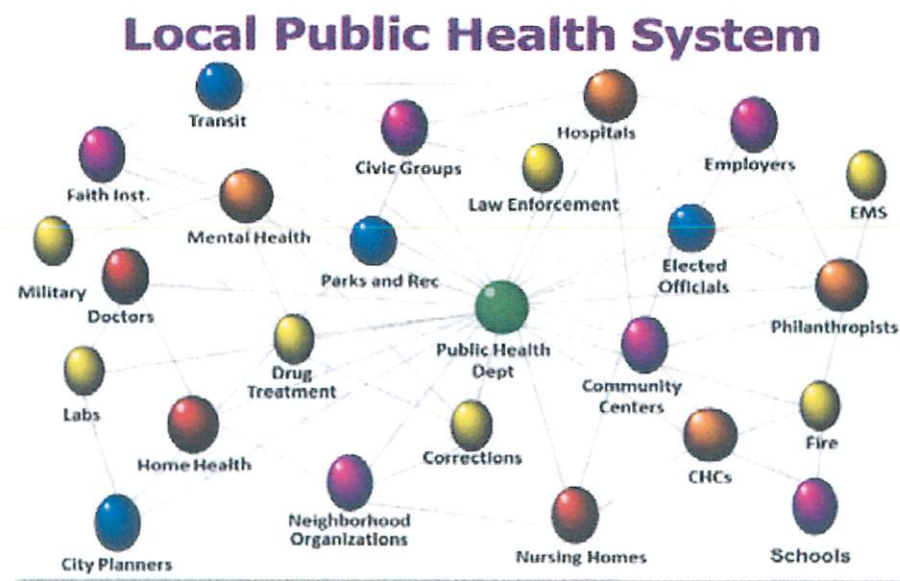


## Forces of Change Assessment

The Local Public Health System (LPHS) includes all entities that contribute to the delivery of public or personal health. Public health departments are typically at the center of this system as seen in the graphic to the right. This system includes, but is not limited to: county health departments, hospitals, community clinics, federally qualified health centers, elected officials, schools, non-profit organizations, faith institutions, public transit, civic and neighborhood groups, and the military.



## 10 Essential Health Services



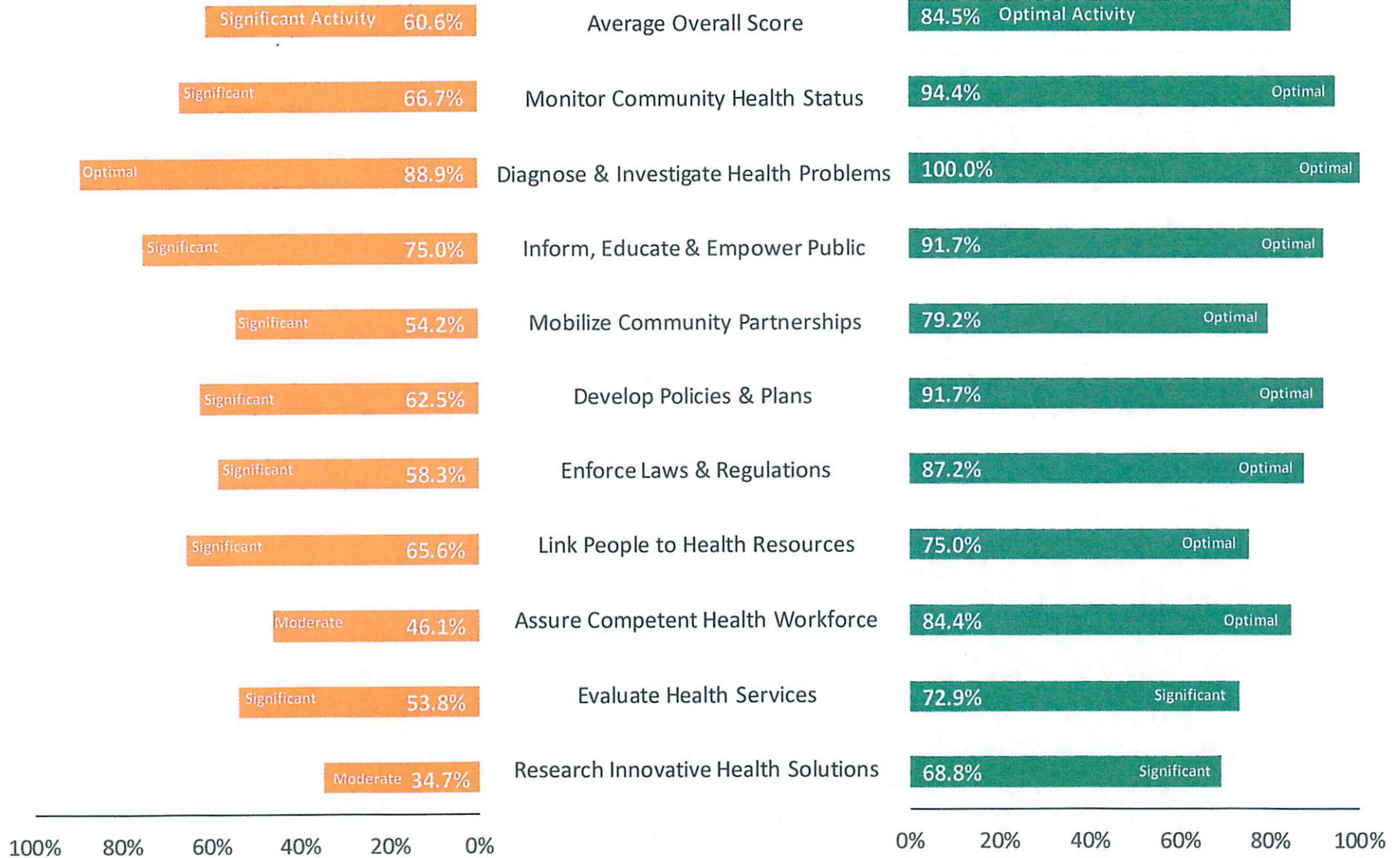
To assess our local public health system, the Florida Department of Health in each county uses the 10 Essential Public Health Services framework developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. This framework includes a self-assessment rating scale: No Activity, Moderate Activity, Significant Activity, and Optimal Activity. Scores on the self-assessment are used to implement continuous quality improvement activities by identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within each of the 10 essential health services.

