

Including People with Disabilities: Public Health Workforce Competencies



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About the Project

The *Including People with Disabilities – Public Health Workforce Competencies* was a multiyear Project funded by the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), Office of the Director, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (ODCDC), and the Office for State, Tribal, Local, And Territorial Support (OT), award# 5U38OT000140-03.

The *Competencies* were developed by a national committee comprised of disability and public health experts.

The *Competencies* provide foundational knowledge about the relationship between public health programs and health outcomes among people with disabilities, and are primarily designed for professionals already working in the public health field but can also be used for public health workforce training.

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About the Project – Development of the Competencies

- Stage 1: 2011-2012 (CDC/NCBDDDD)
 - Document draft produced (development committee)
- Stage 2: 2015 -16 (OSTLTS/CDC/ODCDC)
 - Revision of the draft
 - Development of an advisory group, and workgroup, trainee Fellows, and partners
 - Review and Comment Period (March –April 2016)
 - Final version June 2016
 - Website
 - Online Modules May 2016 (ATMCH funding)

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About the Competencies

Compared to people without disabilities, people with disabilities are at a higher risk for poor health outcomes such as hypertension, obesity, falls-related injuries, and depression.

Knowledge about the health status and public health needs of people with disabilities is essential for addressing these and other health disparities. However, most public health training programs do not include curriculum on people with disabilities and methods for including them in core public health efforts.

There is a clear need for public health efforts to reduce health disparities among people with disabilities. This may be achieved by building a stronger public health workforce skilled in ways to include people with disabilities in all public health efforts.

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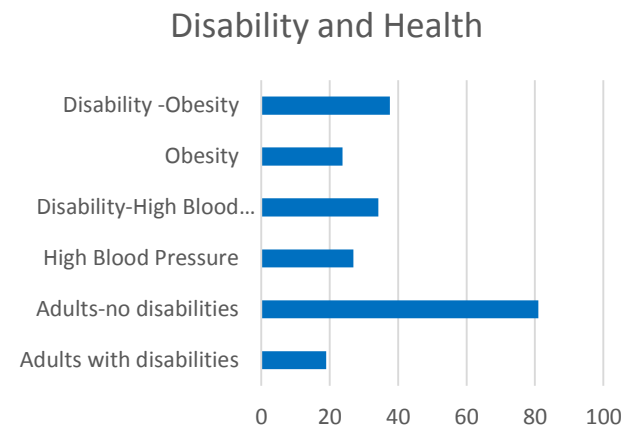
Including People with Disabilities-Public Health Workforce Competencies outlines recent advances in knowledge and practice skills that public health professionals need to include people with disabilities in the core public health functions -- Assessment, Policy development and Assurance. The document provides strategies to meet the competencies and real examples of how people with disabilities can be successfully included in public health activities.

The *Competencies* align and complement existing broad public health competencies including the, MCH Leadership Competencies, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, Masters in Public Health Core Competencies; Public Health Accreditation Board; Public Health Foundation Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals and the 10 Essential Public Health Services. In addition, they foster workforce capacity-building priorities, e.g. Healthy People 2020, Disability and Health objective DH-3.



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- People with Disabilities have more chronic health conditions than people without disabilities
 - Poorer overall health
 - Less access to adequate health care
 - Smoking and physical inactivity
 - Health Disparities
- Disability is not mentioned in most public health curriculum, or trainings
- Need for inclusion in health promotion and other planning efforts
- The Including People with Disabilities – Public Health Workforce Competencies
 - Current public health professionals
 - Foundational knowledge on disabilities
 - How to include people with disabilities in planning and health promotion efforts



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Four Competencies

Competency 1: Discuss disability models across the lifespan

Competency 2: Discuss methods used to assess health issues for people with disabilities

Competency 3: Identify how public health programs impact health outcomes for people with disabilities

Competency 4: Implement and evaluate strategies to include people with disabilities in public health programs that promote health, prevent disease, and manage chronic and other health conditions

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Competencies

Every Competency has:

- Learning Objectives
- Examples
- Call to Action

Appendices

- References
- Resources by topic
- Chart - Alignment with other competencies and standards
- Learning modules
 - Adapted from the Competencies
 - Funding from ATMCH

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More Information

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