HIEs and RHICs’ Impact During COVID-19 Pandemic

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is renewed energy among community health leaders to advance local transformation in line with national goals for health care quality, cost and equity.

Highlights of HIEs’ work include:

The Indiana Health Information Exchange, in collaboration with the Indiana State Department of Health, is providing public, real-time updates of COVID-19 testing results through correct testing, coding and data processing of critical information at the time of care and by connecting labs with electronic health information exchange.

Vermont Information Technology Leaders created daily reports for the Vermont Department of Health to assist with the identification of COVID-19 cases and hospitalized patients; this work also supports the state in monitoring utilization and capacity. Today, Vermont Information Technology Leaders has automated the collection of 40 data elements, which saves manual work by hospital teams while improving data consistency. In addition, this work includes a data quality improvement initiative among 14 hospitals in the state.

The Health Collaborative in Ohio was instrumental in providing data- and non-data-driven emergency response and coordination efforts for its region. As a result, the Ohio Department of Health has access to a growing, evolving dashboard of geographic maps that pinpoints the location of outbreaks, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, capacity planning, ADT alerts and data validation.

Highlights of RHICs’ work include:

Cleveland-based Better Health Partnership supports six FOHQs with project management, data analysis, strategy design, and execution. In addition, it provides a website with COVID-19 testing and vaccination information for residents. At two of its vaccination events, 87% of Latinos and 92% of Black residents, respectively, were vaccinated.

Rochester, N.Y.-based Common Ground Health is driving towards the equitable, transparent, and efficient COVID-19 immunization of at least 70% of the population in the Finger Lakes Region. A permanent vaccination site is located in Rochester to serve the specific needs of its residents, which ensures accessibility by bus and by foot.

Seattle-based Washington Health Alliance is collaborating with three local chambers of commerce and area CEOs who lead the region’s largest employers. The goal is to vaccinate 70% of the population against COVID-19.