G.S. 130A-1.1)

	Services
<b>Health Support Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of health status, health needs, and environmental risks to health</li> <li>• Patient and community education</li> <li>• Public health laboratory</li> <li>• Registration of vital events</li> <li>• Quality improvement</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging and institutional sanitation</li> <li>• On-site domestic sewage disposal</li> <li>• Water and food safety and sanitation</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child health</li> <li>• Chronic disease control</li> <li>• Communicable disease control</li> <li>• Dental public health</li> <li>• Family planning</li> <li>• Health promotion and risk reduction</li> <li>• Maternal health</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health Preparedness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public health preparedness</li> </ul>

Table 4. Mandated public health services in North Carolina (10A NCAC 46 .0201–.0216)

Services a LPHA must provide	Services a LPHA must provide, contract, or certify are otherwise available
Food, lodging, and institutional sanitation	Adult health
Individual on-site water supply	Home health
Sanitary sewage collection, treatment, and disposal	Dental public health
Communicable disease control	Grade-A milk certification <sup>3</sup>
Vital records registration	Maternal health
	Child health
	Family planning
	Public health laboratory

3. In 2011, responsibility for milk sanitation at the state level was transferred from the former Division of Environmental Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to the Food and Drug Protection Division of the Department of Agriculture and Community Services. S.L. 2011-145, sec. 13.3.(b).

Table 5: North Carolina Accreditation Standards (10A NCAC Ch. 48)

Category	Essential service	Accreditation benchmarks
Assessment	Monitor health status to identify community problems	<p>Conduct and disseminate results of regular community health assessments</p> <p>Work with health care providers in the community to report reportable diseases and other health-related events and data</p> <p>Maintain skills and capacity to collect, manage, integrate and display health-related data</p>
	Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community	<p>Engage in surveillance activities and assess, investigate, and analyze health problems, threats and hazards, maintaining and using epidemiological expertise</p> <p>Establish and maintain a system to receive and provide health alerts and public health response for health care providers, emergency responders, and communities on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week basis</p> <p>Be able to respond to a public health emergency on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week basis</p> <p>Maintain and implement epidemiological case investigation protocols providing for rapid detection and containment of communicable disease outbreaks; environmental health hazards; potential biological, chemical, and radiological threats</p> <p>Provide or have access to laboratory capacity capable of providing for rapid detection and containment of communicable disease outbreaks; environmental health hazards; potential biological, chemical, and radiological threats</p>
Policy Development	Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues	<p>Provide the general public and elected and appointed officials with information on health risks, health status, and health needs in the community as well as information on policies and programs that can improve community health</p> <p>Provide, support, and evaluate health promotion activities designed to influence the behavior of individuals and groups</p>
	Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems	<p>Convene key constituents and community partners to identify, analyze, and prioritize community health issues</p> <p>Develop strategies in collaboration with community partners to solve existing community health problems</p> <p>Identify and build upon community assets and</p>

	Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts	<p>direct them toward resolving health problems</p> <p>Work with local, state and federal policymakers to enact policies, laws, rules, and ordinances that support individual and community health efforts</p> <p>Develop plans to guide the agency's work</p>	
Assurance	Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety	<p>Staff shall have knowledge of public health law and an understanding of the relationship between the law and public health practice</p> <p>Monitor compliance with public health laws and rules</p> <p>Enforce public health laws, rules and ordinances</p>	
	Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable	<p>Identify populations that are not receiving preventive services or are otherwise underserved with respect to health care</p> <p>Mobilize the community to address health care resource needs</p> <p>Lead efforts in the community to link individuals with preventive, health promotion, and other health services</p> <p>Serve as a health care provider when local needs and authority exist and the agency capacity and resources are available</p>	
	Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce	<p>Require staff to meet statutory and regulatory qualifications for their positions</p> <p>Regularly evaluate staff training and development needs and provide opportunities for continuing education, training, and leadership development</p> <p>Build relationships with entities that conduct education or research to enrich public health practice</p> <p>Promote diversity in the public health workforce</p>	
	Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services	Evaluate all services the agency provides for effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes	
	Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems	<p>Use research to develop and evaluate public health programs</p> <p>Ensure that participation in research meets ethical standards</p>	
	Additional state law requirements	Provide facilities and administrative services	<p>Provide safe and accessible physical facilities and services</p> <p>Develop and implement administrative policies and procedures</p> <p>Operate a secure and effective management information system</p> <p>Assure the agency's financial accountability</p>

Governance

The local board of health shall exercise its authority to adopt and enforce rules necessary to protect and promote the public's health

The local board of health shall assure a fair and equitable adjudication process

The local board of health members shall be trained regarding their service on the board

The local board of health shall assure the development, implementation, and evaluation of local health services and programs to protect and promote the public's health

The local board of health shall participate in the establishment of public health goals and objectives

The local board of health shall assure the availability of resources to implement the essential services described in G.S. 130A-34.1(e)(2).

The local board of health shall advocate in the community on behalf of public health

The local board of health shall promote the development of public health partnerships