

Connecting data to
hhs.gov/challenges

Save lives.

HHS' OFFICE OF THE CTO
#DataforOpioids



Connecting Talent to Save Lives

Connecting the right talent, technology, and teamwork is a powerful way to advance solutions to modern health challenges. It's also one way that CDC is enhancing surveillance through innovation.

In December 2017, experts from crosscutting CDC offices with diverse skill sets joined more than 300 computer programmers, public health advocates, and innovators for the first-of-its-kind HHS Opioid Code-a-Thon. At the event, 50 teams worked for more than 24 hours to create data-driven solutions that can have immediate and practical impact on the opioid crisis.

The projects were judged on innovation, design, potential for impact, and technical achievement. One team that included a CDC EIR advanced to the finals with a project showing how real-time social media feeds and machine learning could be used to track illicit online pharmacies.

The Code-a-Thon proved we need more communities that combine skills, resources, data, and technology to save lives.

“This event and the work of the team is a true testament of how transformative thinking can empower our public health workforce to create solutions to some of our most complex public health concerns.”

—Michael F. Iademarco, MD, MPH
Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Center for Surveillance,
Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services



Public Health Surveillance and Data
Preparing for the future



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Control and Prevention