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Policy Approaches to Improve State and Local Data Sharing

Timely and effective data sharing between state and local health departments is important for public health decision-making.

Several factors impact data sharing such as legislation and regulations, limited funding, IT and workforce resources, departmental processes, leadership buy-in, and data governance. State and local health officials can pursue organizational policies across key priority areas to advance data sharing.



Key Priorities Areas

Policy Approaches



Legal and Regulatory Factors

- Determine the extent to which laws or regulations might be barriers to a proposed data-sharing relationship.
- Develop standardized data-sharing agreements, including those with modules or appendices that might increase flexibility or efficiency.



Resource Considerations

- Plan strategically for dedicated resources to support improved state and local data sharing, including sustainable and diverse funding options.
- Build workforce capacity by educating the public health workforce about relevant laws and legal concepts, increasing legal staff awareness of public health data-sharing objectives, and filling technical knowledge gaps within the public health workforce.
- Include data-related governance activities, partner communication, and collaboration in health department job descriptions or responsibilities.



Departmental Alignment and Communication

- Engage health department counterparts when updating or procuring data systems to ensure any technical modifications do not inadvertently create data-sharing challenges.
- Include strategies to advance state and local data sharing in data modernization plans.



Leadership and Governance

- Obtain commitment from health department leadership for state and local data sharing by clearly articulating the data sharing governance processes, goals, and rationale.
- Align state and local data-sharing efforts with broader state and federal initiatives for data modernization efforts.

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Read the **Policy Options to Improve Data Sharing between State and Local Health Departments** report

