

Data Modernization Workshop: Building on Shared Services and Enterprise Technologies

Legacy, outdated public health systems limit the efficiency, timeliness and sharing of quality data necessary to positively impact population health. Restructuring those systems to integrate the latest technologies and approaches are key factors in accelerating public health surveillance. In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services (CSELS), the Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII) planned and executed a three-day virtual workshop titled **Data Modernization Workshop: Building on Shared Services and Enterprise Technologies**. The event targeted jurisdictions participating in the Accelerating Data Modernization in Jurisdictions (ADMJ) project. Harnessing thought leader insight, peer-to-peer learning and collaborative exercises, the workshop aimed to assist health departments achieve scalable and sustainable information infrastructure by improving data modernization advocacy and planning, building workforce capacity and collaborating on shared solutions. A description of the workshop and recordings of several sessions are posted on the [PHII Data Modernization Initiative](#) website.

To assess the extent to which the workshop met its goals and objectives, a mixed methods evaluation was designed and conducted. The evaluation gathered both quantitative and qualitative data to answer the following questions:

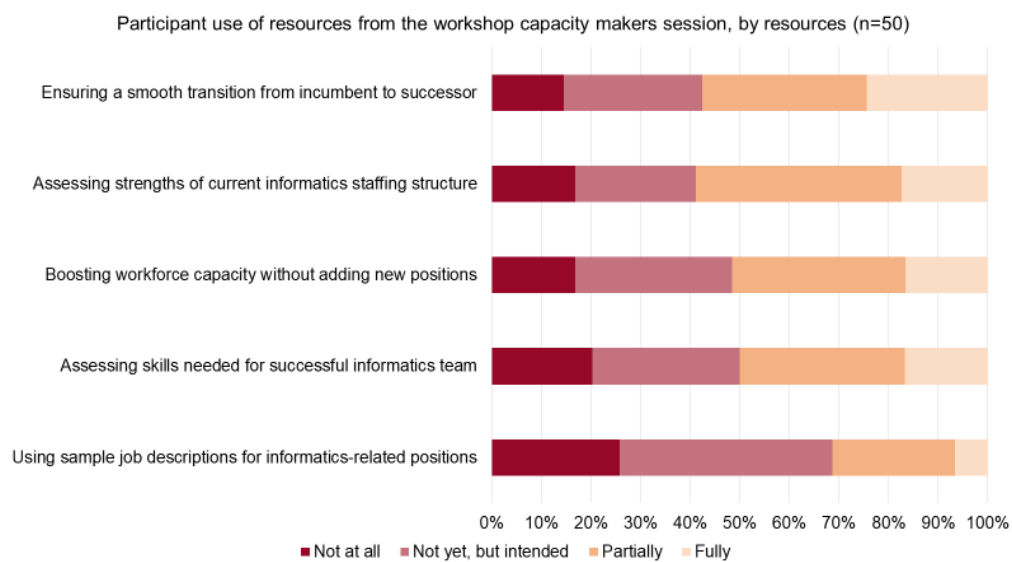
1. How engaged were workshop participants throughout the sessions?
2. Did the workshop objectives align with the overall data modernization priorities for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) recipients?
3. How well did the workshop meet the overall goal and objectives?
4. How well did the sessions meet session-specific objectives?
5. To what extent did workshop participants adopt ideas that were incorporated into their data modernization plans and/or implementation?

Key findings from the evaluation include the following:

- The data modernization workshop was an overwhelming success. The workshop created an opportunity for jurisdictional staff tasked with leading data modernization efforts to come together to learn from leaders in the field and one another.
- In surveys conducted at the end of each day of the workshop, nearly all participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that the day's sessions were easy to follow and would be useful for developing their data modernization plan.

Better data. Better decisions. Better health.

- Participants reported increased likelihood of implementing numerous workshop topics, including but not limited to those related to cloud computing, open-source software and strategic data partnerships with public and private entities.
- Survey results indicate that most workshop participants have partially or fully engaged in activities related to gaining leadership buy-in. These activities include building the value case for data modernization priorities and assessing and defining informatics workforce needs.
- Many participants shared how they have used workshop learnings to develop and/or implement their jurisdiction's data modernization plans: a) to understand, document and justify the need to upgrade informatics capacity and resources to achieve a sustainable and scalable public health informatics infrastructure; b) to strengthen efforts to build and sustain multidisciplinary work teams to support data modernization; and c) to think and act more strategically about data modernization needs and the path forward.
- With regard to the session focused on supporting workforce capacity building, 39 (58%) of survey respondents reported using resources as illustrated in the following figure.



- One of the key takeaways many participants cited is that there are several common challenges across jurisdictions. It was helpful to many workshop participants to know that they are not alone in their struggles and that there are potential solutions to these common challenges.

The recommendations for future learning opportunities are based on the key findings from the evaluation:

- Provide ample time for workshop participants to converse and collaborate with one another.
- Recognize the value of a skilled facilitator.
- Anticipate competing priorities.
- Offer multiple engagement opportunities.
- Acknowledge that data modernization takes time.
- Expand the evaluation “look back” periods for data modernization efforts.
- Close the loop and share findings from the evaluation back with the community.