



GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

Governance, Infrastructure and Services



Our goal: To ensure that every Hoosier has access to the core public health services that allow them to achieve their optimal health and wellbeing.

Overview: Indiana's local health departments

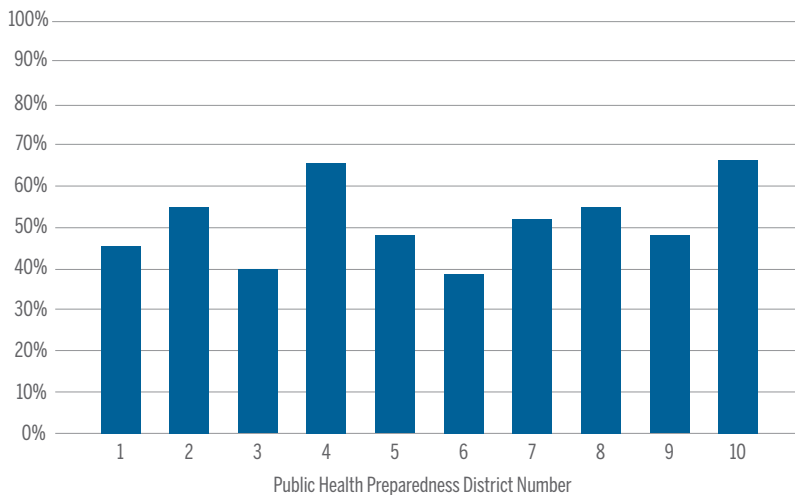
- Indiana's public health system consists of the Indiana Department of Health and 94 local health departments (LHDs) and community partners serving 92 counties
- Indiana operates under a decentralized, "home rule" model in which local governments oversee most public health services and functions, including the structure, financing, size and activities of LHDs
- The majority of LHDs are operated at the county level, but Indiana also has three municipal LHDs (Fishers, Gary and East Chicago)

Number of LHDs and Average Number of Full and Part-time LHD Employees by Size of Jurisdiction Served

LHD Pop. Size	<25,000	25–50,000	50–100,000	100–250,000	>250,000
# of LHDs	30	35	12	12	5
Avg. # Full Time	3.2	6.2	14.9	29.9	194.8
Avg. # Part Time	2.4	2.6	6.0	6.8	17.0

This shows the average number of full- and part-time employees by population, but the actual number ranges from 3 to 1,062.

Average Proportion of Recommended Services Performed by LHDs at District Level (weighted by population)



- Where you live determines your access to core public health services
- The Indiana Public Health System in Review Report said that on average, LHDs have implemented about half of 20 recommended public health activities, and many report limited capabilities






While Indiana law and regulations define a wide range of functions and services, some are mandatory for LHDs to perform or provide, while others are non-mandatory. Some mandatory functions, like lead prevention and detection, are not consistently done due to the lack of resources.

Some examples:

Mandatory

-  Infectious disease control & prevention
-  Vital records services (birth and death certificates)
-  Lead exposure prevention
-  Tattoo and body piercing safety and sanitation
-  Dwellings that are safe for human habitation

Non-Mandatory

-  Campgrounds and beaches
-  HIV and STI prevention (testing, treatment, partner services, etc.)
-  Public and semi-public pool/spa compliance
-  Safe sleep for infants
-  Mobile home safety/sanitation



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Indiana
Department
of
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Benefits of Supporting Local Public Health

Allows for tailored programming that best meets needs of local communities

Provides opportunities to share resources and expertise to ease capacity constraints

Encourages promotion of continuous quality improvement

Improving the health of individuals benefits communities for local public health in Indiana

A formal assessment of public health talent retention would help inform workforce development efforts



Goals:

- Local credibility, trusted resource
- Local physical presence
- Established relationships with community stakeholders
- Able to be more responsive to local public health needs
- Potentially quicker response time

Next steps:

- Define core public health services with stakeholder engagement
- Provide technical assistance to LHDs to support implementation and shared resources, if requested
- Provide state staff and resources at regional and district levels to support LHDs, including epidemiology, data analytics and protection, grant writing, training and other functions as necessary
- Encourage partnerships among LHDs for key service areas
- Help LHDs engage local businesses, healthcare providers, schools and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote public health in the community
- Amend Indiana law to allow changes to makeup of local health board (LHB) to include independent members, individuals knowledgeable in public health
- Adjust makeup of LHB to allow for increased engagement from municipal leaders and the general public
- Expand personnel eligible to serve as a local health officer if local health board and officials desire
- Require new local health officers to complete public health foundations training
- Provide state support to LHDs pursuing accreditation or reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board

Be a public health champion!
Learn more at www.in.gov/gphc