

Summary of Recommendations

Center health equity and well-being in narrative change

- Identify the stakeholders in public health data system transformation and how to engage them at each step of the transformation process.
- Build on stakeholder identification and develop a campaign to promote the importance of public health data and the need for a transformed public health data system.
- Develop a competencies framework to increase data literacy for various stakeholders about the importance of equity considerations in data systems.
- Build the public health data system needed to shift the narrative to one that is just, positively oriented, and equity-based (e.g., from deficit to strengths, from oppressive to restorative).

Prioritize equitable governance and community engagement

- Prioritize and accelerate implementation of the Evidence Act (Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018) for improved transparency, quality, and availability of data.
- Establish and implement a coordinated state and federal investment strategy that includes regular fiscal support of state infrastructure coupled with intermediate and long-term system development and data collection.
- Generate and sustain system transformation with defined governance and stewardship models and structures.
- Make sharing and pooling data (at both the individual level and system level) the default for agencies receiving public money and provide data to all actors.
- Build efficient and interoperable data systems to generate comprehensive, complete, and timely data. Collect data with adequate granularity across population groups (inclusive of race/ethnicity, language ability, disability) and geographic levels that are useful at the community level and can be aggregated and disaggregated.
- Develop agile, analytical methods to work with existing data sets and across diverse sets of quantitative/qualitative data, including historical data.
- Technology companies should support public health data system transformation in under-resourced areas of the country with the largest health inequities, either by direct financial support (corporate social responsibility-CSR) or through skills-based volunteer approaches.
- Philanthropy should fund gaps in public health data, particularly for communities with less resources.

Ensure public health measurement captures and addresses structural racism and other inequities

- Build on the Executive Order (EO) on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government: Equitable Data Working Group, to establish an Interagency Data Council, with responsibility for equity, racial justice, & social and public health data.
- As part of public health data system redesign, collect self-reported data by race, ethnicity, income, education, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and social position (i.e., how people are placed in a hierarchy of value by society, as perceived by the individual).
- Invest in community relevant and nationally significant metrics on factors that influence health outcomes.
- Collect data that are more accurate and relevant at the community level to enable small area estimates that enable communities and local health departments to prioritize and address local health challenges and measure progress towards healthier communities.
- Develop methods for interpreting public health data that are inclusive of community input, paying attention to messaging, communication, and narrative.