

# Public Health Experts are Needed in Policy Work Groups, Task Forces, and Advisory Committees



Only 10% of a person's health is determined by clinical medical care, but **80-90%** is due to social determinants or foundations of health - such as where one lives and works. (1)

## (1) Public Health Experts are Valuable

Public health experts focus on "upstream" issues - structural and systemic factors impacting health. (2)

This is a different perspective than health care practitioners

Public health researchers and experts focus on the social determinants or foundations of health, which are particularly important in predicting health outcomes for diverse populations, women, children, and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). (3-6)

Due to their different focus and perspective, public health experts add value to policy work, task forces, and advisory committees that aim to improve the health of the population.

## (2) The Public Health Approach is Important

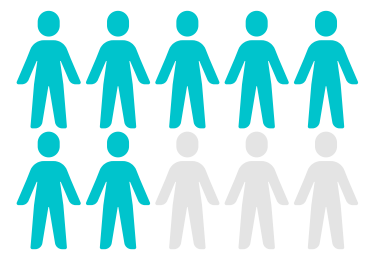
Public health takes a **proactive**, rather than reactive, approach to Americans' health. This approach will reduce the burden of chronic disease, cut costs, improve life expectancy and quality of life, and strengthen our nation's response to health emergencies. (7)

**Involving public health experts in policymaking is a smart investment.**

Public health professionals work with other sectors to make long-term, cost-efficient investments to support and improve community health. (8)

**Involving public health experts in policymaking can help gain support among voters for new health policies.**

One study showed voter support was greater for COVID-19-related health policies advocated by public health experts compared to government officials. (9)



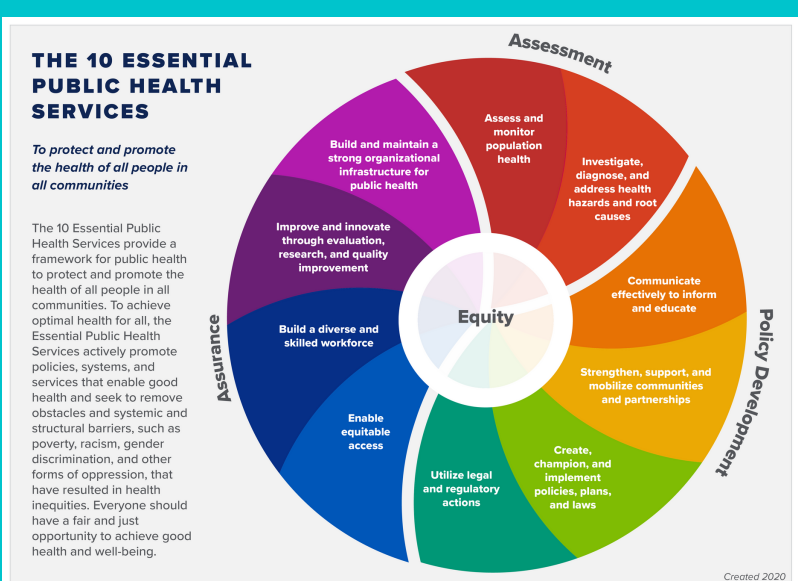
**Voters support public health work**

Seven in 10 voters indicate public health departments are important to create a healthy community. (8)

## (3) Public Health Essential Services

Public health experts are uniquely situated to provide timely recommendations based on the essential components of public health service: (10)

- **Assessment**: Investigating, diagnosing, and addressing health hazards and root causes
- **Policy development**: Strengthening, supporting, and mobilizing communities and partnerships
- **Assurance**: Enabling equitable access



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