

IMPROVED ACCESS TO STATE AND LOCAL DATA

Community of Practice

BACKGROUND

Data collected by the Department of Public Health is used to support policy that improves the public health of Massachusetts. The Improved Access to State and Local Data Community of Practice (CoP) has three aims: increasing data availability at the community level, improving data linkages, and supporting other Partnership evaluation efforts. Currently, most health-related data in Massachusetts are available only at the state level. This CoP has created public health community profiles, “Our Healthy Mass,” to allow cities and towns to learn about their health in relation to the state. These profiles can be used by decision makers, local communities, legislators, and residents to better understand their community’s health. Another focus of this CoP is to improve data linkages. These comprehensive data initiatives will aid in identifying health needs and health disparities in greater detail that, in turn, will be used to refine chronic disease related interventions. Supporting data and evaluation needs for all CoPs is another way this CoP promotes the work of the Partnership.

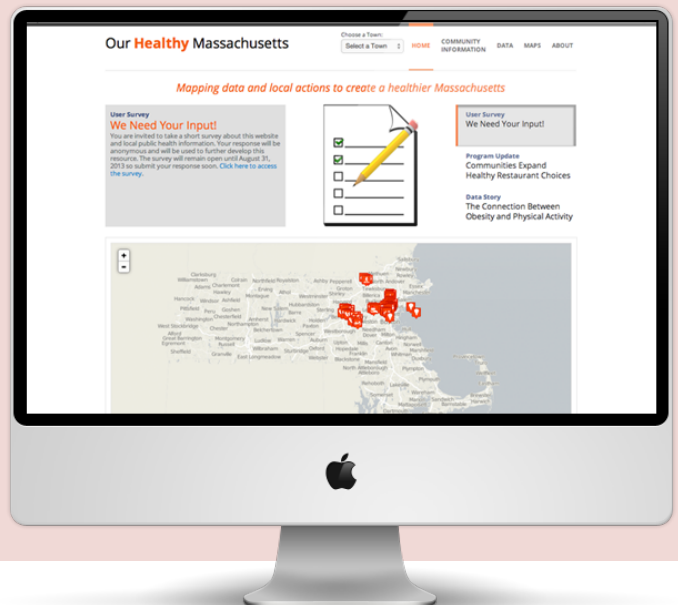
OBJECTIVE BY 2017

- Develop and disseminate two-page public health community profiles for cities/towns and legislative districts across the Commonwealth to describe the health of communities
- Identify and pursue other collaborative data initiatives that will inform and improve public health strategies to address chronic disease

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- Provide technical and data support to the other CoPs by:
 - Assigning a Data CoP epidemiologist to each CoP
 - Identifying data sources for monitoring and evaluating priority objectives in all CoPs
 - Providing guidance on the development of priority objectives
- In partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), creating and updating a data portal, “Our Healthy Mass.” This website provides city/town-specific data on chronic disease and its associated risk behaviors, including active living, healthy eating, and tobacco.

<http://ourhealthymass.org>



CO-FACILITATOR

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Our HealthyMass website went live in June 2013 and since then the MAPC has been working on driving traffic to the site through print, web and social media. Plans are underway to include healthy aging data from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation on the Our HealthyMass website
- The Data CoP continues to provide data and evaluation support to all CoPs
- The Data CoP has identified and created a list of state and local data sources for all priority objectives in the CoPs
- In 2014 the Data CoP provided technical assistance to coordinate the development, dissemination and evaluation of the Healthy Eating, Physical Activity and Built Environment CoPs toolkits

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