

# Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

## SUCCESS STORY 2018

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### Ecosystem of Data Sharing

#### CDPH Moves the Dial on a Data-Driven Communication

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**Public Health Issue:** As the largest public health department in the nation, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) manages the collection, curation, and analysis of thousands of health data sets each year. In order to coordinate this effort, communication is key. Now more than ever, CDPH staff are breaking down the traditional barriers that exist between public health programs and working together in a coordinated effort to tackle cross-cutting issues and improve the health outcomes of Californians. However, the data systems have not followed suit in this improvement. Dozens of CDPH databases that store rich, vital public health data do not communicate with one another. These systems collect, store, and sometimes transfer data, but all of them speak different languages, making it impossible to conduct crucial cross-cutting data analysis to accompany the staff coordination that is already in place.

**Intervention:** The Ecosystem of Data Sharing (EODS), CDPH's interoperability initiative, will act as translator for these systems that speak different languages. Through a close partnership with subject matter experts across CDPH, these data systems will speak fluently with one another at the click of a button, allowing cross-analysis to discover correlations and relationships that had never been accounted for. The first step? Information gathering. What language does each system speak? How does it communicate? Who does it communicate with? CDPH has already begun developing EODS specifications and will be put to the test through several use cases in four pilot programs across CDPH over the next six months. These pilot use cases, with system cross-analysis and data linkage, will be the first step towards complete interoperability in CDPH, and towards bringing the CDPH data systems in line with the cross-program coordination of effort that is already happening.

**Impact:** A joint EODS communications platform is already in use to continue and broaden CDPH coordination across programs, and is the first step towards data system interoperability. Even in its infancy, the EODS technical infrastructure and communications platform have sparked movement towards an even more coordinated effort to improve the health of Californians. CDPH programs are eager to be a part of the new age of data-driven discovery in public health. With master data management, interoperability, advanced analytics, and predictive modeling all in play, and the ability to create a platform for data systems to fluently communicate with one another, there is one question: "Who is ready?".