



# Plan to Achieve Health Equity for Delawareans with Disabilities

Health Equity Forum  
June 3, 2015

[www.gohdwd.org/documents/healthequityplan0215.pdf](http://www.gohdwd.org/documents/healthequityplan0215.pdf)



In 2005, Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona released a *Call to Action to Improve the Health and Wellness of Persons with Disabilities*.



## Project Goal

Improve the health of  
people with disabilities  
through state-based public  
health programs





Advisory  
Council



State-level  
surveillance



Policy  
initiatives



Health  
promotion



Access



Emergency  
preparedness

**FOCUS AREAS TO IMPROVE POPULATION HEALTH**



## Process for HDWD

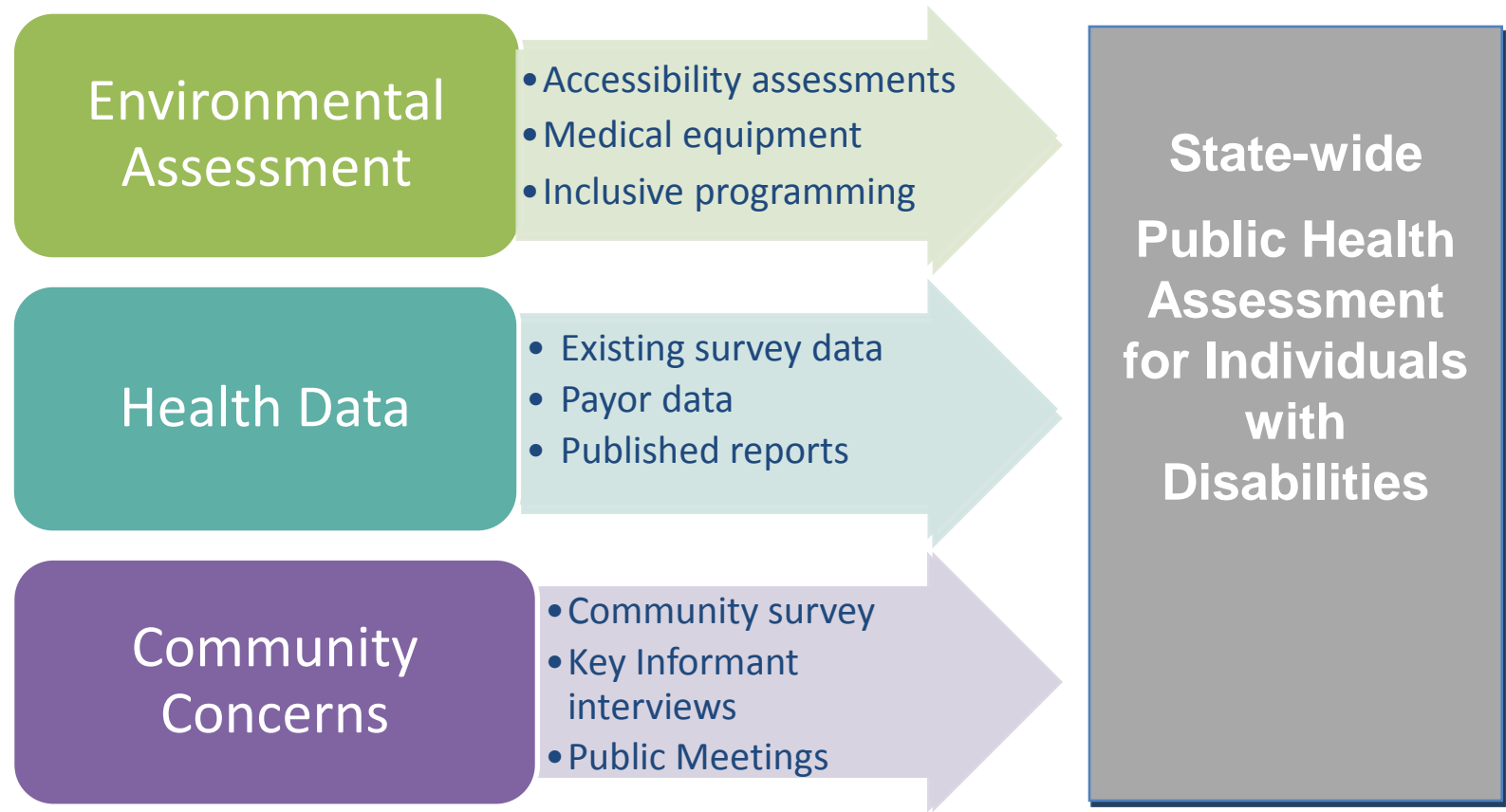




# Public Health Assessment



# HDWD Public Health Assessment Model







*The Current Landscape*  
for Disability and Health in Delaware

# Current Landscape for Disability and Health in Delaware

[www.gohdwd.org/documents/  
pha0215.pdf](http://www.gohdwd.org/documents/pha0215.pdf)

PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSESSMENT REPORT  
SUMMARY

JANUARY 2015







# HEALTH DATA



# Disability Status

Variables	Adults in Delaware	
	<i>Disability</i>	<i>No Disability</i>
Disability status	19.7%	80.3%
Activity limitation	17.5%	82.5%
Use of special equipment	8.4%	91.6%



# Health Status by Disability Status

Variable	Without a disability	With a disability
General health status: fair or poor*	9.4%	44.9%
Poor physical health $\geq$ 14 days *	4.7%	41.4%
Poor mental health $\geq$ 14 days *	8.0%	26.2%

*\*Statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$*

*Source: 2012 Delaware Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*



