

PHAB Accreditation Impact Series

Topic #2: Accreditation increases multi-sector partnerships to promote health in communities.

What has PHAB Learned about Accreditation's Impact on Multi-Sector Partnerships to Promote Health?

Read health departments' descriptions about how accreditation has helped them engage with partners to improve the health of their communities:



PHAB's CHA and CHIP standards strengthen DuPage County Health Department's commitment to "Impact DuPage"

<http://www.phaboard.org/underscoring-the-value-of-a-collaborative-cha-process/>



PHAB accreditation has become a road map for change at Clinton County Health Department in Plattsburgh, NY

<http://www.phaboard.org/in-plattsburgh-ny-accreditations-impact-runs-deep-2/>

Below are additional findings about the link between accreditation and multi-sector partnerships and/or collaborations to promote health.

- Although nearly all health departments report having positive relationships with local community stakeholders prior to applying for accreditation, 74% of those surveyed one year after accreditation agreed or strongly agreed that "Since being accredited, our health department's relationships with local community stakeholders have improved."*
- 96% of health departments that had recently been accredited agreed or strongly agreed that "Community stakeholders provided positive feedback upon hearing accreditation was conferred."*
- In their own words as part of Annual Reports and the evaluation, health departments have described the following benefits of accreditation:
 - There is "much more unified involvement [of community organizations] across our jurisdiction, which was definitely a result of us going through the accreditation process."
 - "The PHAB standards and measures provide a best practice or evidence-based road map or structure to best accomplish along with community partners, all of the things that a health department should be doing."
 - "Since going through the process of developing a CHA and CHIP and making an effort to conform to all of the PHAB standards and measures, the department has [improved its ranking in] the County Health Rankings. We attribute this significant jump in the rankings largely to the work that has been accomplished as a result of our CHIP."
 - "Especially since becoming an accredited health department in 2013, the [health department] has been encouraged to take a higher profile leadership position in the community."
- In their Annual Reports, health departments discuss how they have worked with community partners in a variety of sectors to improve the health in their communities. For example, they have:
 - Increased the number and diversity of partners in their communities, taking a collective impact approach to promoting the public's health.
 - Incorporated a goal in the city's business plan to increase life expectancy across all zip codes.
 - Collaborated with local hospitals to do a joint community health needs assessment.
 - Worked with a range of partners to address such issues as school readiness, criminal justice reform, and adverse childhood experiences.
- Preliminary analysis suggests that jurisdictions that contain an accredited local public health agency are more likely to be considered comprehensive public health systems. <http://systemsforaction.org/projects/accreditation-and-multi-sector-contributions-population-health-activities>

To read more about the link between accreditation and multi-sector partnerships, please see: <https://jphmpdirect.com/2016/11/08/accreditation-and-multi-sector-collaborations-to-promote-health-by-jessica-kronstadt/>

* Findings from the ongoing evaluation of accreditation being conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. As of December 2016, 69 health departments had responded to the survey one year after they were accredited. For more information on the evaluation, see: www.phaboard.org/research-and-evaluation/.

Accreditation increases multi-sector partnerships to improve health.

Messaging

The table below summarizes some of the key messages related to the link between accreditation and multi-sector partnerships and their potential audiences.

Message	HD Directors	HD Staff	Governing Entities	Policymakers	Community Partners	Funders	News Media	Overall Community
A collaborative Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) are two of the cornerstone requirements for PHAB accreditation.	✓	✓	✓					
Accreditation can increase and enhance partnerships with a wide range of partners, including hospitals, educational institutions, service organizations, businesses, civic organizations, faith-based groups, housing organizations and criminal justice organizations.	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
Accreditation requires health departments to engage numerous partners as they work to understand the needs and assets in their communities.	✓	✓			✓			✓
Data from multi-sector partnerships can help justify how and where resources should be allocated to best meet a community's public health needs.	✓		✓			✓		
Sharing data among multiple sectors enables decision-makers to develop policies and programs that have the biggest impact in reducing health disparities.	✓		✓	✓				
The health department's efforts to protect and improve the health of the community are more effective when multiple private, public and community partners join together in a strategic and coordinated way.	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
Collaborating across sectors gives the health department access to partners who may be critical to the success of a certain public health initiative.	✓				✓			
No single health department can protect a community's health on its own; connecting with different sectors helps the health department carry out its important work.		✓			✓		✓	✓
Multi-sector partnerships can better leverage available resources and provide the health department with greater reach and credibility.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Coordinating resources can reduce duplication of activities and maximize available resources.	✓		✓		✓			
New partnerships established as a result of accreditation can lead to alternative funding sources through grants and other funding mechanisms.	✓		✓			✓		

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Accreditation and multi-sector partnerships improve the health department's accountability, credibility, visibility, and reputation with external stakeholders.	✓	✓	✓					
Engaging with nontraditional partners can help hold leaders accountable and thereby accomplish more ambitious goals.	✓		✓					