Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

SUCCESS STORY 2019

Ecosystem of Data Sharing/CDPH Interoperability Initiative

CDPH Blazes the Trail on Data Interoperability

Public Health Issue: How do we turn data into action? For the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the next big need of the 21st Century is creating a technical infrastructure which can do just that. It needs to make possible a culture of data sharing, data management and next generation mechanisms. CDPH manages thousands of health datasets each year, utilizing dozens of data systems, with data scientists and epidemiologists spending countless hours cleaning, matching, and preparing data for analysis. CDPH has many highly qualified and dedicated staff working around the clock to study the existing and emerging public health threats, with the goal of turning that data into actionable information, and using it as a tool to protect the public's health. However, these dedicated staff can spend up to 70% of their time managing and preparing the data for analysis, rather than being able to spend their time gathering insights into the data, and taking action to mitigate public health issues. Developing an infrastructure for easy, automated, and secure data management and analysis is the inherent next step.

Intervention: The CDPH Ecosystem of Data Sharing (EODS), Interoperability Initiative System (IIS) is the infrastructure solution to everyday data management barriers. The IIS will provide a secure platform for automated data preparation, management, and analysis as requested by CDPH programs for their business needs. What is the benefit? The IIS will flip the 70% data preparation time upside-down, freeing up that time for the experts to focus on interpreting the data and getting back to the solution-building that is so essential to defending the public's health. CDPH has successfully developed version 1.0 of the IIS; which has been proven to be capable of all of the data management functions, with an added benefit of automation.

Impact: With the successful development of IIS version 1.0, CDPH has proven the concept of its overall interoperability vision. As a custom technical solution, the sky is the limit for IIS data management and support capabilities, including assistance to the CDPH experts with automation of any routine data management or data analytics task, allowing more time for development of solutions and interventions that are necessary to protect the public's health. CDPH programs will continue to collaborate closely to fully harness the potential of this tool, develop new system functionality, and discover new solutions to improve the health of the people of California. With this data management, interoperability, and advanced analytics tool in development; CDPH moves forward with one primary thought in mind: "what's next?"