



# Public Health Week

## The Foundational Public Health Services

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is comprised of over 200 programs that cover a wide breadth of public health services. The Department is responsible for the foundational public health services of communicable disease control; chronic disease and injury prevention; environmental public health; maternal, child, family health; and vital records. The Department also has regulatory responsibility for licensing health care facilities. The Department accomplishes its mandates through the use of surveillance and epidemiology, emergency preparedness and response, communications, policy development and support, community partnership and development, and business competencies. While some of these essential public health services may change over time, it

is important to know that optimizing the health and well-being of the people in California will continue to be the foundation of the work we do. Defining what public health is continues to be a challenge even for those working in public health as it continues to evolve over time. However, it is important to understand that what the core functions of a public health department are and the vital role they play in ensuring public health and safety.

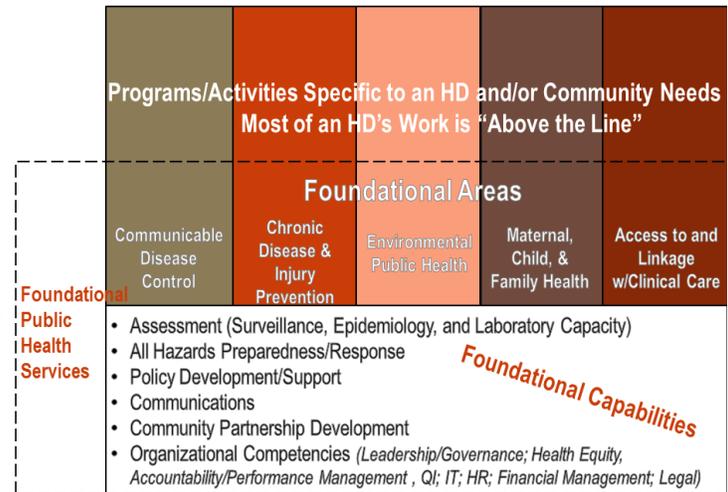
**Foundational Capabilities (FCs):** Cross-cutting skills needed in state/local health departments everywhere for health system to work anywhere; essential skills/capacities to support all activities

**Foundational Areas (FAs):** Substantive areas of expertise or program-specific activities in all state/local health departments necessary to protect the community's health

**Programs/Activities Specific to a Health Department or a Community's Needs:** Additional, critical significance to a specific community's health, supported by FAs/FCs; most of a health department's work

**Foundational PH Services (FPHS):** Comprised of the FCs and FAs; a suite of skills, programs/activities that must be available in state/local health departments system-wide

### Other Services Particular To A Community



## National Public Health Week: April 4-10

In recognition of National Public Health Week, April 4-10, CDPH will issue a daily legislative brief on important issues in Public Health. The Goal of National Public Health Week is to acknowledge contributions made by public health and to raise awareness of issues important to improving the nation's health. During the first full week of April each year, the American Public Health Association (APHA) brings together communities across the United States to observe National Public Health Week as

a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. For over 20 years, APHA has served as the organizer of NPHW. Every year, the Association develops a national campaign to educate the public, policymakers and practitioners about issues related to each year's theme. APHA creates new NPHW materials each year that can be used during and after NPHW to raise awareness about public health and prevention. This year's theme is "Healthiest

Nation 2030" including eight indicators of health:

- Build a nation of safe, healthy communities
- Help all young people graduate from high school
- The relationship between increased economic mobility and better health
- Social justice & health
- Give everyone a choice of healthy food
- Preparing for the health effects of climate change
- Provide quality health care for everyone
- Strengthen the public health infrastructure

[Public's Health: Investing in a Healthier Future \(IOM 2012\)](http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/)

(<http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/>)

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](http://www.rwjf.org/)

(<http://www.rwjf.org/>)

[National Public Health Week](http://www.nphw.org/)

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