Data is the foundation of sound decision making, especially when tackling complex health issues

Organizations have literally hundreds of thousands of data points available to them, from publicly available data to their own in-house information. Capturing those numbers and translating them into a meaningful story is challenging.

PHI developed Public Health Data Solutions (PHDS) to do that work for you. PHDS harnesses powerful online technologies that allow organizations to easily collect, manage and share data. PHI leverages decades of experience in improving health outcomes to help clients identify which tools and technologies will provide the greatest impact, integrate these custom solutions into their work and bring their data to life.

Tools and features

- Custom-designed websites and web portals
- Best practices resources
- Data sharing and storage
- Data warehouses of regularly updated indicators
- Dashboards to visualize data
- Planning, monitoring and evaluation templates and tools
- Online content sharing and collaboration
- Ability to add custom data
- GIS mapping
- Mobile applications

Visualizing needs and assets

PHDS maps facilitate real-time regional planning. The Sierra Health Foundation uses PHDS maps to better understand the capacity and demand of the Sacramento-region safety net system in anticipation of Affordable Care Act implementation. Hospital systems, community clinics and local non-profit organizations work together to prioritize the strategic investment of resources.

Communicating population health data

An interactive PHDS data visualization highlights the high cost of preventable hospitalizations in California. Targeted at public and policymaker audiences, this powerful communication tool received a 2012 award from the California HealthCare Foundation.

Enabling program collaboration & communication

Dispersed rural counties across California utilize a customized PHDS web portal to support their work on a large-scale, CDC-funded community transformation initiative. PHDS creates a “virtual home” for each county to connect, store and share materials, and visualize its data. The portal also enables program partners to easily tell the story of what is happening in their community by posting online “eReports” with dynamic images, videos and narratives.
**Health Programs and Initiatives**  PHDS helps the public health and health care sectors measure progress and take action. PHDS combines content expertise with customized data platforms to support program goals and objectives. The result: a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system that tracks performance indicators and population-level improvements.

**Local Health Departments**  Health departments across the country need assistance to meet new Public Health Accreditation Board requirements. PHDS offers training and support for overall quality improvement strategies and successful completion of the three prerequisites for accreditation: a community health assessment, community health improvement plan and a strategic plan.

**Hospitals and Health Systems**  New IRS requirements and the Affordable Care Act present opportunities for hospitals to improve health. Using PHDS, hospitals can efficiently apply powerful data informatics tools to better understand the needs in their communities and use their data to implement meaningful community benefits programs.

**Government Agencies**  Local and state agencies track and share progress on improving the population’s health. PHDS works with clients to design and build web portals and data visualization tools that translate and communicate information to the public.

**Decision Makers**  PHDS creates powerful data visualizations, infographics and mobile apps that simplify complex data. Diverse audiences including policymakers and the public can use these tools to make informed decisions about how to advance the health of their community.

For more information about PHDS visit [www.phi.org](http://www.phi.org) or email [phds@phi.org](mailto:phds@phi.org).

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The **Public Health Institute (PHI)** is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life throughout California, across the nation and around the world.