

# PUBLIC HEALTH DATA MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE: HARNESSING THE POWER OF DATA TO SAVE LIVES

Opioids, suicide, and flu are stealing American lives. Life expectancy has headed downward. With every new challenge, our need for faster, more accurate public health data grows.



## THE RISK IS REAL

Diseases are moving faster than the data we use to stop them. America needs – and expects – faster, better health data that can outpace the life-threatening epidemics of today and tomorrow.

That is why CDC needs investments to modernize the systems that protect our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats and respond when they arise.

“The nation’s public health data systems are antiquated and in dire need of security upgrades – paper records, phone calls, spreadsheets and faxes requiring manual data entry are still in widespread use and have significant consequences including delayed detection and response, lost time, missed opportunities, and lost lives.”

– Janet Hamilton,  
Director of Science and Policy,  
Council of State and Territorial  
Epidemiologists (CSTE)

## WE USE DATA TO...

### DETECT

Monitor disease levels to recognize changes that may signal a threat



### TRACK

Identify and analyze health trends and measure results



### TAKE ACTION

Make smarter, faster public health decisions



### PREDICT & PREVENT

Get ahead of urgent and/or developing threats



# WE NEED BETTER DATA NOW

We rely on data to find and face our most urgent health threats. CDC is charting a course to a future where public health data drives action in real time – efficiently, flexibly, rapidly, and with impact. The CDC Public Health Data Modernization Initiative is a strategic imperative bringing together technology, partnerships, and a deep bench of scientific expertise to harness the lifesaving power of data.

## CDC'S ACTION FOR TRANSFORMATION

### TECHNOLOGY

Modernize our systems to create state-of-the-art, fully interoperable systems and tools

### KNOWLEDGE

Strengthen the public health workforce in data science, informatics, and IT systems

### LEADERSHIP

Coordinate data and IT investments through strong leadership and governance

### ACCESS

Increase capacity to share public health data and make better use of existing data

### COLLABORATION

Support our digital transformation by growing and expanding public and private partnerships



## PUTTING DATA TO WORK

CDC monitors specific public health crises, like the ongoing epidemic of drug overdoses and deaths and the recent lung injuries and deaths related to e-cigarette use, or vaping. Our nation and communities need timely and trustworthy data to track evolving health trends and take effective action.

2.8 M



CDC's National Vital Statistics System analyzes ~2.8 million U.S. deaths annually to identify what people are dying from so we can save more lives

192



Our data reveal that, on average, 192 people in the U.S. die every day from a drug overdose

24/7



CDC uses cloud technology to monitor 4 million health messages from ER visits every day – including those related to drug overdoses, vaping, natural disasters, and more – to quickly detect events that may require a response

Learn more at: [www.cdc.gov/surveillance](http://www.cdc.gov/surveillance)