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Project Update and Planning

- **Now available**—2009 birth, death and behavioral risk factor surveillance survey data!
- The ICD codes for 2009 Inpatient Discharge (SID) data are now available to view and query.
- 2009 county health snapshots are now available!
- The 2010 data is coming! The anticipated start of the project is late-summer.
- The completed load of all necessary datasets, including birth defects and lead, for the EPHT project is expected by July 31.
- Presentation of “*Public Sector Principles of Data Governance: case study of the Iowa Department of Public Health*” at the 2012 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Annual conference in Omaha, Nebraska.
- The contract for the Environmental Public Health Tracking program is progressing well. The project is slated to start work on August 1 of this year. Contracted work includes the revision of the Data Warehouse, inclusion of environmental health data and new tools for interacting with data.
- The Data Warehouse team has been working with the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Management to identify health indicators for a new chronic disease county snapshot. The design of the snapshot will be similar to the current county health snapshot, but will contain indicator data specific to chronic disease by county. The DWH intern, Caitlin Lueck, will be assisting with the completion of this task.

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Public Sector Principles of Data Governance: case study of the Iowa Department of Public Health

Background

Health data is a cornerstone of public health practice. Without adequate, quality data, public health efforts may be challenging to evaluate. The broad applicability of health data, such as death certificate recordings, requires a level of accuracy that is reflected in the reputation of the maintaining public health agency.

Growing dependencies on electronic data have resulted in uncovering serious risks that if unmanaged, could impact the security of personal health information as well as the integrity of public health agencies.

In recent years, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has experienced multi-faceted difficulties with data management due to the absence of policies, procedures and standards.

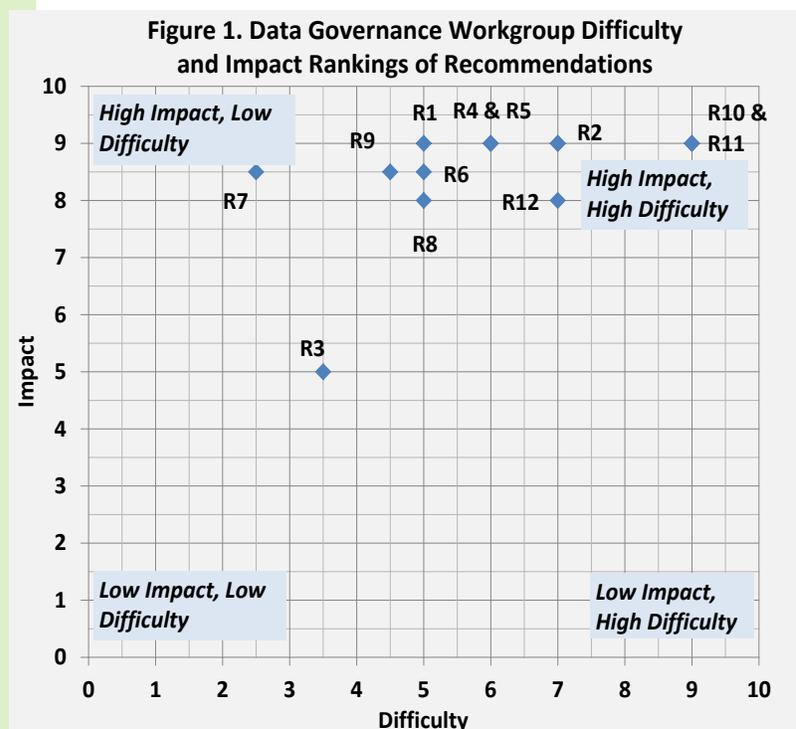
Data governance (DG) is a term used widely in private sector to describe decision-rights and policy-making for data¹. The principles of DG address the issues faced by IDPH and other state health departments.

In 2011, IDPH conducted a department-wide quality improvement project with the intent of establishing data governance. Despite budget constraints and mandates to improve quality, IDPH staff worked through a comprehensive data needs assessment and recommendation development process without using extraneous resources.

Methods

The quality improvement project was conducted using three web-based surveys and two Excel workbooks for data collection. All 92 department programs completed the assessment. The results were analyzed in SAS.

The DG recommendations were developed in a series of facilitated sessions. These sessions involved the state medical director, attorney general's office, epidemiologists and statisticians. Cause and effect, solution and effect, and impact and difficulty rankings tools were used to display and prioritize recommendations (Figure 1).



Results

The data needs assessment set quantifiable baselines for data competencies and management issues for the department (www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/data_warehouse.asp). The analysis of the data needs assessment was completed at the program level, one organizational level above individual.

From the facilitated sessions, DG recommendations were formed. So far IDPH has been able to initiate several of the recommendations. The complete list of recommendations and the status of implementation are in Table 1.

Table 1. Data Governance Recommendations

Recommendation	Status (as of June 2012)
R1. Appoint Coordinator for department data resource management	Currently Data Warehouse Coordinator; long term position not yet identified
R2. Establish Data Management Workgroup	Currently the Research and Ethics Review Committee; long term position not yet identified
R3. Standards manual for data collection, use and reporting	In progress; text resources ordered
R4. Department competencies for IDPH employees working with data	Not started
R5. Multi-purpose and uniform confidentiality and accessibility departmental policies	In progress; will tie in with the Data Sharing Agreement and Accessibility policy
R6. Defined roles for data owners and stewards	Defined in policies under draft
R7. Guidance for hiring new staff for positions working with data	Not started
R8. Centralized data clearance process	In progress; cited in policies being developed for research and data sharing
R9. Data management policies	Data Sharing Agreement Policy- started Research and Ethics Review Committee Policy- in review
R10. Training levels for employees working with data	Not started
R11. Centralized review process	In progress; cited in policies being developed for research and data sharing
R12. Long-term strategic and financial sustainability plan for data management	Incorporated into the DWH long-term strategic plan

Conclusions

IDPH has already progressed on some of these recommendations. Improved data quality, consistency, accountability and better decision making are known outcomes of a successful data governance project². Iowa's experience in taking action to address these issues may be used by other states to address their data concerns.

References

- ¹ Dyche, Jill, Nevala, Kimberly. *Ten Mistakes to Avoid When Launching a Data Governance Program*. The Data Warehousing Institute, 2008.
- ² Russom, Phillip. *Data Governance Strategies*. The Data Warehousing Institute, 2008.

Resources

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