

# Technology and Innovation at the Public Health Institute



## At the forefront of using technology to transform public health practice

PHI builds the evidence base for applying digital innovations to public health and shows the value of using innovative technology to improve health, from enabling independent living for the aging to allowing patients to connect remotely with health care providers.

Since 1964, the Public Health Institute's partners, programs and researchers have focused on what they do best: their work. They rely on PHI's comprehensive operational infrastructure to quickly move their public health programs from concept to implementation to impact.

## PHI's approach includes:

**Deploying** new technologies in diverse health care settings to improve the quality of care and expand access to the underserved.

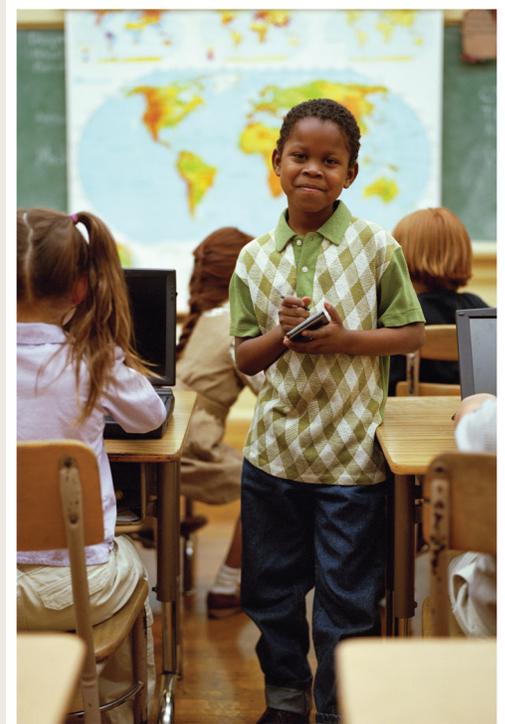
**Evaluating** which technologies are effective at improving health outcomes, changing health behaviors and lowering health care costs.

**Speeding** the adoption of proven technologies by disseminating evaluation results and working with partners to address policy and financing barriers to implementation.

**Improving** disease surveillance and screening through the use of innovative technologies.

**Focusing** on health equity by examining the role of technology in improving the health of vulnerable and underserved populations.

**Connecting** the public health community online using innovative communications platforms.



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.



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## The impact of PHI's work in technology and innovation



### Expanding telehealth services in California

Recommendations by PHI's **Center for Connected Health Policy** became the blueprint for California's Telehealth Advancement Act of 2011. The act removes barriers to using digital technologies to deliver a variety of health services. This can speed treatment for patients, eliminate the need for patient travel, improve communication among providers and lead to better care at a lower cost.

### Harnessing technology to improve care and reduce costs

Pilot projects funded and evaluated by PHI's **Center for Technology and Aging** have reduced hospitalizations among high-risk patients by as much as 62 percent and emergency room visits by over 90 percent, and delivered a return on investment as high as 6:1. Projects tested new technologies to improve medication adherence, facilitate remote monitoring of high-risk patients and more.

**Improving genetic screening for newborns** PHI collaborates with the California Department of Public Health to test the state's newborns for a wide range of metabolic disorders using tandem mass spectrometry. Since 2005, more than four million newborns have been screened and 1,000 cases have been diagnosed, which enables early treatment to prevent mental retardation, neurological damage or death.

**Evaluating the use of text messaging to improve health** PHI's **Center for Innovation and Technology in Public Health** was selected by the Health Resources and Services Administration to evaluate the text4baby program, which has sent prenatal and well-child care text messages to over 300,000 unique users nationwide since 2010. The evaluation will show if this technology improves health knowledge and behaviors among low-income, minority populations and assess opportunities for replication across other areas of public health.



**Connecting the public health community online** PHI's **Dialogue4Health** communications platform allows community members and professionals from all sectors who are interested in improving public health to connect online via web forums, web-based meetings, virtual classrooms, and social network learning communities. Dialogue4Health web forums have provided valuable education and resources to nearly 20,000 attendees to date.

**Other PHI programs working in technology and innovation** C/Net Solutions • California Cancer Registry • Cleaner Cookstoves: Building Global Capacity & Improving Public Health • Coalition Advancing Multipurpose Innovations (CAMI)

For more information about PHI programs working on technology and innovation, visit [www.phi.org](http://www.phi.org) or contact PHI communications at [communications@phi.org](mailto:communications@phi.org).