

Measuring Local Public Health Preparedness: Gaining Perspective

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Warm up exercise

**PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPAREDNESS REQUIRES
PROPER PLANNING,
PARTNERSHIPS, PATIENCE,
AND PLENTY OF RESOURCES.**

How many P's are there?

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Perspective Influences Performance

Organization

- CDC
- State Health Departments
- Local Health Departments



Perspective

- Federal
- State
- Local

Why Measure Performance?



What Are We Measuring?



Gas Mileage	9 mpg.	25 mpg.
Engine Type	V8	V4
Gross Weight	8,600 lbs.	3494 lbs.
Cargo Capacity	87 cu. ft.	24 cu. ft.
Ground Clearance	9.7 inches	4.5 inches

Performance As Tradeoffs

“Fast, Cheap, Good: Choose Any Two.”

~Anonymous

Performance Measurement – Some Key Challenges

- How do we make this meaningful**
- Differences in measurements**
- Will the information collected lead to meaningful improvements**
- Tension between doing things right and doing the right things**

Are We Really That Different - DeKalb's Perspective

“A health department that is
prepared has _____.”

- Leadership
- Resources
- Trained & Competent Staff
- Plan
- Communication

Defining Public Health Preparedness

Preparedness is not something you purchase and take off the shelf when you need it.

Public Health Preparedness is...

Systems, plans, and resources that enable the local public health system to address significant community health issues *and* handle community health emergencies.

Project Public Health Ready

- **Collaborative activity between CDC and NACCHO**
- **Effort to develop individual competency *and* LPHA capacity**
- **Focused on planning, training, and exercises**

Partnerships Are Essential

**Local Public
Health Agencies**

**State Public
Health Agencies**



**Schools of
Public Health**

**National partners &
public health organizations**

Public Health Ready (Or Not) – DeKalb's Experience

- **Initial reaction**
 - Why us?
 - Now is not a good time!
- **Engaged senior leadership**
- **Assessed current capacity**
- **Identified gaps**
- **Working toward recognition**

Public Health Ready- Some Key Challenges

- **Perception of preparedness**
 - **Distraction from our important work**
 - **It's not part of my job**
- **Training is time & resource intensive**
- **Linking individual performance to organizational performance**

Some Final Thoughts...

- **Performance measurement is critically important**
- **Challenge to make performance measurement routine & ongoing**
- **Need to define ideal**
- **Project Public Health Ready is one way to benchmark performance**

“The problem is that not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.”

~Albert Einstein

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