

Data Technical Assistance Unit: Summary

OFFICE OF DATA STRATEGY AND INTEROPERABILITY

Our mission

The office of Data Strategy and Interoperability (DSI) was created to provide vision, direction, and leadership in advancing enterprise data strategies and data exchanges across programs of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and with external partners. The office addresses a need for a more coordinated approach to data and interoperability, and we achieve this mission through:

- Coordinating and streamlining the process for partners to exchange data with MDH,
- Overseeing and supporting enterprise shared solutions and common tools for data,
- Leading and aligning efforts to maximize MDH's high value data by creating data processes, standards, and tools with the whole Minnesota Public Health System in mind.

The decommissioning of the COVID response revealed two unmet data-related needs. First, there was no centralized group to support data-related work in MDH. Second, there was not a single-entry point for partners to get data-related assistance in MDH.

The Data Technical Assistance (DTA) Unit within DSI was founded to provide assistance to local public health (LPH). As our mission evolved, inconsistencies were identified within internal MDH processes, which revealed a larger need for programs in MDH to utilize our services.

We offer a broad range of services to LPH and MDH. Common requests fall across the data lifecycle, from developing data collection tools to visualizing collected data. Past requests include, but are not limited to, dashboards and graphics to meaningfully display data, statistical models, training on data and informatics skills, process mapping, survey design, tool development, and data modernization.

Additionally, much of our work has been focused on improving foundational elements of MDH, such as creating more efficient data infrastructure, developing standards for tools and processes, and streamlining public health data functions within MDH and across the Minnesota Public Health System.

What We Will Do

Support MDH and local public health departments with their data needs, including:

- Facilitate collaboration between program areas of MDH to encourage data sharing, coordination of resources, and teamwork.
- Compute denominators for the appropriate analysis.
- Advise on best practices on survey development to answer public health questions.
- Connect people to data stewards.
- Provide qualitative and quantitative data analysis and support services.
- Help onboard and train on new data software systems, tools, and data concepts.

- Develop and implement best practices for interpretation and application in data collection, preparation, analysis, and visualization.
- Offer training on survey design, data entry and analysis, dashboard and visual creation, and data reporting and interpretation.
- Conduct informatics assessments.

What We Won't Do

- Collect or create any primary data.
- Provide routine and ongoing data analysis for our partners. Instead, we provide the training and expertise for them to do it themselves.
- Respond directly to data requests or provide custom data preparation and analysis from the general public or the media.

Customer Matrix

Customer	Service Level
Internal	Directly through DSI or the current data steward
Local Public Health	Directly through DSI
General Public and Media	Through Communications Office
Governor's Office	Through Communications Office

DSI = Data Strategy and Interoperability

How to Request Our Services

Email: Health.DSI-dataTA@state.mn.us

Request form: <https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=RVCNANT8MT9XJL3K>

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To obtain this information in a different format, email health.dsi@state.mn.us.

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