

Capacity Assessment Key Findings

Recreational Camps for Children

In the fall of 2022, the Office of Local and Regional Health conducted a Capacity Assessment of local health departments in Massachusetts to evaluate local public health's current ability to provide basic public health services based on their available resources, including staffing levels, funding, and training. The first-ever Massachusetts Local Public Health Performance Standards, which defined basic levels of services and workforce credentials and training, framed the assessment. As part of this assessment, a qualitative review of documentation submitted by municipalities was conducted, focusing on various subject areas to evaluate the implementation of crucial public health services.

The recreational camps for children documentation included 2018, 2019, and 2021 inspection forms for one recreational camp for children.



1

UNDERSTANDING COMPREHENSIVE RECREATIONAL CAMP INSPECTIONS

Inspectors must be well-versed in several chapters of the state sanitary code to identify violations and enforce corrective actions to ensure the safety of recreational camps for children.

- Requires an understanding of what and how to inspect and the importance of compliance with the recreational camp regulations. Also, where applicable, enforcing regulations for swimming pools, beaches, food establishments, challenge/rope courses, and Christians Law.
- Camp inspections include safety assessments that confirm background checks were conducted for all counselors and immunization records are accessible for camp attendees.



2

ENSURING UP-TO-DATE AND THOROUGH INSPECTION FORMS

There is a standardized DPH inspection form for recreational camps for children; however, there are several outdated versions of this form that are still being used by some municipalities.

- Municipalities should be reminded to use the most up-to-date version to avoid missing important information during inspections.
- Inspectors should be encouraged to mark "No" if necessary instead of leaving the associated cell blank and providing detailed reasoning for the answer in the "Comments" column.
- Training should highlight and remind inspectors of the need to detail everything that was determined to be out of compliance on the last page of the inspection form.



3

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

To improve the quality of inspections, additional training is needed for inspectors in areas such as proper use of inspection forms.

- Training opportunities include proper usage of inspection forms, knowing which forms are up-to-date, and knowing how to ensure a thorough inspection has been completed.
- Process improvements include clearly labeling what is being inspected as well as enforcement actions and addressing inconsistencies in percentages of immunization records being checked.
- Ensuring inspectors are trained to properly indicate "Yes" "No" or "N/A" on all sections of the form so it is clear which components of the inspection were or were not applicable.



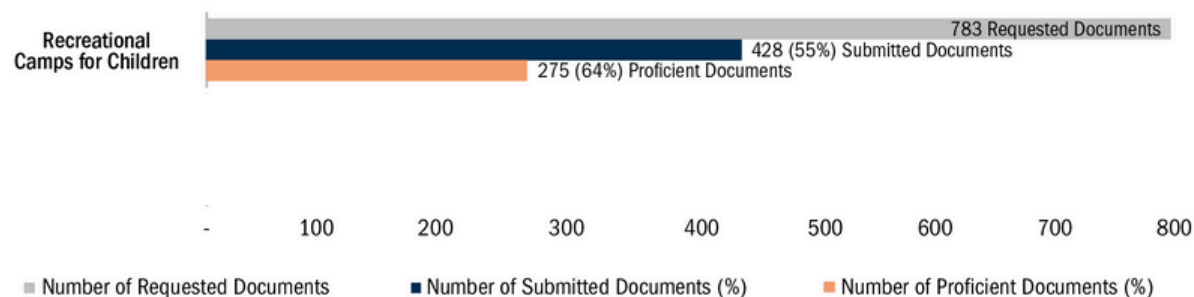
Proficient recreational camps for children inspection documentation requires comprehensive completion of each section. All sections should be clearly marked with either "Yes," "No," or "N/A," and certain staff members should be identified by name and any license/certification information as needed (such as the Camp Director, Health Care Consultant, Supervisor, Aquatics Director, etc). Violations that are observed should be documented along with the associated enforcement actions.

Recreational Camps Qualitative Findings

The tables below outline the reasons each type of recreational camp for children document did not meet the proficiency standard. **The most frequently selected evaluation criteria are bolded in red and ordered by frequency from greatest to least.**

The figure to the right presents the percentage of submitted documents and their proficiency for the Recreational Camps for Children category. The most significant issue for Recreational Camps for Children overall 3+ fields overall on the inspection form were not completed (no indication of Yes, No, or N/A).

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION RESULTS



RECREATIONAL CAMPS FOR CHILDREN 2018/19/21 DOCUMENTS

EVALUATION CRITERIA

3+ fields overall on the Recreational Camps for Children inspection form are not completed (no indication of Yes, No, or N/A)

Follow-up action not completed or documented

Form insufficient or not approved

Reinspection not completed or documented

Conditions that may put children at risk not properly addressed

Conditions that may contribute to illness not properly addressed