

IPLAN Basics Training
Participant Questions/Answers
August 29, 2024

- **Are there recommended indicators that we should use in our CHA?**
 - IDPH does not have a set of recommended indicators for the 7 required categories. Your community should choose the indicators that are most meaningful to your community.
 - IDPH recommends the use of the indicators provided on IQuery. However, other data sources can and should be used as a supplement or for the entirety of an IPLAN.
 - There are a variety of resources that can be helpful in selecting indicators.
 - NACCHO's MAPP 2.0 Community Health Status Guide. To access this, you will need to:
 - Visit the site at: <https://toolbox.naccho.org/pages/tool-view.html?id=6012>
 - Login or create a login for NACCHO.
 - Once logged in, you should see in the upper right-hand corner, an option to click on the "Assessment Tools. Zip".
 - From there, click on "Starting Point Assessment & Community Health Assessment".
 - From there, click on, "Community Status Assessment". This booklet provides guidance on selecting and prioritizing indicators as well as suggested indicators.
 - Community Toolbox
 - Possible Community Indicators: <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/assessing-community-needs-and-resources/examples/example7>
 - Examples (scroll down this page to examples for a lengthy list): <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/evaluate/evaluate-community-initiatives/examples-of-community-level-indicators/main>
 - Alliance for Health Equity
 - [2025 Community Health Status Assessment Indicator List](#)
- **Is MAPP 2.0 the preferred process for LHDs in Illinois to use now for their IPLAN?**
 - IDPH does not have a preference for the process used. Local Health Departments should make the decision for the process that fits their needs, resources, and time.
 - History of Assessment Tools
 - In collaboration with many public health practitioners across the country, NACCHO developed the Assessment Protocol for Excellence in Public Health (APEX PH) in 1991. ***The Illinois Department of Public Health and other health practitioners in Illinois developed the IPLAN process based on the APEX PH model.***
 - In order to address the importance of environmental health, NACCHO and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health developed the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH). PACE EH is a community-based methodology for evaluating and characterizing local environmental health conditions; identifying populations at risk of

environmental exposure; and prioritizing local actions, programs, and policies. This tool alone does not meet all the IPLAN requirements.

- In order to address the importance of strategic planning, CDC and NACCHO, in partnership with many practitioners, developed the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) tool, which was launched in 2001. MAPP is a community-wide strategic planning process for improving community health and strengthening local public health systems.
 - After a thorough evaluation of MAPP, NACCHO and many community health partners, developed MAPP 2.0 which launched in 2023.
- **If your LHD is smaller than a county - we are town - often I-query does not get down to our level, only the county. Are there any tips for smaller LHDs?**
 - Smaller populous areas do have this challenge which may require looking at data for a larger regional area and collecting local primary data to help inform the secondary data that is available for the jurisdiction.
 - IDPH is in the process of including data at the non-county LHD level in the IQuery dashboard. Also, IQuery has links to related data sources that can be used as additional resources- some examples include but are not limited to:
<https://www.City-Data.com>; <https://www.cms.gov>; [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | CDC](#); [American Community Survey \(ACS\) \(census.gov\)](#); [Illinois Public Health Community Map](#) ;[Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#)
 - Data inquiries and or any questions related to IQuery: dph.iquery@illinois.gov
 - IQuery TA session will be provided 10/10/24 please register and plan to attend
 - **How will the Healthy Illinois Survey play into our data collection as a new possibility?**
 - In 2021, Gov. JB Pritzker signed P.A. 102-0483, which requires the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to conduct a comprehensive annual survey of Illinois residents to provide robust and statistically reliable public health data for every county, ZIP code groupings in more highly populated areas, suburban Cook County municipalities, and Chicago community areas. The Healthy Illinois (HIL) Survey will examine a broad set of social determinants of health. The results of the survey will guide policymakers, including legislators, IDPH, local health departments, hospitals, and others to make informed decisions on how to best allocate limited public health resources.
 - The first HIL Survey is expected to commence in 2024 and be collected throughout the year. Data is expected to be available in the summer of 2025. If you have further questions regarding the HIL Survey, visit: <https://dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/hil.html> or contact DPH.HIL@illinois.gov.
 - This data should be incorporated into your community health assessment portion of your IPLAN.
 - **Aldara- would you mind talking about if you have an epidemiologist on staff help you pull from CDC wonder or other data sources?**
 - Aldara shared the following response. “I am an Epidemiologist by trade. I do not have it as part of my title here at the Health Department, officially. However, I do all the research and data collection for the department and sometimes help our community partners, whether it be the hospital systems or community-based organizations. For example, just the other day, someone I collaborate with who works for one of the hospital systems asked if I could pull some data on strokes in our county. I would suggest looking within your health department for someone with epi or research background. They may possibly have another role within the