# Health Conditions by Disability Status

Variable	Adults without a disability	Adults with a disability
Diabetes*	7.0%	20.4%
Heart disease*	2.9%	13.4%
Heart attack*	3.4%	11.9%
Stroke*	2.4%	7.8%
COPD*	3.6%	21.4%

*\*Statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$*

*Source: 2012 Delaware Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*



# Behavioral Risk Factors by Disability Status

Variable	Without a disability	With a disability
Physical activity in past month *	80.6%	59.7%
Body mass index: Obese *	23.7%	39.7%
Current smoker *	18.4%	25.1%

*\*Statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$*

*Source: 2012 Delaware Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*



# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS







# Environmental Assessments: Facilities

**Structural elements** were generally accessible

- Parking, entrances, signage, bathrooms, reception area

**Medical and program elements less accessible**

- Exam room and equipment
- Scales, exam tables, and lifts
- Communication
- Emergency procedures



# Environmental Assessments: Health Promotion Programs

- The majority of programs did not know how many people with disabilities accessed their services
  - 86% of DHSS and 69% of community programs
- 40% of program directors indicated there were no challenges that a person with a disability would encounter in accessing their program
  - Demonstrates a lack of training/knowledge
  - Qualitative data speaks to these challenges



# COMMUNITY CONCERNS



## **Community Concerns**

- Availability of providers and services
- Physical access to health care services
- Communication and sensitivity issues
- Insurance and financial barriers
- Coordination of services

