

Key Elements and Actions that Define a Population Health Approach

Summary Table of Population Health Key Elements

The goals of a population health approach are to maintain and improve the health status of the entire population and to reduce inequities in health status between population groups.

Key Element	Actions
1. Focus on the Health of Populations	1.1 Determine indicators for measuring health status 1.2 Measure and analyze population health status and health status inequities to identify health issues 1.3 Assess contextual conditions, characteristics and trends
2. Address the Determinants of Health and Their Interactions	2.1 Determine indicators for measuring the determinants of health 2.2 Measure and analyze the determinants of health, and their interactions, to link health issues to their determinants
3. Base Decisions on Evidence	3.1 Use best evidence available at all stages of policy and program development 3.2 Explain criteria for including or excluding evidence 3.3 Draw on a variety of data 3.4 Generate data through mixed research methods 3.5 Identify and assess effective interventions 3.6 Disseminate research findings and facilitate policy uptake
4. Increase Upstream Investments	4.1 Apply criteria to select priorities for investment 4.2 Balance short and long term investments 4.3 Influence investments in other sectors
5. Apply Multiple Strategies	5.1 Identify scope of action for interventions 5.2 Take action on the determinants of health and their interactions 5.3 Implement strategies to reduce inequities in health status between population groups 5.4 Apply a comprehensive mix of interventions and strategies 5.5 Apply interventions that address health issues in an integrated way 5.6 Apply methods to improve health over the life span 5.7 Act in multiple settings 5.8 Establish a coordinating mechanism to guide interventions
6. Collaborate Across Sectors and Levels	6.1 Engage partners early on to establish shared values and alignment of purpose 6.2 Establish concrete objectives and focus on visible results 6.3 Identify and support a champion 6.4 Invest in the alliance building process 6.5 Generate political support and build on positive factors in the policy environment 6.6 Share leadership, accountability and rewards among partners
7. Employ Mechanisms for Public Involvement	7.1 Capture the public's interest 7.2 Contribute to health literacy 7.3 Apply public involvement strategies that link to overarching purpose
8. Demonstrate Accountability for Health Outcomes	8.1 Construct a results-based accountability framework 8.2 Ascertain baseline measures and set targets for health improvement 8.3 Institutionalize effective evaluation systems 8.4 Promote the use of health impact assessment tools 8.5 Publicly report results