

Building a Healthier Michigan

A State Health Assessment

The Public Health Administration (PHA) at MDHHS is launching a State Health Assessment (SHA) process beginning June 1, 2019 and continuing through January 31, 2020. This collaborative process works best when public health system partners are actively engaged in the assessment and planning processes.

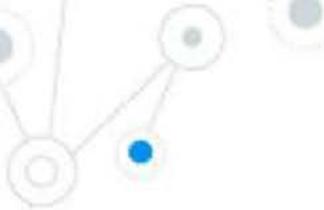
Everyone wants to be healthy, but not every Michigander is and not everyone has the same opportunity to live a healthy life. The SHA will measure how healthy Michigan is, what health conditions cause the greatest challenges and the root causes of those issues.

PHA will be using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework to guide the SHA. MAPP is a participatory strategic planning process for improving public health. This framework helps to prioritize public health issues, identify resources for addressing them, and drive action. This is not just a plan for PHA, but for the entire public health system in Michigan. As such, the SHA process relies on participation from a wide range of individuals, groups, and constituencies in the state. Public health is impacted by more than just public health departments. Hospitals, businesses, faith organizations, and community-based organizations also play a critical role in assuring the public's health.

What are the benefits of completing a State Health Assessment?

Engaging in the SHA process provides the following benefits:

- Increased visibility of public health within the state
 - Development of advocates for public health
 - Creating a healthy state and better quality of life
 - Proactively acting to improve health
 - Stronger public health infrastructure
 - Develop stronger partnerships
 - Public health leadership strengthened as system partners take ownership of the role they play in the public health system
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How will this improve health?

Once priority health needs are identified and their root causes, a plan can be developed to address those needs. With the full public health system moving in the same direction, efforts will be maximized to impact Michigan's greatest health challenges.

Why are we doing this now?

Michigan previously completed a State Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plan in 2011. It is time to engage in this work again to ensure current health needs of the population are addressed.

In addition, PHA is preparing to achieve national public health accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), and a SHA is a major part of the preparation. PHAB accreditation is a process designed to “improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and transforming the quality and performance of governmental public health agencies in the U.S. and abroad.¹” A major focus of PHAB is involvement of the whole public health system in improving population health through thoughtful partnership, collaborative planning, and developing a shared vision and direction for improving the health of the population served. Currently, 36 state public health agencies are accredited through PHAB with another 4 going through the PHAB accreditation process. MDHHS is committed to joining this movement toward advancing and transforming public health.

Why should I be involved?

A strengthened public health system and improved health outcomes benefits us all. Additionally, when the public health system is aligned and working collaboratively toward common goals, partners benefit by building on existing resources and data-driven strategies for meeting Michigan's greatest health needs.

How can I be involved?

In the next few months you or your delegate may be asked to be a part of the steering committee or stakeholder group, participate in a sub-committee, encourage partners' participation or provide data.

What's next?

There are many ways to be involved, including participating on the SHA Steering Committee, contributing your voice to assessment activities, and sharing what you know to ensure a well-rounded view of health in the state. Thank you in advance for your contributions to this process. If you have any questions about this state health assessment process or PHAB accreditation, contact Jennifer Schuette at SchuetteJ@michigan.gov.

¹ <https://www.phaboard.org/>