

Local Public Health System Executive Summary

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) is one of four assessments completed as part of a community health strategic planning process for Jefferson County called Community Matters: Assessment, Visioning and Planning for a Healthy Jefferson County). The LPHSA was completed using the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS) Local Instrument which measures how well local public health system partners provide public health services using a nationally recognized set of optimal performance standards.

The LPHSA seeks to answer the following questions:

- *What are the components, activities and capacities of our public health system?*
- *How well are the 10 Essential Public Health Services being provided in our public health system?*



The NPHPS Local Instrument utilizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s 10 Essential Public Health Services (Essential Services). The Essential Services Framework is a method for identifying the core processes used within the public health system to promote health and prevent disease.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

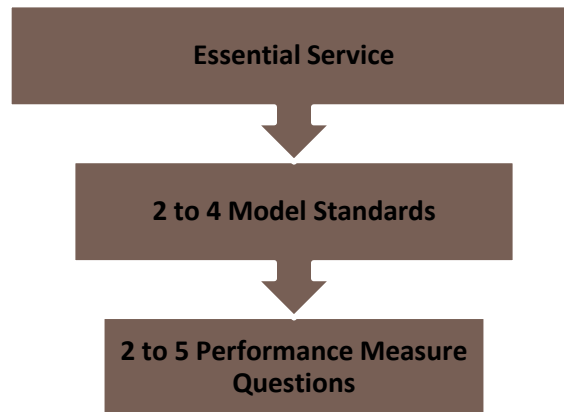


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One hundred and six public health professionals, representing both public and private organizations, and Jefferson County community representatives, completed the NPHPS Local Instrument between October 22, 2018 and November 6, 2018 through participation in one or more of the ten Essential Service assessment sessions.

Each Essential Service within the NPHPS Local Instrument includes two to four Model Standards that describe an optimally performing public health system. Each Model Standard is evaluated through questions which serve as measures of performance (See Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: NPHPS Local Instrument



Each Essential Service Session was facilitated by two facilitators with expertise and knowledge of that Essential Service. LPHSA participants were assigned to Essential Service Sessions based on the main function(s) of the organization represented and the individual’s role within that organization. After discussing each performance standard, participants were asked to reach consensus regarding the level of activity for each performance measure. Using the responses to each of the performance measure questions, a scoring process generated a score for each model standard, the Essential Service and the overall performance of the Local Public Health System using the scoring categorized shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Performance Assessment Scoring

