



Assuring and enhancing the quality
of local public health in Michigan

Benefits of Participation in Michigan's Local Public Health Accreditation Program

ACCREDITATION

The mission of the Accreditation Program is to assure and enhance the quality of local public health in Michigan. The Program does this by identifying and promoting the implementation of public health standards for local public health (LPH) and evaluating and accrediting on their ability to meet these standards. The Program's goals are to:

- o assist in continuous quality improvement;
- o assure a uniform set of standards that define public health;
- o assure a process by which the state can ensure local level capacity to address core functions; and
- o provide a mechanism for accountability.

HISTORY

These early collaborative efforts defined attributes of a local health department (LHD) and served as the basis for the Accreditation Program.

- o 1978 - Public Health Code enacted
- o 1980 - Minimum Program Requirements (MPRs) were developed to help monitor services delivered at the local level
- o 1989 - Assessment Protocol for Excellence in Public health (APEXPH) tool was used as a means to assess and enhance public health core capacities
- o 1989-1992 - Established Committees One and Two (comprising state/local public health leaders) recommended pursuing accreditation
- o 1999 - Local Public Health Accreditation Program began

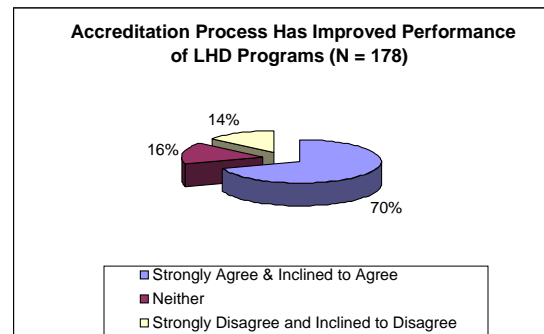
LHD ACCREDITATION SUPPORT

In 2003, the Accreditation Quality Improvement Process (AQIP) began. AQIP is a locally-driven workgroup convened to provide leadership and direction for accreditation quality improvement. The group conducted a statewide survey in 2003 to learn what and how to improve the Program. Survey results produced 44 recommendations for improvement which have been implemented. Largely, local public health

professionals believe accreditation has improved the performance of LHD programs.

According to 180 AQIP survey* responses:

- o 80% believe that Accreditation is an opportunity for constructive program related dialogue;
- o 81% agree that the On-site Review Report assists the LHD as a tool for performance improvement; and
- o 70% agree that overall, accreditation process has improved LHD program performance.



BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

- o Maintain LHDs ability to remain current regarding public health practice and science.
- o Provide state and local governing entities (LGE) a clear definition of grant-funded services that must be in place in order to qualify as an accredited LHD.
- o Provide to LHDs improved coordination of on-site reviews of state funded programs.
- o Enhance LHDs reputation with the community, partners and stakeholders.
- o Assess local efforts to deliver to citizens a consistent set of services at each LHD.
- o Opportunity to communicate with the LGE and community the unique role of public health.
- o Opportunity to identify areas where quality improvement is needed.

*AQIP reports found at <http://www.accreditation.localhealth.net/> (AQIP)