

Instructions

Welcome! This data collection is meant for state and local health department staff. Thank you for your interest in completing this survey. We hope to gain a better understanding of health departments' efforts to address ethics issues that arise in the practice of public health. Your feedback is important. It will help us understand how health departments are currently addressing ethical issues and what barriers may exist for implementing public health ethics activities. We are also interested in what data sources are available within your health department for evaluating the impact of having a systematic approach for addressing ethics concerns.

Completing the questionnaire is voluntary and takes approximately 11 minutes. There are no known risks or direct benefits to you from participating or choosing not to participate, but your answers will help CDC improve the public health ethics resources, training, and guidance that the Public Health Ethics Unit at CDC provides to health departments throughout the country. In order to preserve your privacy, we will not link your name or the name of your health department to your individual responses in our report of the findings.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact Drue Barrett, PhD, Public Health Ethics Unit Lead, at phethics@cdc.gov or 404-639-4690.

CDC estimates the average public reporting burden for this collection of information as 11 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data/information sources, gathering and maintaining the data/information needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden to CDC/ATSDR Information Collection Review Office, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; ATTN: PRA (0920-0879).

Section 1: Background Information

What is your position title?

How many years have you served in this role?

Which of the following most accurately describes your health department's accreditation status (i.e., accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board)?

- Accredited
- Unaccredited, working towards accreditation
- Unaccredited, not working towards accreditation
- Unsure

Section 2: Current Ethics Activities

Does your health department have a formal process to identify, analyze, and resolve ethical issues that arise in public health practice?

- Yes
- No, but we are currently working to establish a formal ethics process
- No
- Unsure

Approximately, how long has your health department had a formal ethics process?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 year or more but less than 3 years
- 3 years or more but less than 5 years
- 5 years or more
- Unsure

Which of the following are components of that process? *Check all that apply*

- Ethics committee
- Consultations with ethicist (e.g., academic or hospital ethicist)
- Consultations with lawyer/ legal experts
- Designated decision-maker/ ethics champion
- Other (please specify)

How long has your health department had an ethics committee?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 year or more but less than 3 years
- 3 years or more but less than 5 years
- 5 years or more
- Unsure

Who serves on the ethics committee? *Check all that apply*

- Health department leadership
- Health department staff
- Ethicist (e.g., academic or hospital ethicist)
- Lawyer (includes health department attorney)
- Community partners (members of the public)
- Other partners (interest groups such as businesses, patient advocacy groups, professional associations)
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)

How frequently does your health department's ethics committee meet?

- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Yearly
- Ad hoc, as-needed basis
- Other (please specify)

Who identifies issues that are brought to your ethics committee? *Check all that apply*

- Health department leadership
- Health department staff members
- Community partners (members of the public)
- Other partners (interest groups such as businesses, patient advocacy groups, professional associations)
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)

Please describe examples of the types of issues your ethics committee has addressed. *Your response should not include any sensitive but unclassified information (SBU), which includes personally identifiable information (PII).*

Does your health department require members of the ethics committee to receive ethics training?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

How often are ethics committee members trained?

- Monthly Ad-hoc, as needed basis
- Quarterly Unsure
- Yearly
- Other (please specify)

What types of training are offered to ethics committee members? *Check all that apply*

- In-person
- Live webinar
- Self-study
- Other (please specify)

Does your ethics committee use real or hypothetical case studies as a part of ethics training?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Does your health department evaluate the impact of its formal ethics process?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Does your health department provide either internal or external public health ethics-related training to health department staff?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Are public health ethics trainings required for health department staff?

Yes

No

Unsure

What types of training are required for health department staff? *Check all that apply*

- In-person
- Live webinar
- Self-study
- Other (please specify)

Please indicate which health department staff are required to attend ethics trainings:

	Yes	No	Unsure
Staff in leadership positions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scientific staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All health department staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other Staff, Please list

How often are health department staff required to take ethics training?

- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Yearly
- Other (please specify)
- Ad-hoc, as needed
- Unsure

Section 3: Needs Assessment

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: “My health department has the capacity to identify, analyze, and resolve ethics issues that arise using its current knowledge and training.”

- Strongly agree Disagree
- Agree Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

How often do you refer to “*The Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health*”(sometimes referred to as the Public Health Code of Ethics) for guidance in addressing ethical issues that arise within your health department?

- Always Never
- Often Unsure
- Sometimes Not aware of this resource
- Seldom

Do you use any other framework to provide guidance on how to address ethical issues that arise within your health department?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please briefly describe the other frameworks you use.

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "I know where to obtain information about public health ethics."

