

# Measurement of a Public Health Department's Accreditation Readiness

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# Measurement of a Public Health Department's Accreditation Readiness



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## STUDY OBJECTIVE

Develop a reliable and valid survey that measures domains of local health department accreditation readiness.

### BACKGROUND

- Accreditation improves and protects the health of the public by:
  - Improving quality of public health services
  - Standardizing public health activities
  - Stimulating continuous quality improvement
- Encouraging local health departments (LHDs) to pursue accreditation is an ongoing national priority
- There are no current tools with established reliability and validity to measure LHD accreditation readiness

### STUDY DESIGN

- Survey of Local Health Departments (LHDs)*
- 15 question survey that utilized a Likert scale with 5 responses (Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree)
  - LHDs in 3 states were surveyed
    - Colorado: 33 LHDs (61% response rate)
    - Kansas: 100 LHDs (100% response rate)
    - Nebraska: 20 LHDs (100% response rate)

- Factor Analysis*
- Responses were analyzed and grouped using a confirmatory factor analysis
  - Method: maximum likelihood
  - Rotation: oblique

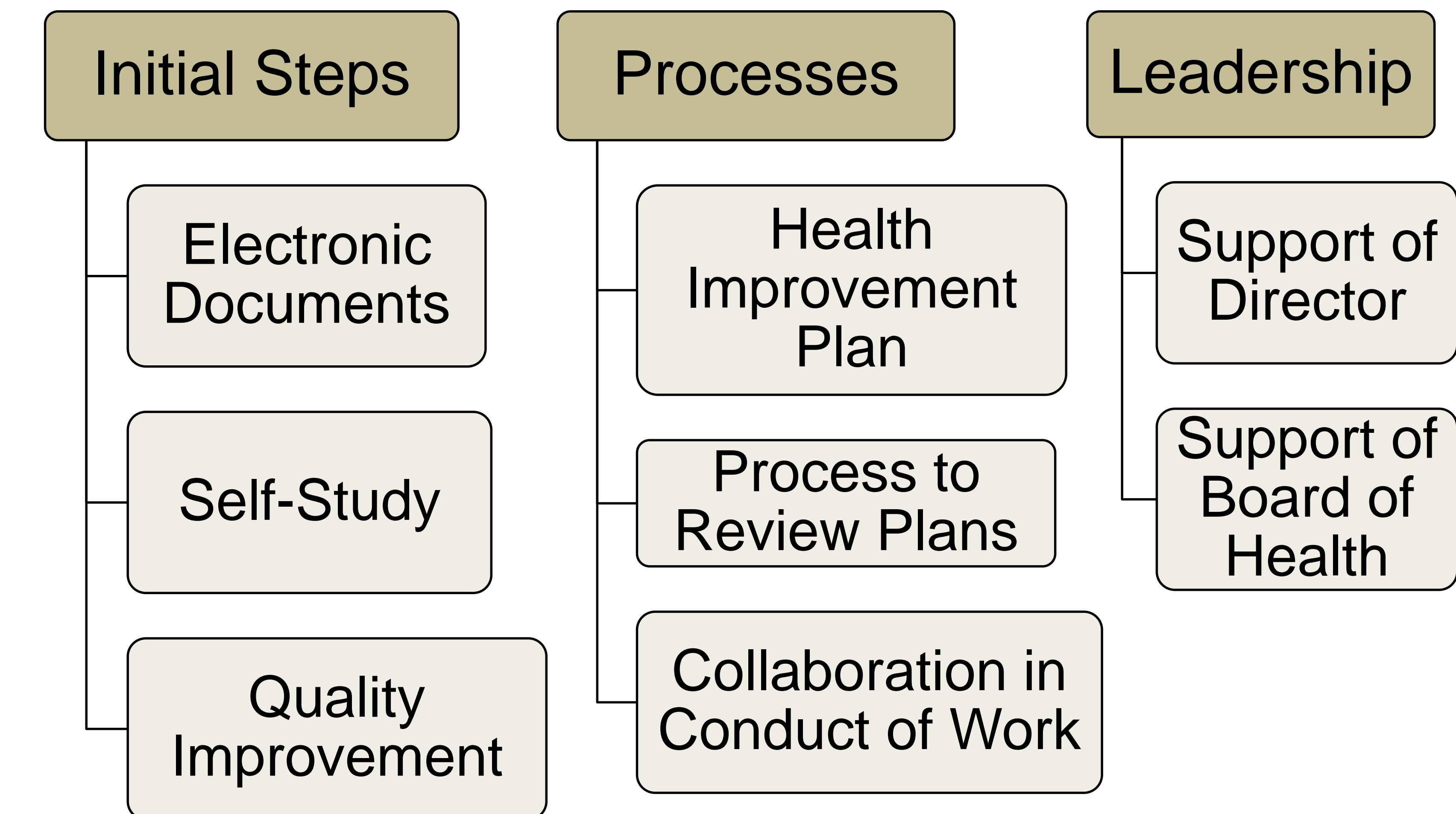
- Reliability and Validity Assessment*
- Reliability assessed using Cronbach's Alpha
  - Validity assessed by comparing survey responses to responses from previously established instruments

### FACTOR LOADINGS

	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
Support of Director	0.3478	-0.0464	<b>0.4134</b>
Support of Appointing Authority	0.1013	-0.0102	-0.1114
Support of Board of Health	-0.0618	-0.0396	<b>1.0403</b>
Community Health Assessment	0.091	0.076	-0.063
Community Health Improvement Plan	0.2717	<b>0.2768</b>	0.0408
Department Strategic Plan	-0.0579	-0.0265	0.034
Electronic Documentation	<b>0.7862</b>	-0.0856	-0.1654
Electronic Filing System	-0.0481	0.1434	-0.014
Process to Review Plans and Policies	0.2106	<b>0.2574</b>	0.121
Collaboration in Conduct of Work	-0.0782	<b>1.0614</b>	-0.054
Completed Initial Self-Study	<b>0.7949</b>	0.0032	0.0788
Implementation of Quality Improvement	<b>0.4996</b>	0.1512	0.0983
Secured Technical Assistance	0.1081	-0.0659	-0.1174

### RESULTS

**Factor Analysis**  
Identified 3 factors (Eigen value ≥ 1 & communality ≥ 0.1):



Variation explained by model: 36%

#### Reliability Assessment

- Average interitem covariance: 0.4533
- Scale reliability coefficient: 0.8127

#### Validity Assessment

- Initial Steps with Accreditation Intent:  $r = 0.57$
- Processes with QI Capacity:  $r = 0.50$
- Leadership with QI Staff Participation:  $r = 0.21$

### IMPLICATIONS

- Efforts to increase the number of local health departments that are accredited will need to:
  - Focus on each dimension of readiness
  - Address different barriers for each dimension