

Using local public health service data for generating evidence and improving practice

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: public health professionals interested in data and using data for agency performance improvement, assessment, etc.

ABSTRACT: Background: A major challenge in addressing impacts of public health services on health is that population-level health-related data are presented without providing information about prevention services and activities. The problem: Standardized data measuring scope, distribution, and variation in public health services in local jurisdictions and across states have not existed. This has left a critical gap in understanding the value of prevention activities. Strategies: The University of Washington's Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST) project is working with state and local public health leaders to generate detailed data for standardized measures that depict timely information about LHD services. The PHAST Measures support data needs of public health leaders, community stakeholders, and researchers examining the impact of public health services on population health outcomes. Results: Our presentation will demonstrate and discuss uses of these measures to link types of community-level obesity prevention activities with physical activity and obesity rates, associate local public health communicable disease services with efficiencies from cross-jurisdictional sharing, and support an electronic dashboard for public health professionals to examine and compare public health service activity among their own and similar local jurisdictions. Conclusion: Standardized public health service measures are critical to demonstrating the value of prevention services.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe new ways in which local public health administrative data can be used for developing critical evidence and data for improving public health practice.

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