

## EDDIE – Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange

The Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Division of Health Informatics has released an online self-service tool to be used internally and by the public for accessing and analyzing public health data. The changes represented a broader initiative of the Wolf Administration to cultivate a more data-driven culture across the commonwealth to improve and streamline government effectiveness. The Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange, or EDDIE for short, is an interactive health statistics dissemination web tool where users can create customized data tables for various health related data. The EDDIE system was developed to empower health professionals by enhancing and expanding upon their ability to use data and statistics to drive public health policy and program decisions. EDDIE is the replacement for the legacy EpiQMS system, making it the department’s primary tool for data dissemination.

There is more health-related data being collected and available today than any other time in history. This has resulted in more and better information to drive public health policies and program decisions. As the volume of data grows, so too does the need for an efficient way for a wide variety of users to efficiently access and analyze the data. In the era of big data, the demand for high quality health data and statistics never seems to be satisfied. Meanwhile, the open data movement has resulted in increased expectations for data transparency and accessibility.

In response to these trends and in alignment with Governor Shapiro’s priority of “Making Government Work for You” through greater collaboration with external entities and citizen engagement, the Pennsylvania Department of Health is striving to become a more data-driven organization providing useful information to both our programs and the public.

The Department of Health maintains numerous applications,

data formats, databases, reports, and webpages to handle the demands of health data users. In 2014, the department began a collaborative project to develop a user-friendly query tool to meet the needs of health data users through the application of best practices and modern technologies. The department leveraged its data warehouse architecture and set out to standardize the way data is managed and disseminated to ensure its confidentiality, security and integrity. The department then designed a web-based interface to allow both internal and external users the ability to easily select and drill down to the data and statistics needed.

EDDIE was completed in December 2015 and released to the public in January 2016. The application allows a wide array of stakeholders, including public health experts and executives, legislators, researchers, businesses, media, academia and concerned private citizens, access to 17 of the most popular health datasets available from the department, such as vital records, cancer incidence, behavioral health risk and numerous communicable diseases. The application is easy to navigate and includes help files linked to every selection menu and table column. The site also includes a [frequently asked questions](#) section, a [short instructional video](#) and the ability to export data in a variety of formats.



EDDIE sets the standard and serves as a model for sharing and accessing high quality health data and statistics in Pennsylvania. Overall, EDDIE is elevating the state’s open data policy on detailed aggregate health statistics, while maintaining confidential information and utilizing modern technologies to meet the department’s business needs.

Visualization capabilities are part of the EDDIE system as well, such as mapping and charting functions. By streamlining functions and datasets, the new web tool is not only more efficient and less costly but also raises the visibility of the datasets themselves. Health data users can learn how to use EDDIE by visiting the Department of Health’s web page located at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/EDDIE/Pages/EDDIE.aspx>.