



Project Newsletter

Iowa Public Health Tracking

October 2013

In this Issue:

- Iowa Public Health Tracking Project Update (Pg. 1)
- Dataset Catalog (Pg. 2)
- Local Trainings (Pg. 2)
- In-House Data Training (Pg. 2)

Project Update and Planning

- The data training series will continue on Oct. 30th with the Basic Data Use class. The Advanced Data training will occur in two parts later this fall on Nov. 12th and Nov. 14th.
- The Iowa Public Health Tracking team along with members from other bureaus is still working on a data management strategic plan.
- The Research and Ethics Review Policy (RERC) and the Policy for Disclosure of Confidential Public Health Records were approved by the E-Team.
- Local public health regional data trainings will begin on October 22nd.
- The Public Health Tracking team will be presenting at the University of Iowa College Colloquium on October 29th.
- To learn more about the Public Health Tracking Program and view project updates, visit our website at: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/dwh/Updates.aspx>

Project milestones:

- November 2012 - Data Warehouse System Replacement Project contract signed with Microsoft and Infusion
- November 2012 - Project kick-off at IDPH
- January 2013 - SharePoint 2013 installation
- February 2013 – Dashboard construction began
- July 2013 – Testing of dashboards for functionality began
- September 2013 – Portal demonstrations begin and Iowa Public Health Tracking Program is launched

Project Staff:

Meg Harris, MPH, MPA
Project Coordinator
Meghan.Harris@idph.iowa.gov

Michelle Lenerz
Technical Lead
Michelle.Lenerz@idph.iowa.gov

Caitlin Lueck
Management Analyst
Caitlin.Lueck@idph.iowa.gov

Brittany Perkins
Management Analyst
Brittany.Perkins@idph.iowa.gov

Allison Peel
Intern
Allison.Peel@idph.iowa.gov

Gina Zurbey
Intern
Gina.Zurbey@idph.iowa.gov

Dataset Catalog

A catalog of all the available datasets has been compiled. The catalog provides users with descriptions of various datasets, contacts for the data owners, applicable legal codes, and various information about the format and limitations of the data. Internal IDPH staff can access the catalog through the employee resources tab of the IDPH intranet. The catalog is also available to external users upon request.

Upcoming Local Trainings

The Public Health Tracking team will be travelling around the state to local public health agencies for in person trainings. The trainings will focus on how to use the new Public Health Tracking Portal that was launched at the beginning of September. The schedule is as follows:

October 22	Region 3 in Cherokee
October 23	Region 4 in Atlantic
October 24	Region 6 in Linn County
October 25	Region 1 in Story County
November 1	Region 5 in Ottumwa
November 7	Region 2 in Charles City

Meg Harris will also be presenting with the EPHT team at the University of Iowa College Colloquium on October 29. The group will talk about the portal as well as data management.

In-House Data Training

Mark your calendars! Members of the Public Health Tracking team have been collaborating with individuals from other departments to develop a series of in-house data trainings. The second session is quickly approaching and has spots available to anyone who wants to learn more about data. To register, contact Marilyn Alger, Education Coordinator (Marilyn.Alger@idph.iowa.gov)

Basic Data Use

Lead Personnel: Meg Harris

Date: October 30

Class Description:

The purpose of this class is to provide a broad overview of basic data use in public health. The course is designed for anyone working in public health, regardless of whether interaction with data plays a major or minor role in your day-to-day functions. Several major changes in how data is provided, managed and accessed have been implemented, including new policies aimed at improving the way the department handles data. All staff are strongly encouraged to attend this overview of basic data use.

Continue to watch out for more information on the rest of the series!