- Strongly agree
 Disagree
 Agree
 Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree

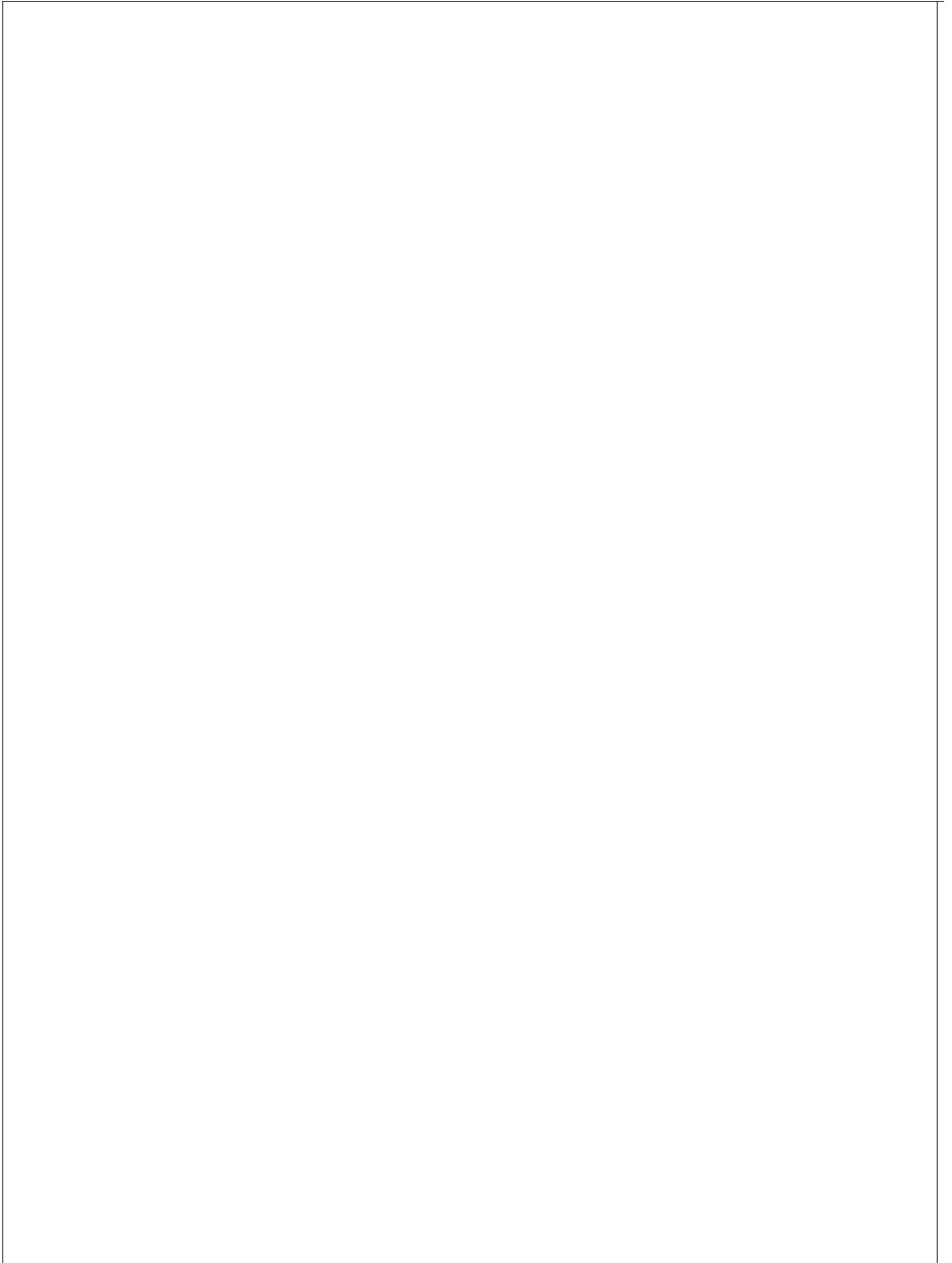
From which of these organizations has your department sought resources about integrating public health ethics principles into your health department's practice?

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)
 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
 American Public Health Association (APHA)
 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
 Academic institution/ university
 Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC)
 Unsure
 Other health jurisdiction
 Have not sought resources from external organizations
 Other (please specify)

To what extent would the following resources be useful for you?

	Highly Useful	Useful	Not at all Useful	Unsure
Information on how to build an ethics committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information on how to develop an ethics committee charter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On-line course on public health ethics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-person training on public health ethics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ethics guidance on specific topics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe other topics for which you would like to receive ethics guidance:



To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "My health department has the resources it needs to address ethics issues that arise within public health practice."

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

In your experience, which of the following are challenges to creating a formal ethics process? *Check all that apply*

- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of public health ethics training materials
- Lack of leadership support
- Lack of guidance
- Lack of ethics expertise
- Lack of community support
- Other (please specify)

Section 4: Impact of Public Health Ethics Activities

Is it important to be able to demonstrate the impact of a formal public health ethics process in your health department?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

What data does your health department collect that would allow for an assessment of the impact of a formal ethics process? *Your response(s) should not include any sensitive but unclassified information (SBU), which includes personally identifiable information (PII).*

In addition to this survey, we are conducting 60-minute telephone interviews with a subset of survey respondents to gain more detailed information about how state and local health departments are addressing ethical issues that arise in public health practice and what needs they may have in building ethics capacity. If you are willing to participate in a telephone interview, please select yes below. We will only be selecting 8 people for telephone interviews.

Are you willing to participate in a follow-up interview?

- Yes
- No

Survey Complete

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your responses are very important to us. If you have any questions about the survey or the telephone interview, please feel free to contact Drue Barrett at Phethics@cdc.gov or 404-639-4690.