Head Start Health Services Competencies
Course Transcript

Leadership Competency 5 and 6:
Health Data

Note: hyperlinks are also available on the resources page at the end of this document.

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Chapter Progress Key
- Not Started
- In Progress
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What is This Competency?

Competency 5: Gather and use community health data, make use of available resources, and develop strategies to address service delivery gaps and barriers to care.

Select each number to learn more.
1. Leadership Competency 5 highlights the importance of collecting and using community health data.
2. Leaders who manage health services use the data to identify the health issues that affect families.
3. Data uncovers needs within the community to help leaders identify barriers to care and develop strategies to help families obtain the services they need.

What is This Competency?

Competency 6: Use data to plan, implement, and evaluate health services

Select each number to learn more.
1. Leadership Competency 6 focuses on the importance of using program data to plan and deliver health services.
2. Leaders use program data to ensure that their program's health services meet all applicable requirements.
3. Leaders also use data to make ongoing improvements when needed.

Why are These Competencies Important?

Select each number to learn more.
1. Community health data identifies health care disparities so that a program can develop effective approaches to overcome barriers to care.
2. Program heath data enables leaders to identify and respond to program specific health, wellness, and safety trends.
3. Data allows leaders to effectively oversee progress toward addressing program needs, evaluate compliance, and successfully achieve program goals.

Collecting Community Health Data

One of the first steps for a health leader is to figure out the types of data that will provide an accurate picture of their community's health. *Select each icon to learn more.*

- Incidence of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and community violence
- Incidence of substance misuse
- Data about pregnancy and birth outcomes
- Data about prevalent community health issues including chronic health conditions, communicable diseases, and environmental concerns (e.g., air and water quality)
- The number and location of accessible supermarkets/grocery stores that offer healthy and affordable food
- The type of health care providers and their capacity to serve children and families in the Head Start program, including the number that accept Medicaid

Using Community Health Data to Develop Effective Health Services

Community health data tells a story that can help leaders implement strategies to meet the health and wellness needs of program families.

Topic 1 of 4
- **Issue:** Community nutrition data indicates a shortage of places to buy fresh fruits and vegetables.
- **Strategy:** The program starts a community garden for children and families to grow their own produce.

Topic 2 of 4
- **Issue:** Child protection data indicates there has been an increase in the number of reported cases of infant abuse and neglect.
- **Strategy:** The program collaborates with a community hospital to offer a support group to new and expectant families.

Topic 3 of 4
- **Issue:** Community health data indicates there aren't enough dentists who will see children younger than age three.
- **Strategy:** The program implements a series of lunch and learns to form relationships with local dentists and explore opportunities to reach underserved parts of the community.

Topic 4 of 4
- **Issue:** County health data indicates high rates of asthma in the community.
- **Strategy:** The program works with a local hospital and the regional chapter of the

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America to establish an asthma education class for program families and other members of the community.

Community Health Data is Just One Part of the Story

Programs collect valuable health data at many levels that help them know whether children and/or pregnant women are receiving all required services, and if they are making a difference in the health and wellness of children and families. The data each Head Start program collects about the families they serve can help them implement health services and plan for future program years. *Select each arrow to learn more.*

Program-wide data, such as results from monitoring reports or playground inspections, immunization rates, and types and frequency of staff training, can help programs track progress and identify strategies to improve health services for all enrolled children and families.

Classroom/family child care data, such as incident reports and attendance patterns, can help identify specific health and safety trends that programs can use to minimize illness and injury.

Child data, such as information from health screenings and teacher observations, provides information about how programs can individualize services to meet each child's specific health needs.

Try Your Hand

Eating healthy food is important for children's development and learning. What child-level data, classroom-level data, and program-wide data would help a program support the nutritional needs of the children it serves? *Select the correct answer.*

Child-level data:
a. Information from the nutrition assessment
b. Results from a child's vision and hearing screening
c. Information from the daily health check

Correct Answer: Information from the nutrition assessment
Programs can train staff on how to use their information management system to track a child's nutrition data over time.

Classroom-level data:
a. Daily injury logs
b. Teacher observations of children during mealtimes
c. Information on children's attendance patterns

Correct Answer: Teacher observations of children during mealtimes
Programs can use an observation tool to assess mealtime practices to record teacher observations.

Program-wide data:

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a. Number of nutrition topics addressed in staff training and family education activities

b. Program-wide immunization rates

c. Review of agendas from the Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)

Correct Answer: Number of nutrition topics addressed in staff training and family education activities

Programs can survey staff and families to find out how they used the information they received.

Summary

Select the buttons to review the main concepts related to Health Data.

Community Health Data: Community data uncovers needs within the community to help leaders identify barriers to care and develop strategies to help families obtain the services they need.

Data to Plan, Implement, and Evaluate Health Services: Program data helps programs ensure that their health services meet all applicable requirements and supports quality improvement efforts.

To Learn More About Community Health Data: County Health Rankings

To Learn More About Using Data to Plan and Implement Health Services: Data in Head Start and Early Head Start Series

To Learn More About Using Data to Evaluate Health Services: A Resource Guide for Head Start Programs: Moving Beyond a Culture of Compliance to a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Connect with Others

- If you have more questions, contact the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW) at health@ecetta.info or (toll-free) 1-888-227-5125.

- Join MyPeers: a collaborative platform for the early care and education community

- Subscribe to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Early Childhood listserv

The handout below contains a list of resources used to develop this module and can be used to continue learning.

Congratulations! You have reached the end of this module.

Resources for Leadership Competencies 5 and 6: Health Data

Resources throughout the module:

[Positive Eating Environment Self-Assessment for ECE Programs](#)

To learn more about community health data:

[County Health Rankings](#)

To learn more about using data to plan and implement health services:

[Data in Head Start and Early Head Start Series](#)

To learn more about using data to evaluate health services:

[A Resource Guide for Head Start Programs: Moving Beyond a Culture of Compliance to a Culture of Continuous Improvement](#)

Additional Resources related to Community Health Data

[HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse: Interactive Map Tool](#)
[Kids Count Data Center](#)
[State Health Facts: Custom State Reports](#)

Additional Resources related to Using Data to Plan and Implement Health Services

[Data & Ongoing Monitoring](#)
[Data in Head Start and Early Head Start: Creating a Culture that Embraces Data - Resources](#)
[Measuring What Matters: Using Data to Support Family Progress](#)

Additional Resources related to Using Data to Evaluate Health Services

[Data on Improving Quality in Head Start Programs](#)
[What Is Quality Data for Programs Serving Infants and Toddlers?](#)