WHAT DOES LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DO?

Public health experts recognize patterns and problems affecting health, and work to prevent conditions leading to disease. They have specific training in:

ASSESSING

health conditions and potential threats to communities

DEVELOPING

policies and plans to protect the health of individuals and communities

ASSURING

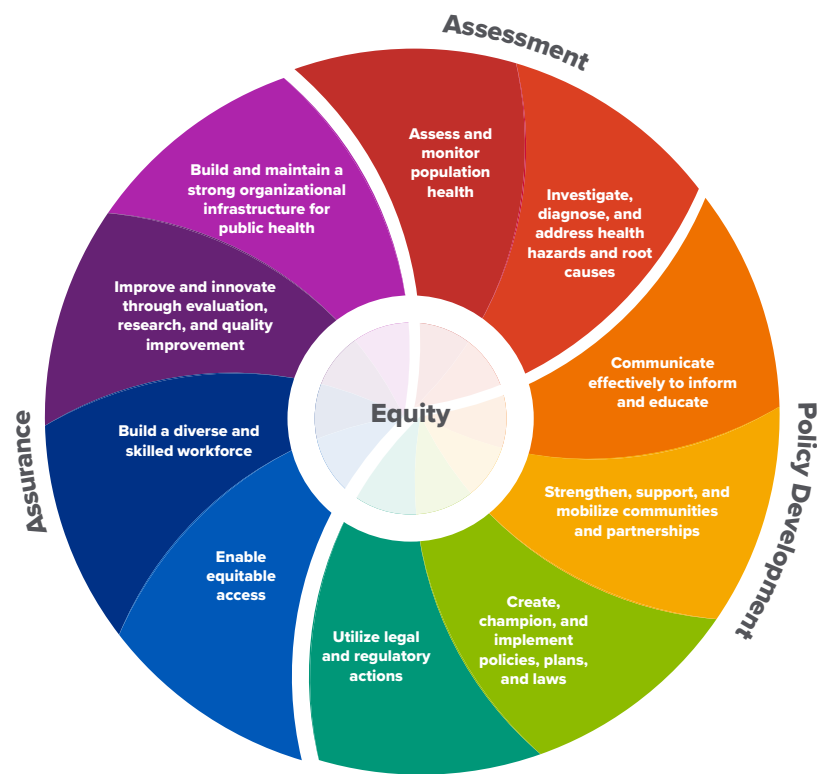the health and safety of individuals and communities

Based on local needs, public health staff work with community partners to address conditions that affect health and well-being, including the environment and access to health education and medical services.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

This includes a health officer, who oversees operations and is trained to identify and investigate health issues and health hazards, to encourage community partnerships and action to identify and resolve health related issues, and to notify, educate, and empower people when health issues arise. Health officers work closely with the medical director, a physician who is responsible for overseeing the development and evaluation of standards of medical care throughout the agency, providing medical direction to the department's staff, and advising the health officer in matters of medical policy.

THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To achieve equity, the **Essential Public Health Services**[2] actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities. Such barriers include poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.

Assessment

Assess and monitor population health

Investigate, diagnose, and address health hazards and root causes

Communicate effectively to inform and educate

Policy Development

Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships

Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws

Utilize legal and regulatory actions

Enable equitable access

Build a diverse and skilled workforce

Assurance

Improve and innovate through evaluation, research, and quality improvement

Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Equity

2   The 10 Essential Public Health Services. Public Health National Center for Innovations. Retrieved from https://phnci.org/national-frameworks/10-ephs.

WHAT IS LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH?

Public health is the art and science of prolonging and/or protecting life, preventing disease, and promoting health through the organized efforts of society to ensure that all populations have the opportunity to achieve their highest level of health.

MALPH
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
FOR LOCAL
PUBLIC HEALTH

