

Data: *Elemental* to Health



elemental to health

Surveillance Matters

The backbone of the public health surveillance enterprise is the data collected from an interactive system of public health agencies at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels working in concert with the health care provider community and the public at large. However, our nation's response to health threats is only as good as the quality of the input data and how efficiently it is moved through the public health data system.

The nation's public health data systems are antiquated, rely on obsolete surveillance methods, and are in dire need of security upgrades. Lack of interoperability, reporting consistency, and data standards leads to errors in completeness, quality, timeliness, and communication. Sluggish, manual processes—paper records, faxes and phone calls, spreadsheets—still in widespread use have important downstream consequences, most notably delayed detection and response to public health threats of all types: chronic, emerging, and urgent.

Campaign Goal

Secure \$1 billion over 10 years—\$100 million in fiscal 2020—in a new appropriation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a new initiative that will transform the public health surveillance enterprise. Specifically, this funding would allow CDC and state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments to implement leading edge, interoperable, secure IT systems and recruit and retain skilled data scientists. Modernizing public health data collection into a seamless and integrated framework that automatically draws information from the health care system and reports it to public health agencies will create a coordinated and expanded surveillance capability across the nation.

Campaign Leaders

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), and National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) have joined together to spearhead this first-ever campaign to secure meaningful, sustained funding to modernize the public health surveillance enterprise at the CDC and through it, the state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments.



Why Join Our Campaign

By joining our “Big Table” and advocating for new funding for the national public health surveillance enterprise, you will ensure that every public health stakeholder—patients and consumers, public health professionals, health care providers, and health IT developers—will benefit from this initiative. We are all united in our desire for more, better, faster, secure data!

Ways to Engage

- Sign on to our fiscal 2020 funding request letter
- Include our funding request and “Data: Elemental to Health” one pager in your meeting packets
- Amplify the message by talking about the campaign and our request on the Hill and throughout the community
- Sign up for our listserv to stay up to date on activities and progress
- Attend our congressional briefing later this spring
- Financially contribute to expand our efforts (OPTIONAL!)

If you are interested in contributing, please contact Erin Morton at emorton@dc-crd.com