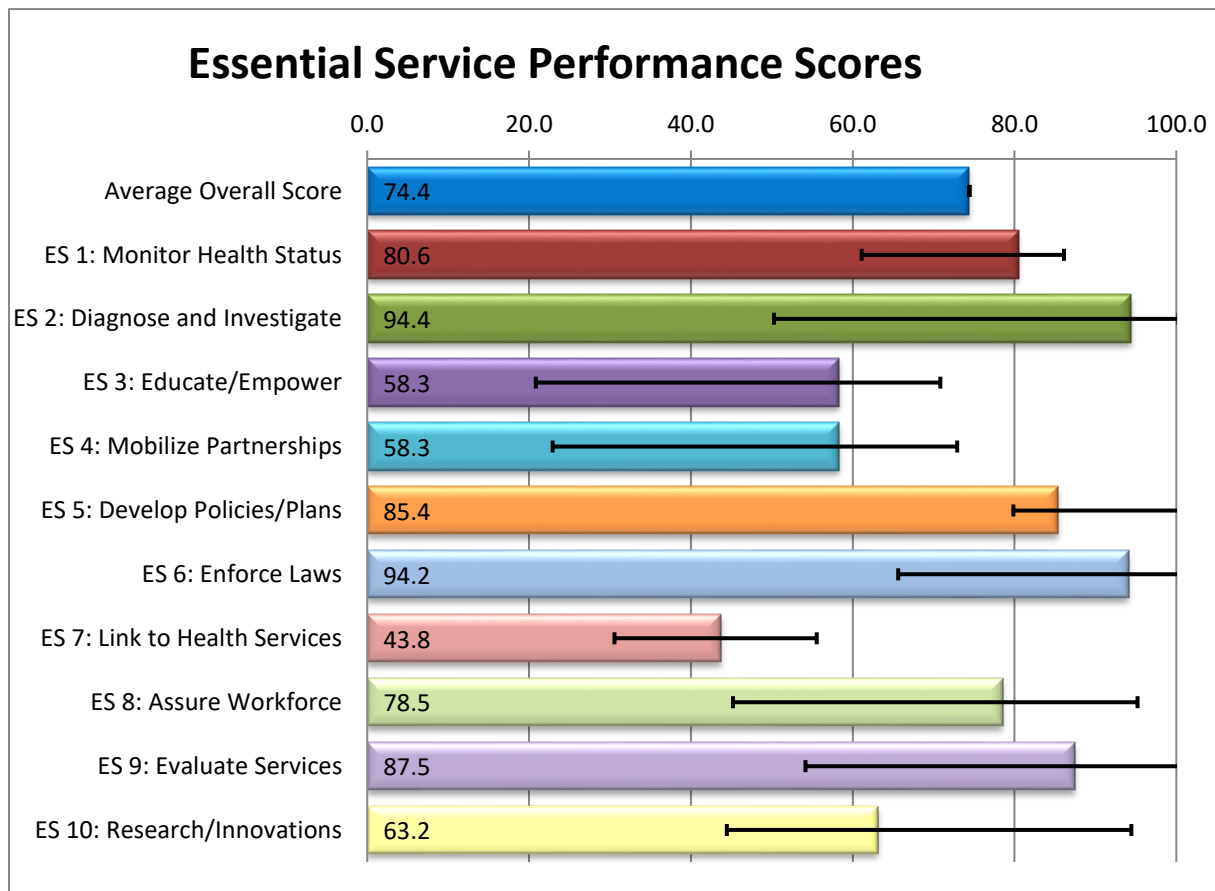
Optimal Activity (76-100%)	Greater than 75% of the activity described within the question is met.
Significant Activity (51-75%)	Greater than 50%, but no more than 75% of the activity described within the question is met.
Moderate Activity (26-50%)	Greater than 25%, but no more than 50% of the activity described within the question is met.
Minimal Activity (1-25%)	Greater than zero, but no more than 25% of the activity described within the question is met.
No Activity (0%)	0% or absolutely no activity.



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The average overall performance score from the NPHPS Local Instrument and the mean score of each essential service are shown in Figure 2. The black line within the bars indicates the range of performance scores for that Essential Service received by other communities that have completed the NPHPS Local Instrument. The average overall score on the NPHPS Local Instrument for Jefferson County’s Local Public Health System was 74.4, representing significant activity. Among the Essential Services, Essential Service 2: Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community, with a score of 94.4, received the highest activity rating and optimal performance. The lowest overall Essential Service score, 43.8, was for Essential Service 7: Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care When Otherwise Unavailable and moderate activity. Six of the ten Essential Services were evaluated at the optimal activity level (75-100%), while three Essential

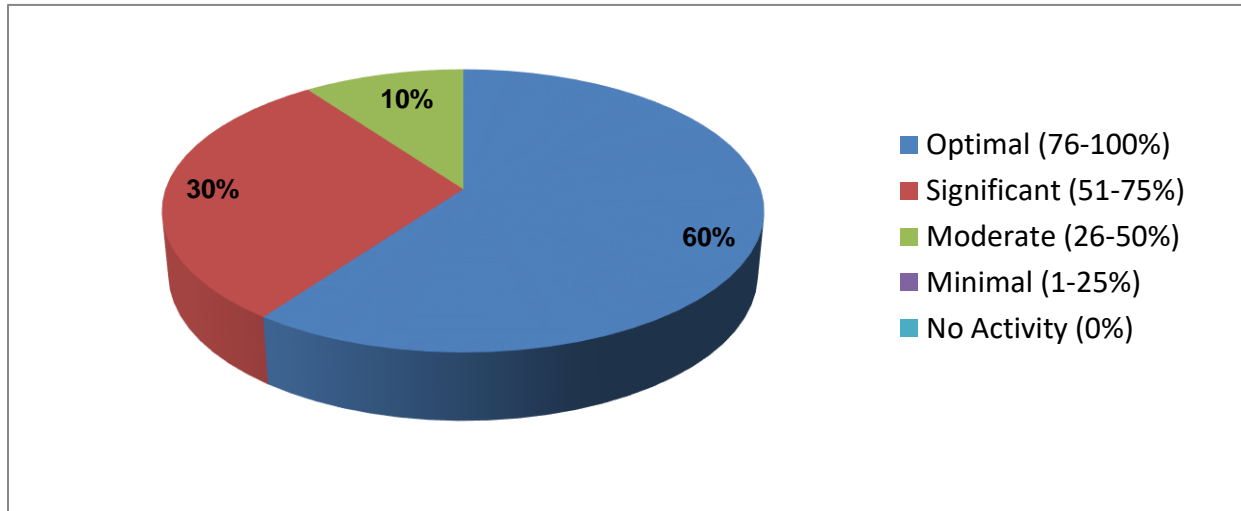
FIGURE 3: Essential Service Performance Scores



