Public Health in Michigan

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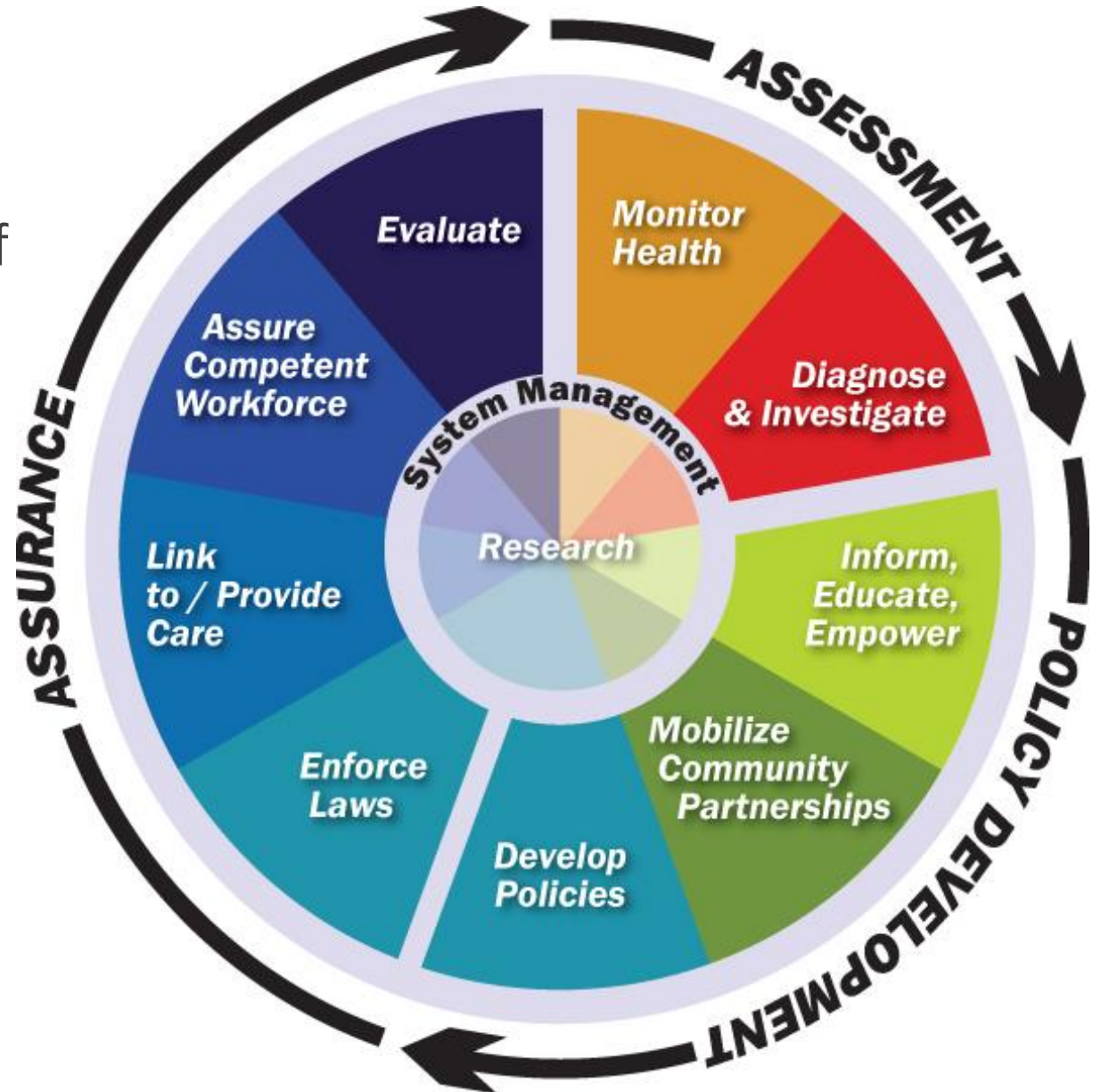Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Agenda

- What is Public Health?

- Michigan's Public Health System

- The Public Health Administration

- Public Health Measures

What is Public Health?

- Public health services help ensure communities become healthy places to live, work and play. Public health protects communities against environmental hazards and provides resources for reliable health information.

- Public health is about understanding and preventing disease and injury across the entire population. It works to assure access for all population groups within the community to health care services.

- Public health focuses on promoting health and preventing disease before an individual becomes sick. It is a public and private partnership that improves health status by applying science to medical practice, personal behavior and public policy.

What is Public Health?

