

KEY COMMUNITY HEALTH INDICATOR PROJECT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Center for Assessment and Preparedness

Suellen Bennett, Project Leader
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Maternal & Child Health

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Infectious Disease

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Community Health

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BACKGROUND:

Using indicators to measure the health of a community is a core Public Health function and is directly related to several Public Health standards. The Office of Assessment & Surveillance drafted a set of health indicators. The indicators were selected by first reviewing current information about the health status of residents of Franklin County and national indicator sets, and then four criteria were applied to each indicator.

National Indicator Sets:

- *CDC's 18 Indicators*
- *Healthy People 2010*
- *Mobilizing Action thru Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Indicator Lists*
– Results of local *MAPP* process and Health Status Indicator List
- *Health Resources and Services Administration Indicator Lists*

Indicator Selection Criteria:

- **Communication Power:** Does the indicator communicate to a broad range of audiences? Is it easy for diverse audiences to comprehend?
- **Proxy Power:** Does the indicator bring along other measures? (e.g., the data “herd”: if one indicator is going in the right direction, often others—the herd—are as well. You do not need 20 indicators telling you the same thing.) Is the link supported by research?
- **Data Power:** Are valid (measures what they are supposed to measure) data available and accessible in a timely manner? Valid, reliable measures that represent an important and salient aspect of the public’s health.
- **Outcome Power:** Does CPH or the community have the ability to affect or change the outcome?

PRODUCT:

With input from the Committee and the Health Commissioner’s Office, two lists have been generated.

- **Primary List:** Includes indicators that best fit the selection criteria and are expected to be the best way in which to track our community’s health over time.
- **Secondary List:** Includes other important indicators that are also good measures and are frequently requested.
 - “Wish List”: Includes indicators for which there is currently no reliable population-based data source, but these are health issues of importance.

ONGOING PROCESS:

- The lists will be presented annually to the community. They will be available on the CPH website, as well.
- The lists will be revisited on an annual basis, revised as needed, and include trends when appropriate.

COMMITTEE ROLE:

The CHIP Advisory Committee members:

- Reviewed and discussed the indicator lists compiled by the Office of Assessment and Surveillance.
- Suggested and discussed new indicators.
- Applied selection criteria to new indicators to determine inclusion in the final indicator set.
- Recommended a format for release of health indicators.
- Continue to share the set of indicators with her or his division and will communicate division questions or issues to the CHIP Advisory Committee.