

Iowa

Project title: IDPH Interbureau Data Liaison Project

Organization responsible: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Bureau of Information Management and Bureau of Family Health

Service coverage area: State of Iowa

Annual birth cohort: Approximately 38,000

Project scope and goals

The IDPH Interbureau Data Liaison Project represents a partnership between two bureaus within the Iowa Department of Public Health. The Bureau of Information Management is responsible for the electronic infrastructure of IDPH, including most MCH data systems. The Bureau of Family Health is responsible for Iowa's MCH programs, including child health, maternal health, and family planning. The two bureaus entered into a formal agreement by which Iowa's director for the State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI) functions as a data liaison between the bureaus.

Funding

This project is supported by Iowa's State Systems Development Initiative grant, funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA/MCHB).

History

The IDPH Interbureau Data Liaison Project was developed to build infrastructure for data integration through the goals and objectives of the Iowa MCH Data Enhancement Project, the State Systems Development Initiative grant (2001-2003). As the data liaison strategy was considered a success, goals and objectives to continue the strategy were incorporated into the Iowa MCH Data Capacity Project, Iowa's SSDI grant (2004-2006).

Executive leadership and organizational endorsements

The data liaison initiative is supported throughout all levels of the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Two organizational structures have been in place during the last four years to facilitate collaborative efforts regarding data issues:

- The Data Integration Steering Committee (DISC) meets quarterly to provide a forum for decision-makers of MCH data partners to guide system changes for data linkage and integration.
- The MCH Data Team meets quarterly to encourage communication among those responsible for day-to-day operations of the major MCH databases in Iowa.

External endorsements

The two structures described above (DISC and the MCH Data Team) are endorsed by internal IDPH MCH-related programs and by external partners as well. Active external participants include the program for children and youth with special health care needs, the University Hygienic Laboratory, and Iowa's Medicaid Program.

Significant challenges

This project seeks to build infrastructure and capacity for data integration, beginning at the grassroots level. The challenge, therefore, is that results are incremental and progress is slow. Four years into the Data Liaison Project, the two bureaus can now recognize the value of the initiative in terms of current and future projects.

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