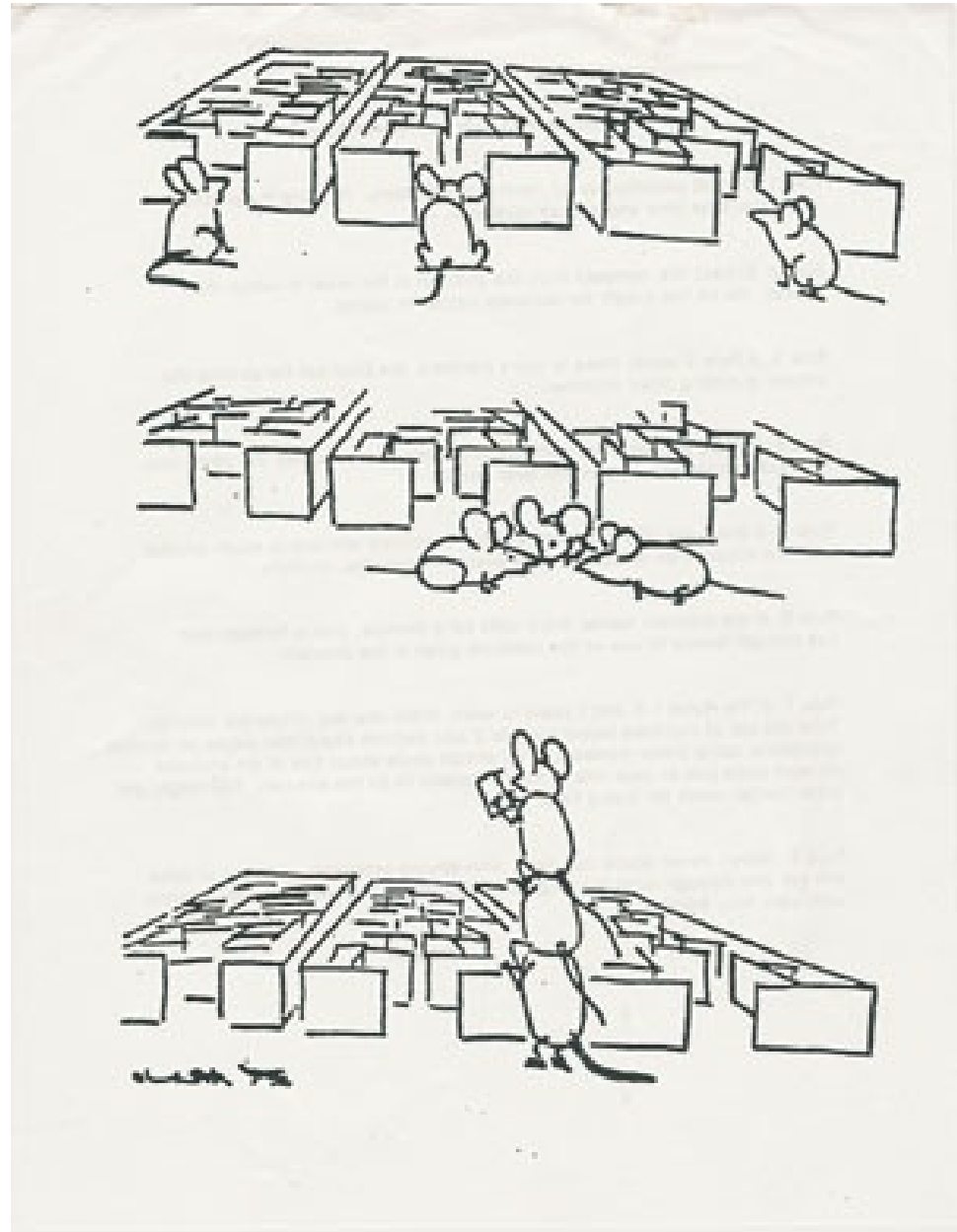


**NEXT STEPS:  
THE PLAN TO ACHIEVE  
HEALTH EQUITY**





# Collaborative approach to solving a broad public health problem







# Plan to Achieve Health Equity

- Four months to generate action items and four months of refining, writing
- 60 stakeholders: state agencies, policy makers, community partners, health providers, individuals with disabilities
- 5 work groups: access to health care, inclusive health promotion, emergency preparedness, data collection, and at-risk populations



## Next steps

- Work with Governor's Commission, Health Care Committee to prioritize implementation
- Identify immediate actions and opportunities for alignment
- Provide TA to DHSS divisions to improve access and assist with practice transformation
- Explore data and surveillance of disability status



THANK YOU!

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