



Project Newsletter

Iowa Public Health Tracking

July 2013

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Project Update and Planning

- Our name has changed! The Data Warehouse program will now be the Iowa Public Health Tracking program. We will be transitioning to our new name over the summer with the launch of the replacement system.
- The team started to test the functionality of preliminary dashboards for the new portal. We will identify any problems to be fixed before beginning the next test phase. The testing ensures the portal is efficient and easy to use upon public release.
- The Data Warehouse website will be undergoing a redesign to accommodate the new portal and name change. The new site will make it easier to find data as well as various reports and publications. Be on the lookout for new updates!
- A training schedule has been created to teach local public health agencies about how to use the new portal system. Members of the Public Health Tracking team will travel around the state to agencies in six regions for in-person sessions starting in October.
- To learn more about the Data Warehouse System Replacement Project 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 begins
- July 2013 – Testing of dashboards for functionality begins

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Health Indicators Warehouse

The IDPH Public Health Tracking Program is an excellent way to collect data related to various indicators for lowans, but those looking for national statistics or data from other states may want to check out the Health Indicators Warehouse (healthindicators.gov). Run and maintained by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, this site is a centralized source for national, state, and county data for a wide variety of indicators. The data is available to the public, and can be accessed either through the tables and charts directly on the website, or indicators can be downloaded to use in a spreadsheet.

Once on the site, users are able to search for their desired data either by topic or geographic region. Filters can then be applied to the chosen field to narrow down the user's search and obtain the preferred statistics. In addition, users are also able to search for indicators derived from state and federal health indicator initiatives: County Health Rankings, Community Health Status Indicators, Healthy People 2020, and CMS Community Indicators. The warehouse provides an overview of each indicator after the user has made their selection. This overview includes information on how the data was calculated and what characteristics are being represented. For example, percent of binge drinking adults is prefaced in the overview that data was based on the question: "Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have [5 for men, 4 for women] or more drinks on an occasion?" Data is viewable either in the basic table format, chart format, or for some indicators it is possible to view it in terms of a national map.

The Health Indicators Warehouse updates indicators as data becomes available, but the collection of years varies amongst the indicators. Nonetheless, this site is a useful resource to anyone looking for comparative indicators throughout the nation or is interested in one of the hundreds of indicators housed by the site. For more information or to check out what the warehouse has to offer visit: <http://healthindicators.gov/>