

Recommendations to Support the Data Landscape of Colorado's Local Public Health Agencies

In order to better understand and document the data strategies, needs, and gaps of Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) in Colorado, the Office of eHealth Innovation (OeHI) contracted with Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN), in partnership with the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO), to conduct stakeholder interviews with 19 LPHAs across the state from July 2022 - April 2023. Participating LPHAs were representative in terms of geography and population size, and included representation from frontier, rural, and urban counties.

Using the findings from these interviews, OeHI and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) have identified a number of recommended action steps that the State can pursue to improve the data sharing landscape for LPHAs in Colorado. The team also outlined several initiatives that are currently underway to address the findings and recommendations from this project.

High-Level Focus Areas



Equity



Data Governance



Engagement



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Recommended Action Steps

Utilizing the insights gained from these interviews, OeHI and CDPHE pinpointed these action steps for the State to enhance the data sharing landscape for LPHAs.

Equity



- Provide education about the limitations of surveillance data and potential equity issues related to data suppression for small populations.
- Provide and recommend additional/alternative data sources to better illustrate and understand health outcomes in communities that are underrepresented in surveillance data.

- Develop and publish an inventory of available data managed by CDPHE.

The inventory should include, at minimum:

- Category of data (disease area, purpose, etc.)
- Available geographic breakdowns (county, Census-tract, etc.)
- Whether data can be requested at a person or population level
- Data request process
- Key contact
- Links

- A process for updating the inventory should also be developed.

- Develop a standard data use agreement template for users of CDPHE-originating data for each of the following broad categories:

- Population-level data
- De-identified person-level data
- Identified person-level data

- This template should have fillable forms but overall be standardized.

Data Governance



Engagement



- Develop and implement a data communication and engagement plan with the goal of providing more direct communications to LPHAs about system changes, data availability, etc.
- The communication plan should include, at minimum:
 - Creation of a central space on the CDPHE website for community engagement opportunities and ways for community partners to get involved regarding data collection and dissemination strategy.
 - Creation of an LPHA learning collaborative (in conjunction with CALPHO), which could include:
 - Shared online resources
 - Webinars/trainings
 - In person or virtual collaborative meetings



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Next Steps

To continue advancing the broader goal of a thriving public health data landscape, CDPHE is forming a **data steering committee** that will take the lead on implementing these action steps and exploring additional opportunities.

The CDPHE steering committee will include representation from LPHAs. The State of Colorado partners with and supports LPHAs and CALPHO in many ways (including the Division of Disease Control and Public Health Response's (DCPHR) Data Lakehouse efforts), and will continue to collaborate with the goal of implementing a **CDPHE-wide coordinated data and communication and engagement plan**, which already includes, but is not limited to:



- Facilitating workshops with LPHAs to design an effective collaboration process



- Reviewing existing data sharing agreements between the State and LPHAs and identifying gaps



- Tracking communications with LPHAs and community partners about accessing State data sources and upcoming changes about State-owned technology products

In parallel with the State's efforts, CALPHO has set up a **data modernization workgroup**, comprising representatives from LPHAs throughout the state. This workgroup, led by CALPHO staff, will collaborate closely with the CDPHE steering committee to guarantee the successful implementation of these action steps and the continuous development of more comprehensive coordination and communication strategies.