



INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE COMPETENCIES

Building a stronger public health workforce skilled in ways to include people with disabilities in all public health efforts

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.

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.

Learn more: www.disabilityinpublichealth.org



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Disability in Public Health

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Competencies and Learning Objectives

Competency 1: Discuss disability models across the lifespan

- 1.1. Compare and contrast different models of disability
- 1.2. Apply model(s) of disability for a particular scope of work or population served

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

- 2.1. Identify surveillance systems used to capture data that includes people with disabilities
- 2.2. Recognize that disability can be used as a demographic variable.

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

- 3.1. Recognize health issues of people with disabilities and health promotion strategies that can be used to address them.
- 3.2. Use laws as a tool to support people with disabilities.
- 3.3. Recognize accessibility standards, universal design, and principles of built environment that affect the health and quality of life for people with disabilities.
- 3.4. Explain how public health services, governmental programs, and non-governmental/community-based organizations interact with disability.
- 3.5. Describe how communities (places where people live, work, and recreate) can adapt to be fully inclusive of disability populations.

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

- 4.1. Describe factors that affect health care access for people with disabilities.
- 4.2. Describe strategies to integrate people with disabilities into health promotion programs.
- 4.3. Identify emerging issues that impact people with disabilities.
- 4.4. Define how environment can impact health outcomes for people with disabilities.
- 4.5. Apply evaluation strategies (needs assessment, process evaluation, and program evaluation) that can be used to demonstrate impact for people with disabilities.



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