

## Champions for Public Health

PHAB works to advance and transform public health practice through health department accreditation and innovation. We support health departments in their work to promote the health of the communities they serve through accreditation, education, technical assistance, and research & evaluation.

### Health Departments are the Backbone of the Public Health System

The public health system is essential for ensuring healthy, safe, and equitable communities. Health departments are a vital part of this system, and positively impact the health of the communities they serve, through essential services such as vaccination, food inspections and health education, yet they are often underfunded and undervalued.

As health departments receive less funding, the health of the communities they serve becomes more at risk. PHAB contributes to the advancement of public health practice and system improvement to support people living their healthiest lives.



### Accreditation and Innovation are Critical to Public Health Transformation

We promote evidence and innovation to support health departments in their delivery of programs and services to drive performance improvement and strong infrastructure.

Accreditation is the measurement of a health department's performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards. As the sole provider of national accreditation for state, local, territorial, Army, and Tribal health departments, PHAB provides an external, peer reviewed process for health departments to assess themselves on their ability to efficiently operate and effectively deliver essential public health services. In addition, PHAB has the only national dataset of peer-reviewed assessments of health department capacity, which can be used for benchmarking and research.

PHAB's Center for Innovation works to identify, foster, and share health department innovations in public health practice. PHNCI is the national leader in incubating and sharing innovative programs that improve public health practice.

Visit [phaboard.org](https://phaboard.org) for more on how quality and performance improvement and innovation contribute to public health transformation, and read our Stories of Impact to see how health departments are making a real impact in their communities.