department, but their experience could be helpful. Consider your partners. A few years back, interns at the local hospital system did most of the data research for our data dive needed for our Community Health Needs Assessment, which we were all working on together.”

- CDC Wonder is a great source for denominator data.
- For IPLAN data inquiries please contact: dph.IQuery@illinois.gov for further assistance
- **Is there a communication channel between those working on the SHIP with LHDs?**
 - IDPH appointed the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Partnership to provide guidance and oversight on the development, implementation, and monitoring of the SHIP. The Partnership includes LHD representation. In addition, Director Vohra AND Assistant Director Phillips will be providing updates on SHIP and how to engage with SHIP implementation in future LHD/IDPH meetings.
 - IDPH is also working on prioritizing goals, objectives, and strategies for action plans. Currently the SHIP has suggested goals, objectives, and strategies. IDPH plans to prioritize those and form action teams to lead implementation. More information will be shared as it becomes available.
 - Continue to check the Healthy Illinois 2028 site for more information and updates. The site can be found here: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/provider-partner-resources/healthy-illinois.html>
- **Can someone please explain how it works when you're on a three year cycle, but IPLAN is five years?**
 - The 3-year requirement for non-profit hospitals to complete and Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Implementation Strategy vs, every 5-year requirement for LHDs to complete their community health assessment and community health improvement planning process for public health accreditation through PHAB and Local Health Department re-certification through IDPH can present a challenge. However, most LHDs and their healthcare systems and hospital partners figure out how to manage the challenge.
 - Some do this by keeping the secondary data updated on an annual basis and collecting primary data during the timeframe needed for their required assessment and creating or updating an implementation plan to address the priorities.
 - Some health departments have moved to a year cycle to continue the partnership with their local healthcare systems and hospitals.
 - Illinois LHDs typically need to tailor their CHA/CHIP report to ensure all the required substantial compliance components are clear and that the implementation plan clearly denotes what the local health department will be implementing to address the priorities, rather than turning in a joint report written by and/or for the healthcare system or hospital.
 - Many Illinois LHDs partner with their local health systems and hospitals and face this challenge. We encourage you to reach out to other LHDs to ask how they handle the cycles since there are so many different ways this is done.
 - For IPLAN certification inquiries please reach out to dph.IPLAN@illinois.gov
- **Can they be internal policies?** (We believe this question was related to the Public Health Accreditation Board or PHAB Standards and Measures for the Community Health Improvement Plan requiring “at least two of the strategies or activities must include a policy recommendation, one of which must be aimed at alleviating causes of health inequities”.

- According to the PHAB Standards and Measures Version 2022 for Initial Accreditation, to achieve health priorities, the CHIP will include recommendations related to policy—either new policies or changes to existing policies. Policy recommendations could, for example, examine correcting historical injustices to provide fair and just opportunities for all to achieve optimal health or address the social and economic conditions that influence health equity including housing, transportation, education, job availability, neighborhood safety, and climate change. While not all the strategies in the CHIP will entail policy recommendations (i.e., providing additional services or new health communications may be appropriate strategies), **the CHIP will include at least two policy recommendations** (e.g., introducing a healthy vending policy for schools). **One of those policy recommendations is designed to alleviate causes of health inequities** (e.g., changes in zoning laws). **Policy recommendations may be developed by involving communities impacted by health inequities in the identification, development, and implementation of policy changes to improve conditions impacting their health.**
- More information can be found here: <https://phaboard.org/wp-content/uploads/Standards-Measures-Initial-Accreditation-Version-2022.pdf>. Direct questions may also be submitted to your PHAB Accreditation contact.