LIVING BETTER, LONGER

From 1900 to 1999, life expectancy in the United States increased by 30 years. Public health interventions account for 25 of those years.[1]
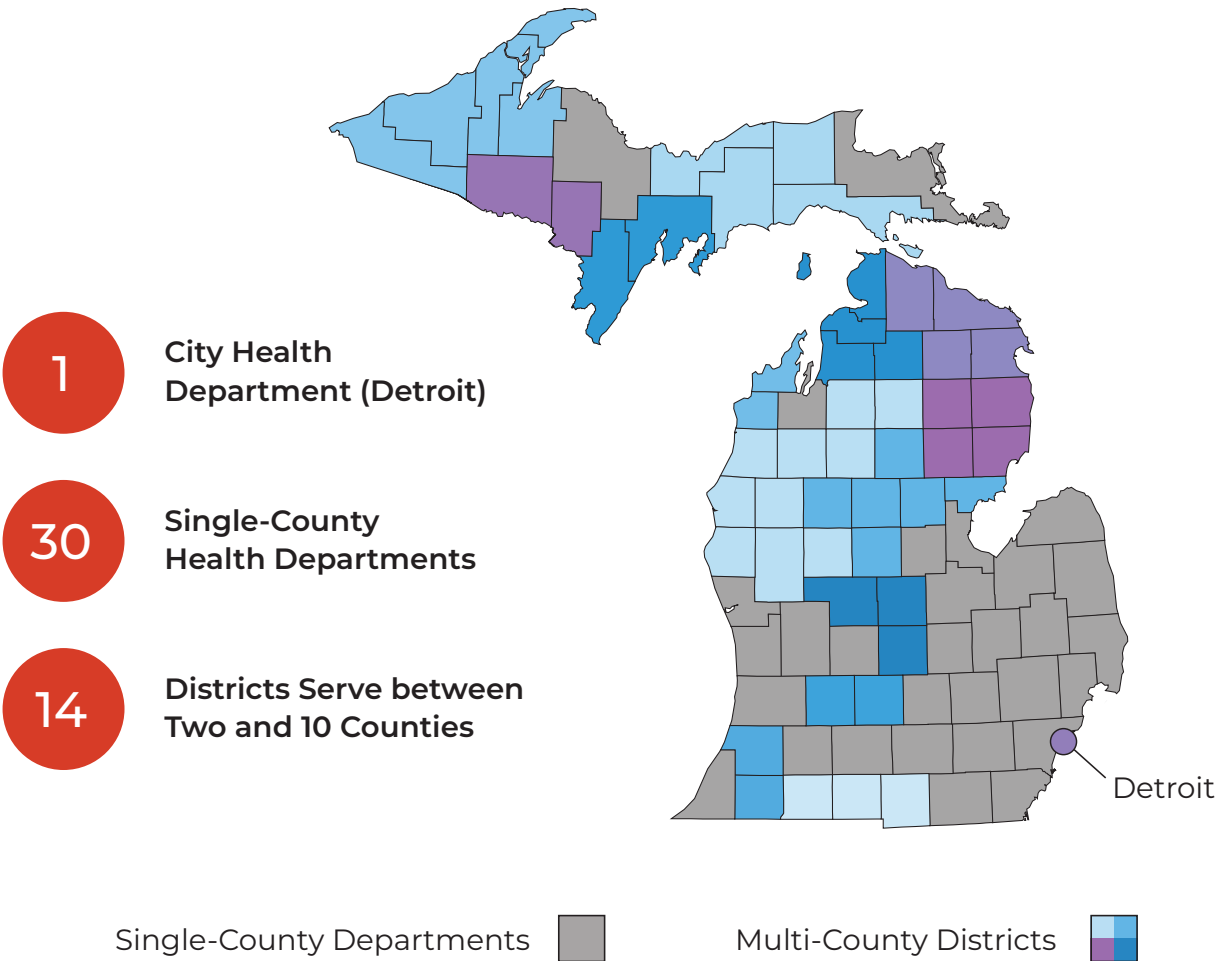
Public health efforts lead to **cleaner air, purer water, healthier food, and safer housing**, protecting the economic health and vitality of communities throughout Michigan.

Public health efforts reduce the amount of money society needs to spend on health care, and the amount of time residents need to miss school or work due to chronic or infectious diseases.

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[1] Ruth J. Katz, Maureen Byrnes, and Brian C. Castrucci, Introduction In: Talking Health. Edited by Mark R. Miller, Briand C. Castrucci, Rachel Locke, Julia Haskins, and Grace A. Castillo, Oxford University Press. De Beaumont Foundation 2022.

MICHIGAN'S LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK

Michigan uses a **decentralized** public health system. Local health departments are accountable to local governing bodies, such as a city council, county commission, or local board of health. They interface with various departments of state government as defined by state law and contractual requirements. According to the following map of local health department jurisdictions, these include:

1 — City Health Department (Detroit)

30 — Single-County Health Departments

14 — Districts Serve between Two and 10 Counties

Single-County Departments   Multi-County Districts

CONTRIBUTING TO QUALITY OF LIFE IN MICHIGAN

The health of a community is directly related to its economic health and vitality, and local public health is doing its part. We are a network of public health professionals who keep all Michigan residents living better, longer lives.

- We help young mothers get access to care.
- We track diseases and alert those who may be affected.
- We protect drinking water used in residences, businesses, and municipalities.
- We provide training to restaurants and inspect their facilities to keep food safe.

A fully-funded public health system fulfills society's interest in assuring conditions that **allow people to live healthy and productive lives**.