



Project Newsletter

Iowa Public Health Tracking

February 2014

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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

- A Data Needs Assessment survey will be put out from Feb. 3- Feb. 14 for portal users to complete
- The Advanced Data Training course will be offered in two parts on Feb. 19 and Feb. 26, respectively
- Data and Informatics Community of Practice will continue to meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
- 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 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

Data Needs Assessment

The Tracking team is creating a Data Needs Assessment, part of which is a survey to be completed by external users of the Public Health Tracking portal. The goal of the assessment is to characterize the needs of the Public Health Tracking program as well as the need for data requested from IDPH.

A similar assessment was last done in 2011 and will be used as a comparison with this survey. Results from the previous assessment were useful in determining the needs of current and future data users and aided in prioritization of objectives. The table below is an example of some of the results that were collected.

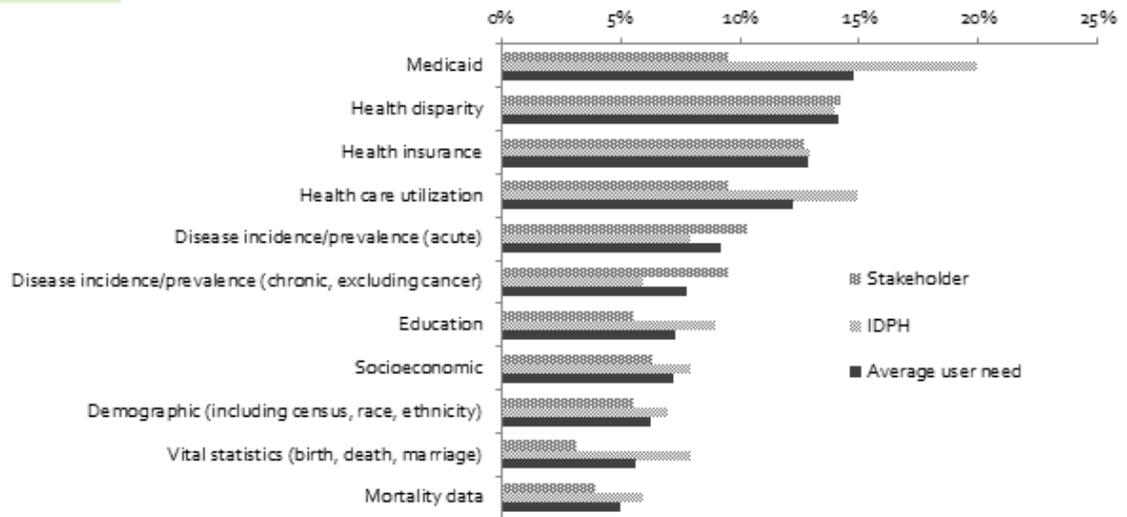


Figure 1. Percentage of data users need access to as reported by IDPH staff, stakeholders and average users

Anyone who has used the portal is asked to complete the survey in an effort to help determine the needs of users and make the Public Health Tracking Portal more efficient. The survey can be accessed here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PHT_external_2014 or found on the training page of the tracking portal. For questions about the survey or the assessment, please contact Rob Walker at robert.walker@idph.iowa.gov.

Data and Informatics Community of Practice

A collaborative effort has implemented a data and informatics community of practice open to all IDPH staff to learn and contribute in data discussions. Meetings for the group will be held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month, alternating between advisory and knowledge based topics. The group is voluntary and will focus on two main themes: fulfilling objectives outlined in the data management blueprint and sharing data knowledge with colleagues to create a collaborative atmosphere.

New Points of Contact

The Public Health Tracking team is saying good-bye to the Public Health Tracking Coordinator Meg Harris. Meg has accepted a position at Meridian Health Plan and will be leaving IDPH on Feb. 13. We appreciate all of her great contributions over the years, especially to this team. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her luck on her new endeavors. Until the Public Health Tracking coordinator position has been filled, the following are the points of contact:

For questions about the Tracking program, contact either Tim Wickam at timothy.wickam@idph.iowa.gov or Rob Walker at robert.walker@idph.iowa.gov.

For questions about research agreements, contact Brittany Perkins at brittany.perkins@idph.iowa.gov.

For questions about data sharing agreements or data requests, contact Caitlin Lueck at caitlin.lueck@idph.iowa.gov.

For all other questions, contact Martha Gelhaus at martha.gelhaus@idph.iowa.gov.