



Issue 11 - April 2014

Welcome to qualitymatters!

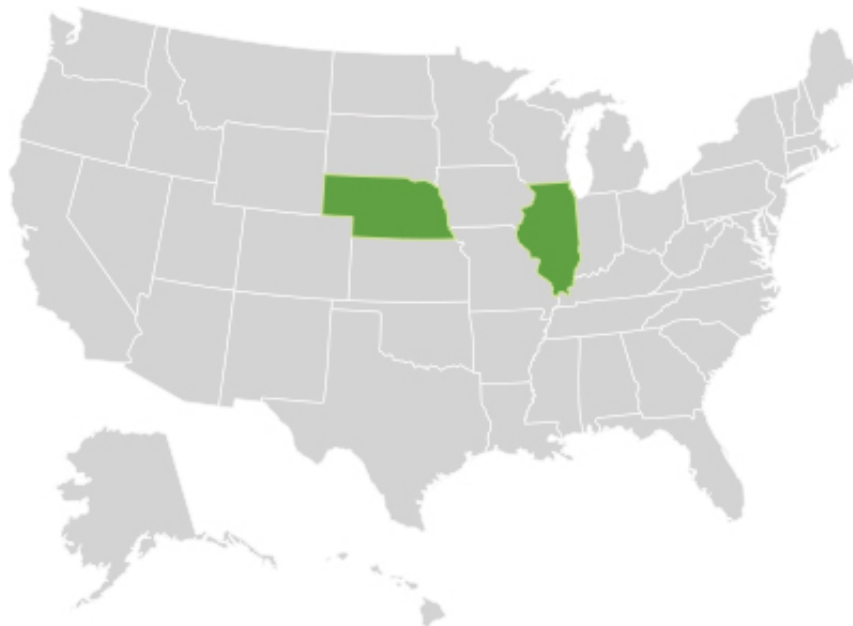
We hope you had a productive National Public Health Week earlier this month! Several PHQIX staff traveled to Lexington, Kentucky, to celebrate at the 2014 Keeneland Conference. While we were there, we presented a poster with initial evaluation findings (more details below) from the survey many of you filled out a few months ago. Thanks again for your feedback!

Would you like to submit something for possible distribution in a future PHQIX newsletter? Let us know at contact@phqix.org.

-The PHQIX Team

News and Updates

New Completed QI Initiatives



Improving the Quality of a Community Coalition: Clarify, Engage, and Empower

As public health funding shrinks and an emphasis on working collaboratively increases, the

importance of effective coalitions has become more and more crucial to community health. A county-level coalition of campus and community organizations working to promote healthy eating and active living used a Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) approach to enhance its effectiveness by communicating regularly, improving the clarity of its community action plan, specifying measurable objectives, and documenting progress.

[McLean County Wellness Coalition \(Illinois\)](#)

Efficacy of a One-on-One Approach in Improving A1c and Blood Pressure in Unresponsive Diabetic and Hypertensive Patients

To improve critical health outcomes of hard-to-reach patients with diabetes and high blood pressure in rural Nebraska, a local health department and community health center partnered to use the PDSA model and best practices to provide effective ways to help these patients manage their chronic conditions. As a result, the patients improved their health status—a first step toward decreasing chronic disease rates in that region.

[East Central District Health Department \(Nebraska\)](#)

Initial PHQIX Evaluation Findings

Thanks again to the PHQIX user community for taking the time to fill out the evaluation survey a few months ago! Initial analysis indicates that the PHQIX community is putting into practice information from the QI initiatives on the site. That is great news! It looks like PHQIX may be a more effective resource for persons and organizations with an already high baseline level of QI capacity, though, so we are already thinking about how to make information on the site more accessible to QI novices.



We had a strong response rate to this survey and now have a great source of information to better understand our user community. We'll continue to analyze the data and have conversations with users, so we can understand their different needs. We'll use this information to continue to refine the site to make sure it's helpful to practitioners and organizations with varying levels of QI expertise and capacity.

Recent Comments on Initiatives

Achieving Agency-Wide Tobacco Outreach Coordination

"This is an interesting read. I think this project is relevant beyond tobacco to any health issue that is being addressed cross-divisionally in an agency. Nice work."

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

[View Full Initiative](#)

Integrating Chronic Disease and Environmental Health Education into Home Visiting Programs

"This effort is an excellent example of how to get a tremendous 'bang for the buck' when conducting home visitations. Kudos on the many improvements achieved as a result of this initiative!"

Grace Gorenflo

[View Full Initiative](#)

Using QI to Improve Documentation Processes in the Maternal Infant Health Program

"I loved your use of IF . . . THEN statements in the 'lessons learned' section. You also presented a great example of the benefits of standardized processes. Thanks for your work on this project!"

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

[View Full Initiative](#)

Local Ideas

Public Health Summit

The Central Michigan District Health Department just hosted its 5th annual Public Health Summit on April 22 to discuss the health and wellness of the central Michigan area. Attendees came from all over the state to participate and to learn more about what they can do to improve health in the region. In addition to discussing the County Health Rankings, state legislators were on hand for the local Together We Can Health Hero award ceremony.

Perhaps you are interested in hosting a similar event in your area. If you would like more information about this event, feel free to contact Melissa DeRoche via e-mail:

mdroche@cmdhd.org.

Have you hosted a local or regional QI event or networking meeting? Others may be thinking about ways to more fully engage their peers in QI, so feel free to start a conversation in the [Community Forum!](#)

Upcoming Events

Spring Drawing

Surely you or someone you know (wink, wink) could use some extra motivation to increase physical activity this spring. Between now and Friday, May 2, you have a chance of winning one of two Fitbit activity trackers! Comment on a QI submission or Community Forum post for a chance to win! Starting a new Community Forum post counts as a double drawing entry!

NNPHI Open Forum for QI-Register Now!

June 12-13, 2014; Kansas City, Missouri

The Open Forum is a unique opportunity to learn from leaders in the field of QI for public health and to network with your peers. A pre-meeting workshop on performance management will take place on Wednesday, June 11. Registration closes on Friday, May 16, or when maximum capacity is reached. [Register for the Open Forum today](#) to make sure you don't miss out.



Featured Resources

Sustain Your QI Programs with Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Funding

Despite the end of the National Public Health Improvement Initiative, there are new opportunities ahead to continue these capacity-building and accreditation preparation activities. The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant is providing health departments with new opportunities to start or continue to invest in QI, performance management, and workforce development programs. The Public Health Foundation is closely monitoring how this expansion of funding can sustain your QI efforts. Contact Margie Beaudry at mbeaudry@phf.org or (202) 218-4415 to learn more and stay informed.

Four Essential Elements for a QI Culture

A quality improvement (QI) culture is one that seeks to continually improve outcomes. From large hospitals to boutique independent pediatric practices, organizations that reliably do this have similar qualities. Above all else, they embrace the need for change by acknowledging that organizations can always improve and instead of placing blame for flaws, sees those "failures" as opportunities to learn, make improvements and do better.



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