



# Project Newsletter

## Iowa Public Health Tracking

December 2013

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### 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
- October 2013 – Demonstrations to local public health agencies begin. Users of the Data Warehouse are migrated over to the secure portal
- November 2013 – The old Data Warehouse is no longer available and all previous users should be using the Public Health Tracking Portal

### Project Update and Planning

- Previous users of the Data Warehouse were moved over to the secure version of the tracking portal. New users can apply for secure access using the form in the “How Do I” section of the portal.
- The old Data Warehouse is no longer in use; all previous users should now use the Public Health Tracking Portal. The portal has retained all of the functionality of the warehouse, but in a more user friendly format.
- Meg Harris held the two-part Advanced Data Use trainings. There were over 20 participants. Look for more data use trainings in the future.
- Public Health Tracking Portal orientation webinars were held in three sessions during November. Information on how to access the recorded version to come in the future.
- 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>

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## ***Data Discovery and Data Use Toolkit***

A Data Discovery and Data Use Toolkit have been added to the Iowa Public Health Tracking (IPHT) Portal. This toolkit provides portal users the opportunity to explore and learn about the data resources included. These resources will assist in accurate interpretation and appropriate use of the data and measures available.

The resources focused on include the Content Landing Pages, Indicator Profiles, and Metadata. A FAQ for each of these resources is included in the packet. The exercises also make use of the IPHT User Manual as an important reference document for users.

The included exercises are intended to guide new users in finding and using the data and information available on the IPHT Portal. The exercises are structured to walk the user through the content and data included on the portal to better acclimate users.

The Data Discovery and Data Use Toolkit is on the Training page at:

<https://pht.idph.state.ia.us/training/Pages/default.aspx>

## ***Can't Find the Data You Need?***

The Public Health Tracking Portal is a great resource to access a variety of data; however, not all of the public health data owned by the Iowa Department of Public Health is housed in this system. Public health professionals and researchers have the ability to access this confidential data through either a research agreement or a data sharing agreement. Research agreements are used when investigators are requesting data for research purposes. A data sharing agreement, on the other hand, is applied when the requested data is used for public health planning and evaluation activities. The Public Health Tracking team is responsible for the management and execution of both agreements.

The team has also developed a dataset catalog to document what datasets are owned and available from Iowa Department of Public Health. The catalog includes information on the datasets including variables collected, years available, and legal authority for collection and use. For questions about data requests or to receive application materials, contact [Meghan.Harris@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:Meghan.Harris@idph.iowa.gov) or [RERC@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:RERC@idph.iowa.gov).

## ***Data TED Talks***

Want to learn more about the wide and emerging world of data? Check out the *Making Sense of Too Much Data* TED Talk playlist ([http://www.ted.com/playlists/56/making\\_sense\\_of\\_too\\_much\\_data.html](http://www.ted.com/playlists/56/making_sense_of_too_much_data.html)). These 10 videos explore the visual aspects of data, including a presentation by Hans Rosling on Gap Minder and the misconceptions of developing nations.