- Public health employs a variety of tools to promote and protect the public's health and safety from various ongoing threats.
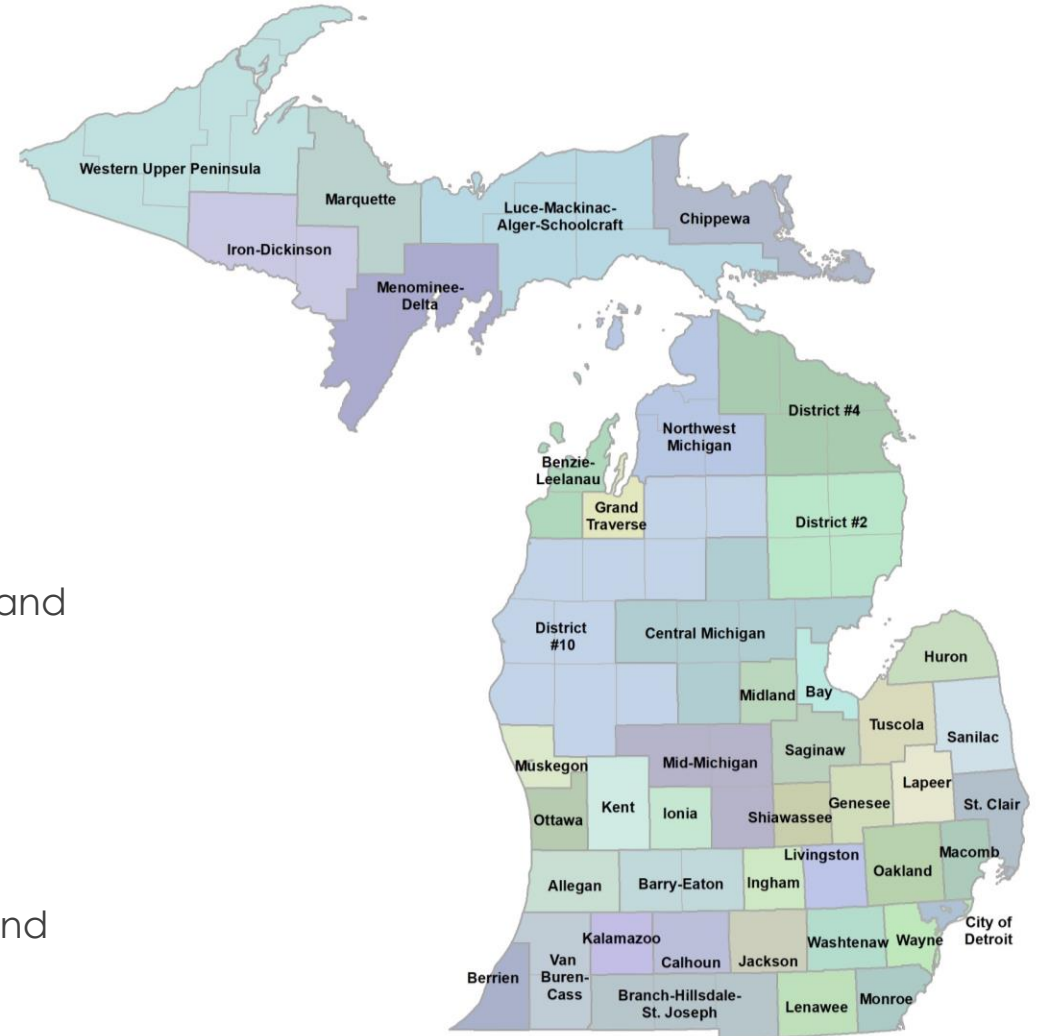
Michigan's Public Health System

- Michigan law clearly defines public health and responsibility for its delivery resting with the State Health Department (MDHHS).

- MDHHS shall "continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health through organized programs" (MCL 333.2221).

- They also "shall promote an adequate and appropriate system of local health services throughout the state and shall endeavor to develop and establish arrangements and procedures for the effective coordination and integration of all public health services including effective cooperation between public and nonpublic entities to provide a unified system of statewide health care" (MCL 333.2224).

Michigan's Public Health System

- Michigan has 45 LHDs

  - 33 counties

  - 14 multi-county districts

  - 1 city (Detroit)

- LHD responsibilities include:

  - Preventing, controlling and investigating the spread of disease and injury

  - Safeguarding against and investigating environmental threats

  - Preparing for and responding to emergencies

  - Promoting healthy behaviors and providing health education and nutrition services

  - Implementing and enforcing laws

Michigan's Public Health System

- Michigan's public health infrastructure includes a variety of public, private, and community resources.

- Non-governmental entities including healthcare and human services organizations, schools, media, employers, business and others also play important roles in public health.

The Public Health Administration

- Bureau of Epidemiology and Population Health

- Bureau of Health and Wellness

- Bureau of HIV/STI Programs

- Bureau of Infectious Disease and Prevention

- Bureau of Laboratories

The Public Health Administration

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Administration (PHA) has achieved several accomplishments in 2022:

  - **1,198,445** children enrolled in **Healthy Kids Dental** and **12,458** pregnant women received **dental care**.

  - Over **1,255** individuals, including **724** children were protected from lead exposure through lead abatement of their home.

  - Each day, more than **1,200 moms, babies**, and **children** less than the age 5 receive nutritious foods from the Michigan WIC Program.

  - **9.8 million syringes** distributed to **121,885** people through the Michigan **Syringe Service Program** between October 1, 2018 -December 31, 2022.

  - Our nationally recognized Bureau of Laboratories completed over **7.3 million** tests for State of Michigan residents including **102,295** newborn screenings.

The Public Health Administration

Public health investment	• Identifying gaps in local and state public health response to develop stronger mitigation strategies
Racial equity	• Increasing the capacity of our agency and community partners to advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion
Addressing food and nutrition, housing, and other social determinants of health	• Aligning efforts by partnering with state agencies and local health departments on existing SDoH initiatives and producing greater impacts in communities
Improve the maternal-infant health and reduce outcome disparities	• Address challenges associated with perinatal substance abuse and mental health
Reduce lead exposure for children	• Strengthen collaboration between health and human services programs to better link citizens to lead services

Public Health Measures

- Racial disparities affect how Michigan's babies thrive. Disparities exist in infant mortality and its leading causes, including low birth weight, prematurity and sleep related deaths.

- Our key measures include:

  - Infant mortality rates,

  - Pre-term birth percentage,

  - Number of sleep-related deaths,

  - Maternal morbidity and mortality rates.

- To monitor our progress all these measures must be disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

Addressing Equity to Move Public Health Measures

- The Public Health Administration pays special attention to solutions and interventions that promote and achieve **health equity**, the fair, just and equitable distribution of and access to public services, social resources and implementation of public policy necessary to achieve well-being and thrive.

- Inequities are perpetuated when policies, practices and structures of organizations or systems advantage some populations while disadvantaging others.

- PHA is working to advance equity by designing, implementing, and operationalizing policies and programs that support health for all people served by our programs.

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