



Issue 4 - September 2013

Welcome to **qualitymatters**!

With the end of summer, we are preparing to engage our large community and show appreciation for continued participation on www.phqix.org! Throughout the month, be sure to check the website for ongoing news and contribute to the online conversation about quality improvement (QI).

This issue of **qualitymatters** includes new published QI initiatives, activities and events to put on your calendar, and September's upcoming Twitter chat.

Please feel free to reach out to us via e-mail (contact@phqix.org) or Twitter ([@PublicHealthQIX](https://twitter.com/PublicHealthQIX)) with your questions or contributions. We'd love to hear from you!

-The PHQIX Team

News and Updates

Featured QI Initiative

[Improving the Connecticut Department of Public Health Database to Ensure Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Other Sociodemographic Data Meet Federal Standards](#)- Submitted by the Connecticut Department of Public Health ([CT DPH](#)), this initiative used many different tools that

can assist others who are interested in making their databases compliant through paper or electronic changes. This initiative is also notable because meeting federal standards for databases of sociodemographic data is usually difficult for health departments.



New and Active QI Initiatives

Explore these new QI initiatives:

- [Increasing Prenatal Referrals for Home Care Maternal and Child Health Nursing Services](#) by Sullivan County Public Health Services (SCPHS)
- [Improving the Hospital Inspection Process](#) by the Washington State Department of Health

More new QI initiatives for the upcoming month will be posted [here](#).

Discussions on Our Community Forum

Check out the recent activity on our [community forum](#)!

- Quality Improvement Webinar - [Input Needed](#)
- How do I begin [performance management?](#)

- What does PHAB-accredited health departments' [future cycle planning look like?](#)
- Does your health department have a [social media policy?](#)

Drawing Winner

Congratulations to Muntu Davis who won the August drawing for an iPod Nano. Thank you for your continued engagement!

Upcoming Events

Open Forum for Quality Improvement in Public Health

This meeting, from November 20 through 21, 2013, convenes leaders and practitioners shaping quality in public health today. PHQIX is planning to be there! For more information, click [here](#).

APHA Conference in Boston, MA

We'll be at the American Public Health Association ([APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition](#)) in Boston, MA from November 2 through 6, 2013. Be on the lookout for updates about concurrent online QI activities!

August Drawings

Our August drawings drew to a close yesterday. Keep an eye out for upcoming drawings!

September Twitter Chat

We'll be hosting a Twitter chat about QI on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 from 12 to 1 PM. Search #QITogether on Twitter to follow the conversation.



Featured Resources

Public Health Quality Improvement Taxonomy

Key members of the PHQIX team recently published an abstract describing their work with synonym-based word frequency analysis to support the development and presentation of a public health QI taxonomy in an online exchange. Check out their research [here!](#)

Five Health Departments Achieve PHAB Accreditation

On August 20, 2013, PHAB celebrated another milestone when its Accreditation Committee awarded five-year national accreditation status to five more public health departments in the states of Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri. Read more on [PHAB's August/September e-newsletter](#). Special congratulations to Central Michigan District Health Department, which is now accredited, and was [a past PHQIX submitter!](#)

NNPHI New Call for Proposals

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), in partnership with Continual Impact, LLC, is pleased to announce a new Call for Proposals for the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI) Kaizen Event Program. Selected health departments will receive training in QI and kaizen event methodology for rapid improvement in public health. In addition, those selected will have a QI coach co-lead a kaizen event at their health department. State, tribal, local, and territorial health departments are eligible to apply. Applicants will need to propose a specific QI project applicable to the kaizen event methodology and commit the necessary time and resources. Proposals are due by 3:00pm ET on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. An optional, informational web conference will be held on September 10, 2013, from 1:00 to 2:00 PM ET. Visit [here](#) for more

information.

Request for Proposals for Millions Hearts State Learning Collaborative

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is offering [this RFP](#) to support states using a QI process to partner across sectors, including clinical, community, and public health, to implement best practices and evidence-based policies. The policies and practices aim to identify, control, and improve blood pressure with the goal of preventing 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

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PHQIX | 1440 Main Street | Waltham | MA | 02451