

# Translating Evidence for Practice: A Public Health Services and Systems Research (PHSSR) Toolbox



## PHSSR Toolbox Overview

The PHSSR Translational **Toolbox** offers *practical, digital* tools that can be used by public health practitioners and managers to apply research findings to public health service planning and delivery.

### WHY:

A growing body of research contributes to the increased capacity of public health systems and the advancement of public health service delivery. However, that research is often not readily accessible and applicable for public health practitioners. The Public Health Services and Systems Research (PHSSR) Translational Toolbox contains evidence-based digital tools for practitioners to apply research findings to public health service delivery and planning.

### WHO:

The PHSSR Translational Toolbox is targeted to:

- Public health practitioners
- Researchers
- Non-profit hospitals
- Community health centers
- Others engaged in community health improvement efforts

### HOW:

- The PHSSR Translational Toolbox was developed based on PHSSR research findings, and was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) managed the Toolbox project and Health Resources in Action (HRIA) developed the Toolbox
- The PHSSR Translational Toolbox is hosted by the Systems for Action National Coordinating Center

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## Types of Tools

The PHSSR Translational Toolbox contains *cost estimator tools* that can be used to customize and estimate costs to inform public health planning; *organizational assessment tools* that can be used to assess quality and use of best practices; and *other tools*.

### Example Tool Results:

Your Overall QI Maturity Score is: **4.3 out of a possible 5.0 points.**

Your QI Maturity Score corresponds to the NACCHO Roadmap to a Culture of Quality Improvement as follows:

Your Overall QI Maturity Score	Interpretation of Score	Corresponding NACCHO Roadmap Phase
1.0 - 2.9	Low QI: This score represents no knowledge of QI or lack of involvement in QI.	Phase 1, 2
3.0 - 3.9	Medium QI: This score represents informal or ad hoc QI.	Phase 3, 4
4.0+	High QI: This score represents formalized QI.	Phase 5, 6

Transition Strategies and other resources corresponding to each Phase in the NACCHO Roadmap to a Culture of Quality Improvement may be found [here](#).

Your overall score: **29.2 out of a possible 32 points.**

Crowdsourced Score: **1 out of a possible 32 points.**

Your overall score above can be compared to the crowdsourced score, which is the average score of others who have taken this assessment. Below, your overall score is broken down into a mean score for each step in the Roadmaps to Health Action Cycle. You can review your scores at different Action Cycle Steps to assess at which steps your community health assessments, plans and processes are already of high-quality, and at which steps you may want to focus your efforts for improvement. You may also use this self-assessment tool to measure change over time.

Your Score by Action Cycle Step

Step	Score (out of 4.0)
General	4.0
Work Together	3.4
Assess Needs & Resources	4.0
Focus on What's Important	4.0
Choose Effective Policies & Programs	4.0
Act on What's Important	4.0
Evaluate Actions	0.0
Communicate	4.0

Your Score by Measure and PHAB Reference Number

## COST ESTIMATOR TOOLS

### Staff Cost of Public Health Services Estimator

- **Description:** This tool can be used by managers of state and local public health departments an easy way to estimate the staff costs of providing specific public health services. These estimated staff costs can be used for budgeting, planning, and quality improvement purposes.
  - **Tool Results:** Calculate and view staff costs of providing a specific public health service by employee and by activity, over two-week and annual time periods
- The content for this tool was developed by researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials.*

### Economic Burden of Chronic Disease in California

- **Description:** This tool provides public health practitioners and leaders in the State with estimates of the number of cases and cost of care of chronic conditions: arthritis, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, depression, and diabetes.
  - **Tool Results:** View costs overall and by ethnicity, age, gender, county and region.
- The content for this tool was developed by researchers at the University of California Merced.*

### Economic Evaluation Calculator for Latent Tuberculosis Screening and Treatment

- **Description:** Those who work in tuberculosis control can use this tool to inform cost-effective decision making regarding screenings for latent tuberculosis in local populations.
  - **Tool Results:** View and compare costs of different tuberculosis diagnostic methods and treatment options
- The content for this tool was developed by researchers at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.*

## ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSEMENT AND OTHER TOOLS

### Quality Improvement Maturity Tool

- **Description:** Staff members engaged in quality improvement (QI) activities and other leaders in local and state health departments can use this tool to assess their health department's "quality improvement maturity," or the extent to which the department operationalizes QI best practices.
  - **Tool Results:** Receive an overall QI Maturity Score, which corresponds to the NACCHO Roadmap to a Culture of Quality Improvement. Connect to resources and track change over time
- The content for this tool was developed by researchers from the Minnesota Public Health Research to Action Network.\**

### Community Health Improvement Plans and Processes Quality Measurement Tool

- **Description:** Local health departments, boards of health, and other partners can use this tool to measure the quality of their community health assessments and improvement plans and processes, and to identify areas for improvement.
  - **Tool Results:** Receive an overall score and a score by County Health Rankings Action Cycle Steps. Compare your score to a crowdsourced score. Connect to resources and track change over time
- The content for this tool was developed by researchers at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute\*\* in collaboration with the Wisconsin Public Health Practice-based Research Network.*

### Administrative Evidence-Based Practices (A-EBP) Assessment Tool

- **Description:** This tool helps managers and practitioners at local and state public health departments assess the extent to which their departments use administrative evidence-based practices, leading to improved efficiency and public health outcomes, and building competency for accreditation.
  - **Tool Results:** Receive a rating of your local health department's support of A-EBP. Compare results to a national sample. Connect to resources.
- The content for this tool was developed by researchers at The Prevention Research Center, Washington University in St. Louis.*

### PHAST/MPROVE Measures of Local Public Health Service Delivery

- **Description:** Researchers, state and local health department practitioners, and non-governmental community leaders can use these measures to further standardize their own monitoring, reporting, and tracking of public health activities.
  - **Tool Results:** These measures characterize the volume, intensity, quality, efficiency, and equity of service delivery in three core domains of chronic disease prevention, communicable disease control, and environmental health protection.
- The content for this tool was developed by The PHAST Team.*

Access the PHSSR Translational  
Toolbox Here:  
<http://tools.publichealthsystems.org>

