

Informatics Innovation Unit

Using Technology to Improve Public Health



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Informatics Innovation Unit (IU) advances the field of public health informatics through applied research and innovation. IU studies, prototypes, and tests new and innovative technology-based tools and resources to maximize their effect on public health. IU's resources are available to both CDC and its partners in the public health community.



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IU engages in applied new research and development projects that support innovative public health uses of information technology. To do so, IU:

- provides information, consultation, and support for new informatics solutions for public health practice;
- rapidly creates prototype tools and solutions to facilitate the testing of hypotheses; and
- provides an optimal, flexible, and scalable environment for rapidly developing prototype public health informatics solutions for testing and evaluation.

IU collaborates with CDC programs as well as the broader public health community to develop innovative technologies and techniques to improve public health practice in the short and long term. Once new informatics solutions or techniques are demonstrated to be of value, IU transfers the development of them to the appropriate public health program for formal deployment and implementation.

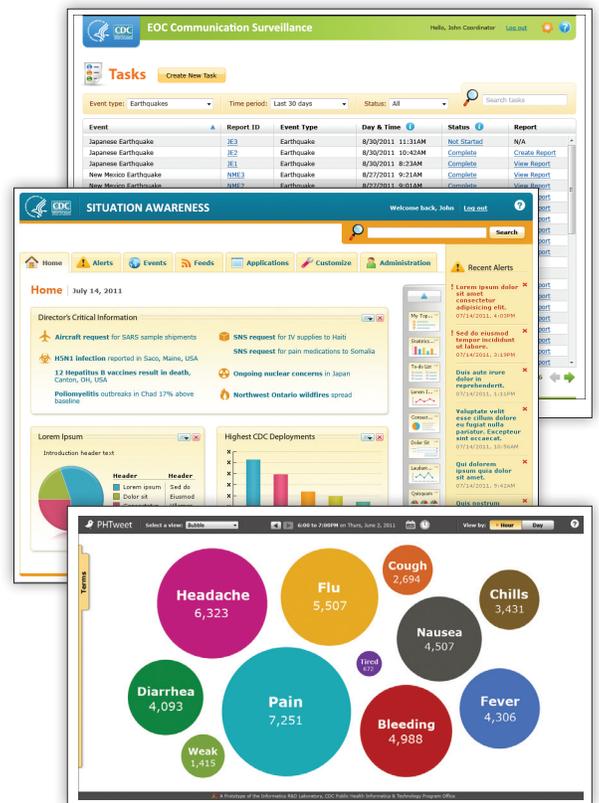
IU is in CDC's Office of Public Health Scientific Services; Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services (CSELS).

Informatics Research and Development Laboratory

IIU's Public Health Informatics Research and Development (R&D) Laboratory focuses on applied technology research and development for public health. The informatics R&D team examines new technologies, such as mobile devices, prototype software, and even robotics, to test their potential value to CDC and its public health partners.

Informatics R&D Laboratory services include the following:

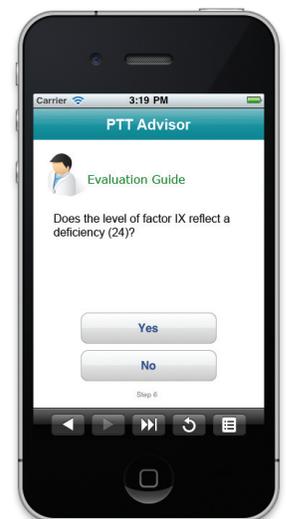
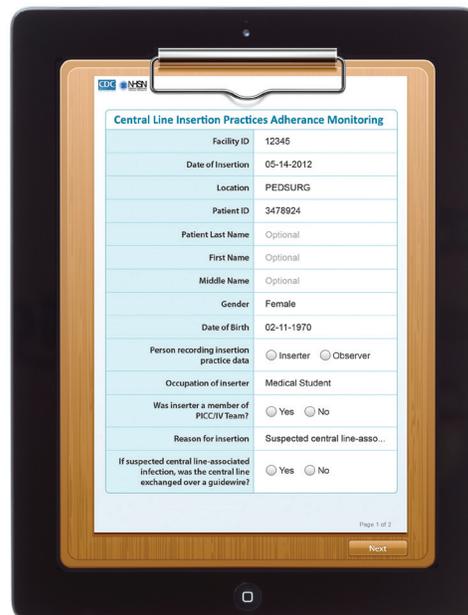
- **Applied Public Health Informatics Research Cloud:** The Informatics R&D Laboratory provides virtual machines to test and profile non-CDC-supported software, support community engagement through applications such as social media, and provide open source development.
- **Prototype:** The laboratory gains insight by building hardware and software to test new concepts and improve system requirements.
- **Consultation:** The laboratory explores innovative options and develops guidelines and recommendations for CDC and the public health community.
- **Evaluation:** The laboratory provides structured technology reviews for public health audiences.



Public health professionals have used the CDC Public Health Informatics R&D Laboratory's resources to build, evaluate, and train on new public health tools and technologies.

Programs that the lab has supported recently include emergency preparedness and risk communication, sexually transmitted disease prevention, occupational health and injury prevention, chronic disease prevention, global health, birth defects surveillance, and laboratory testing.

Access more information about the Informatics R&D Laboratory at <http://www.phiresearchlab.org>. Contact the lab at informaticslab@cdc.gov.



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