Public Health Data & Training Center

The power of data has long been a cornerstone of public health efforts to prevent disease, promote health and inform equitable policies and programs.

How We Work

We support cross-disciplinary research by offering students, trainees and faculty scholars resources for effective data collection, management and analysis.

We enhance regional and community public health efforts by advising on innovative uses of data, integration, security, and lay-friendly reporting.

We provide our expertise to advance data efficiencies for regional and community initiatives to improve population health.

What We Do

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<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>OUR ROLE</th>
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<td>Data sharing and management across systems and institutions is complex.</td>
<td>Our center developed a governing model and is entrusted with maintaining violent injury data for four St. Louis-area hospitals.</td>
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<td>Fragmented public health systems create redundancies and key resources are not fully leveraged.</td>
<td>At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our center stepped up to convene local public health officials, academics, health system leaders and business partners to bridge gaps in data architecture, management and analytics.</td>
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Data has the ability to zero in on complex public health problems to make them easier to understand and develop manageable solutions. Regional health care systems and departments of health consider our center to be an honest broker, a neutral and trusted hub for compiling and analyzing data to create a more complete picture of public health challenges. This work has helped inform and advance the region’s action plan to improve sexual health-related illness and death.

Never before has the need to share data been greater than during the coronavirus pandemic. Through our honest broker role, health systems, community health organizations, schools and governmental entities share essential public health data to make decisions concerning potential stay-at-home orders, business closures, and resource distribution.

Our center often works closely with key community resources such as clinics, hospitals, health departments and community organizations to develop and support public health data infrastructure. This collaborative analytical support also helps meet the diverse needs of local public health agencies and organizations.

We work to prepare the next generation of public health data scientists. Students studying computer science, mathematics, epidemiology, biostatistics, bioinformatics, and other disciplines, work with us to engage with transdisciplinary faculty and staff resulting in innovative training and data solutions.

Students learn to develop and manage databases and create data visualizations on topics like health access and equity, and social determinants of health. Our trainees have gone on to successful careers in public health at nationally recognized universities and public health organizations.