OVERVIEW

Indiana is engaged in strong, cross collaborative, and multifaceted data modernization efforts to improve health equity in the state. In 2021, the [Governor's Public Health Commission](#) (GPHC) was established to examine the strengths and weaknesses of Indiana's public health system and make recommendations for improvement. Focus areas for this work aim to ensure every person in the state has access to core public health services and include:

- Governance, Infrastructure & Systems
- Data & Information Integration
- Workforce
- Emergency Preparedness
- Public Health Funding
- Child and Adolescent Health

With guidance from Indiana Department of Health's (IDOH) Health Equity Council (HEC) and Office of Minority Health, the Office of Data & Analytics (ODA) implemented [Project DARTT](#) (Data, Analytics, Reporting, and Technology Transformation) and developed a data and technology strategy, which includes an agency data governance program.

Participation in the [21st Century Learning Community](#) complements existing initiatives and offers a collaborative way to share ideas, network, and solve problems.

Centering Health Equity and Well-Being in Narrative Change

Through Project DARTT, the ODA assesses program areas using a health equity lens and identifies opportunities for change with guidance from IDOH's HEC and the Office of Minority Health. One assessment looked at the completeness of race and ethnicity data within the lead program, which uncovered a number of missing values. This led to discussions to understand the reason behind the missing values; comfort level and not providing data due to concerns of privacy and how the data might be used was one conclusion.

Prioritizing Equitable Governance and Community Engagement

Indiana has a firm commitment to engaging communities and community centered organizations most impacted by systemic inequities. Related recommendations from the GPHC include:

- **Establish a State Public Health Data System Advisory Committee** that includes local representation to develop a strategic plan for public health data initiatives and to develop data governance across entities.
- **Enhance data analytics tools and resources** for local public health by establishing regional/district-level data services to support Local Health Departments.

IDOH is continuously engaging local health departments on a variety of data related projects, including supporting the Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE) by providing COVID vaccination data for use in a county specific vaccination outreach dashboard and hosting the 36th Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair. A team member shared:

> *"This event has positively impacted the health of minority communities across the state for 36 years … We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has come together to make improving the health of our most vulnerable communities, and Hoosiers in general, a top priority."*

Ensure Measurement Captures & Addresses Structural Racism & Other Inequities

Indiana's goal is to define relevant public health measurements that will address structural racism. Project DARTT's review of data governance processes and infrastructure to ensure the accuracy, consistency, and availability of data, improve support systems, and improve existing work contributes to this goal.

Learn more about the Equity in Data Systems Transformation cohort here.