STATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND DATA SHARING: HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

EXCHANGING INFORMATION, PROTECTING HEALTH

State health agencies are increasingly using health information exchange to assess population health:

- The notification of communicable disease outbreaks
- Drug warnings
- Environmental risks
- Vaccination guidelines and requirements

2010
42%
2012
51%

State health agencies use health information exchanges to communicate about a variety of health topics. The topics the most state health agencies communicate about are:

- Environmental risks
- Drug warnings
- Vaccination guidelines and requirements
- The notification of communicable disease outbreaks

INCREASING EFFICIENCY OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE

State health agencies commonly collect, receive, and exchange program-specific information electronically, either following a state or federal mandate or to better protect the health and well-being of populations in their jurisdictions.

Bidirectional data sharing is most common for electronic health records, Medicaid billing, and lab results. More than 80% of states use a state, rather than local, system for collecting this data.

At least half of state health agencies send and receive data from federal agencies.

TRANSFORMING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH MEANINGFUL USE

State public health has made a continued and sustained effort to support healthcare partners as the United States moves toward an improved health system infrastructure through the meaningful exchange of health information. The majority of states have the systems in place to meet Meaningful Use Stage 1 public health objectives, including:

- Electronic laboratory communicable disease reports
- Electronic syndromic surveillance systems
- Immunization and cancer registries

State public health is making strides in modernizing and increasing the efficiency of data sharing and exchange with federal and local agencies and with healthcare partners. These efforts will increase speed of response, use resources more efficiently, and better protect the public against emerging disease threats and other public health concerns.

This information comes from the ASTHO Profile of State Public Health, Volume Three. The Profile is the only comprehensive source of information about state public health agency activities, structure, and resources.

To view the complete Profile report, visit www.astho.org/profile. You can also download this infographic or the full Profile report or request access to Profile data.