For this process, the Florida Department of Health in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties asked partner entities to score at least one of the 10 essential services using the rating scale above. In addition, partners were asked to give examples of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. A panel of our partners and subject matter experts then met to discuss and vote on the current capabilities of the LPHS. This process was conducted separately in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, and scores cannot be compared across the two counties.

## Average Essential Public Health Service Self-Assessment Scores

### Escambia

### Santa Rosa



## Escambia - Strongest Performance

**ES 2: Diagnose and Investigate.....88.9%**

This Essential Public Health Service is all about public health preparedness; Escambia has a great response plan when it comes to dealing with public health threats. County officials work closely with the Department of Health in Escambia County to monitor and respond timely to a potential incident. The Local Public Health System uses several training events and emergency notification systems to ensure the proper and timely response. The partners involved are county management, local hospitals and laboratories. The lack of a large laboratory that is within an hour limits our ability to respond to emerging chemical and biological threats.

## Santa Rosa - Strongest Performance

**ES 2: Diagnose and Investigate.....100.0%**

Santa Rosa County utilizes multiple surveillance systems to detect and monitor emerging health threats, including a syndromic surveillance system (ESSENCE), a statewide reportable disease database which includes data from Florida's Poison Control Center, a statewide epidemiologic communication network (EpiCom), and CDC's nationwide epidemiologic exchange (Epi-X). All reportable diseases are submitted to the state within 14 business days. In addition to maintaining written instructions for handling communicable disease outbreaks and toxic exposures in various facilities, Santa Rosa County's Public Health Preparedness unit develops and maintains protocols for responding to natural and manmade disasters. The County works closely with the jurisdictional Emergency Response Coordinator to plan for biological, chemical and nuclear emergencies. Emergency response exercises are conducted throughout the year and include community partners. Santa Rosa County only utilizes licensed or credentialed laboratories which can meet public health needs during emergencies 24/7. Santa Rosa County maintains written protocols for handling, transporting and delivering lab specimens.

## Escambia - Weakest Performance

**ES 2: 10: Research and Innovation.....34.7%**

The University of West Florida has been increasingly active in the Local Public Health System, but they have just begun to develop a true public health research base. Keeping up to date on the best practices in public health is a priority for the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County and other non-profit organizations in the county. Opportunities exist in this area for partnering with other agencies to develop and test new and innovative solutions to the population's health. The Department of Health in Escambia County aims to do this in the community health improvement plan which follows the CHNA.

## Santa Rosa - Weakest Performance

**ES 9: Research and Innovation.....68.8%**

Santa Rosa County keeps abreast of best practices in public health using a variety of state and national tools, including FloridaHealthCHARTS.com and Healthy People 2020. Research capacity has been expanded with the addition of a Biological Scientist IV whose duties include coordinating with the Community Health team to conduct research to support local health initiatives. Opportunities for improvement include pilot testing and evaluating new solutions to public health problems, encouraging community participation in research, and sharing research findings with public health colleagues and the community through journals, websites and social media.