

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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## **The influence of public health structure and governance on the adoption of core services and outcomes in local public health agencies in Colorado**

**Project Summary:** This project studies the impact of the Colorado Public Health Act of 2008 (SB08-194) specifically in the area of core service delivery. In October 2011 core public health services, which were called for in the Public Health Act of 2008, were promulgated into rule. The research takes advantage of this natural experiment to measure change over time in service delivery, systems structures and start to explore changes in health outcomes related to the core services.

The study will use existing baseline data collected through site visits and a data collection tool used by all 54 local public health agencies throughout the state. Baseline and secondary data will be used as pre-implementation parameters for study. Follow-up data collection will take place 21 months after the baseline data was collected to measure change over time. Using longitudinal, pre-post study design we will look at agency level changes in core service provisions among all local public health agencies in Colorado. In addition to agency level changes we will also measure possible changes in health outcomes based on indicators related to core services.

**Relevance to Practice:** The project is expected to provide local public health agencies and the state public and environmental health agency with changes in service delivery and measures of capacity prior to and after the implementation of the Public Health Act of 2008. Additionally, the results from this study can be used by other states that are in the process of using and potentially implementing core public health services required by local public health agencies.

**Project Advisory Committee:** The PAC is currently being created. The PAC will be made up of practice and research professionals including representatives from local public health agencies, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's, the Colorado School of Public Health, national experts who are familiar with service measurement and public health professionals from local public health agencies throughout Colorado.

**Project Consultants:** Colorado Department of Public Health Environment's Office of Planning and Partnerships

**Research Team:** Colorado School of Public Health, Public Health Alliance of Colorado through the Colorado Public Health Practice-Based Research Network

**Funding Source:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

**Timeframe:** December 2011 – November 2013

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