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Texas Department of State Health Services

Public Health Agencies and the United States Core Data for Interoperability

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What is Public Health?

Public health is the science of **protecting and improving the health of people and their communities**.

This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention, and detecting, preventing and responding to infectious diseases.

Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations.

www.cdcfoundation.org/what-public-health

Ten Essential Public Health Services

- Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

- Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

- Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it

- Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

- Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

- Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

- Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

- Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

- Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

- Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/publichealthservices/essentialhealthservices.html

Where Data is a Focus of Public Health Services

- Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

- Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

- Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

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How Standards and Interoperability Advance Data Exchange with Public Health

- Reduce costs for providers and public health by reducing the need for customization

- Reduce administrative time to complete reporting

- Supports data reuse

- Supports increased frequency of data collection without significantly increasing costs

- Facilitate data aggregation and comparison across jurisdictions

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Public Health Reporting Use Cases That Can Leverage the USCDI

- Immunization Registries
- Maternal Mortality
- Birth Defects Registries and Care
- Cancer Registries
- Syndromic Surveillance (ADT)
- Electronic Case Reporting
- Electronic Laboratory Reporting
- Tuberculosis Treatment-Coordination of care

- Vital Events- Birth and Death Reporting
- Trauma and Injury Reporting
- Laboratory Services
- HIV Services

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How to Improve the USCDI and Exchange Guides to Benefit Public Health

- Clarify that data classes and elements included in the USCDI and exchange guides are *required* to be implemented, populated if data are available and clinically relevant, and all classes and elements are available for exchange.

- Support review by state and local public health experts in addition to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention staff of data elements and classes submitted for consideration for inclusion in the USCDI.

- Prioritize elements and classes recommended by public health-related organizations.

How to Improve the USCDI and Exchange Guides to Benefit Public Health

- Review implementation timelines to reflect what can be achieved within resource constraints and urgency.
- Provide additional guidance on maturity for considered, but not included, standards.
- Clarify that API retrieval of classes and elements must be supported.

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