Job Task Analysis in Public Health: What are the Essential Tasks of Public Health Professionals?  
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Background and Methodology

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) completed a Job Task Analysis in 2014 to survey the domains and tasks identified by public health workers as the basis for refining the Certification in Public Health examination sponsored by the NBPHE. The survey instrument was developed with assistance from Applied Measurement Professionals and a panel of 18 individuals representing employers in various sectors of public health, including government, private sector, academia, and non-profits.

The survey included demographic characteristics and 200 tasks in 10 content domains. Respondents rated each task on a 5-point rating scale by its importance in their current job. Respondents were asked to first consider whether they actually perform the task in their job; if not, they were asked to then indicate how important the task is (coded as 1=Not very important, 2=Important, 3=Very important, 4=Essential). The survey was distributed directly to over 124,000 individuals and through 51 organizations.

Results

Of the 7,441 respondents to complete the survey, 4,392 provided usable survey responses. The tables and charts present the initial results on demographic data and domains by category, showing the domain means and standard deviations, along with the top ten specific tasks.

Next Steps

Further analysis will be conducted on the tasks within each domain and by the various categories, with all the possible correlates of the ratings of task importance. The findings will be disseminated to the public health profession.