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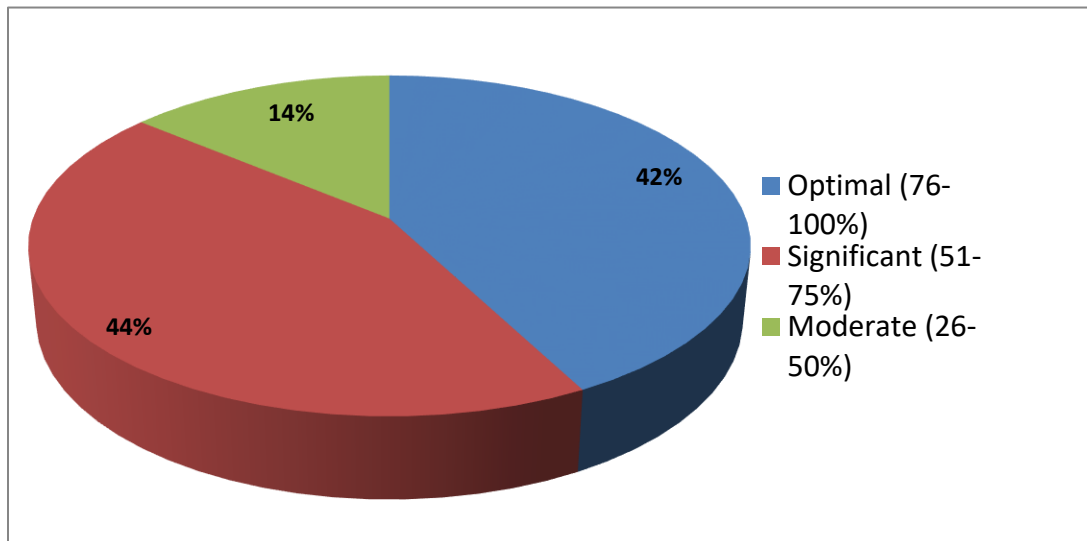
Services were rated as achieving significant activity level (50-75%). One Essential Service was rated in the moderate activity level (25 – 50%). None of the Essential Services were rated at the minimal (1-25%) or no activity (0%) levels (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: Essential Services Scores Categories



The Jefferson County Public Health System’s performance on each of the thirty model standards ranged from the optimal to minimal activity levels (Figure 5). The four model standards which scored 100% represented emergency response, strategic planning and implementation of laws. The model standard with the lowest score of 37.5% was specific to ensuring people are linked to personal health services.

FIGURE 5: Model Standard Scores by Categories





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In addition to the scores, the assessment identified strengths, weakness and opportunities for improvement for Jefferson County’s Local Public Health System. These strengths, weaknesses and improvement opportunities are intended to assist the Local Public Health System gain enhanced understanding of its collective performance and to strengthen the system.

The information and feedback gathered during the LPHSA process will inform the identification of key issues in Jefferson County and support an action plan to improve health and quality of life.



The work of Community Matters is supported by the Jefferson County Department of Health.