DASH PROJECT PROFILE

King County Data Across Sectors for Housing and Health

Seattle, WA

"King County offers a unique opportunity for advancing the policy, systems, and environment change approach to preventing chronic disease and reducing health inequities."

OVERVIEW

Connecting data across health and housing has the potential to improve the health of residents living in low-income housing in King County. For the first time, Public Health – Seattle & King County is partnering with local housing authorities to link housing data with Medicaid claims records. The result is de-identified data that can provide key information about the health issues facing residents. This information can then be used to develop prevention programs—such as the use of community health workers—to address specific health needs of the resident community. This approach is part of King County's Accountable Community of Health—a regional partnership committed to working in new ways to improve health and health care.

PROJECT APPROACH

The King County Data Across Sectors for Housing and Health project will:

- **Implement an integrated data system:** The system will establish regular and bidirectional exchange of health and housing data between Public Health – Seattle & King County and public housing authorities.

- **Use data to inform future interventions:** The data will be analyzed to identify pressing health concerns of vulnerable populations living in public housing, provide insight into what programming or outreach might be most valuable, and evaluate the inputs and costs associated with these initiatives.

- **Disseminate learnings:** Best practices and lessons learned will be shared with other local health jurisdictions, public housing authorities, and Accountable Communities for Health.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Target Population	Low-income Public Housing Authority residents in King County
Health Objective	Prevent chronic disease and reduce health inequities
Geographic Scale	City, county
Sectors	Public health, housing/homelessness, clinical health care
Data Types	Administrative, personal demographic, outcomes
Data Integration	Link public housing data to Medicaid claims records through an integrated data system
Project Expertise	Multi-sector policy, systems and environmental change to improve community health

LEAD AGENCY

Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC) aims to protect and improve the health and well-being of all people in King County, as defined by per person healthy years lived. Whenever possible, PHSKC employs strategies, policies, and interventions to reduce health disparities. Their role in the project is to provide a secure server to host Medicaid claims data and Public Housing Authority data, manage and conduct primary analyses, and provide technical assistance.

PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS

King County Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) is an emerging regional partnership committed to working in new ways to improve the health and well-being of King County residents. It is one of nine ACHs across Washington state partnering with the Healthier Washington Initiative which seeks to transform health and health care.

King County Housing Authority (KCHA) seeks to improve health outcomes and self-sufficiency in residents, transforming lives through housing. They are collecting and sharing housing resident data extracts, serving on the Performance Measurement Workgroup for the ACH, and working with PHSKC and the Seattle Housing Authority to determine health areas of interest with shared definitions and measurements for their residents.

Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) is enhancing the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and increase self-sufficiency for people with low incomes. They are collecting and sharing housing resident data extracts, serving on the Performance Measurement Workgroup for the ACH, and working with PHSKC and KCHA to determine health areas of interest with shared definitions and measurements for their residents.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

Linking Medicaid claims and public housing data will result in a closer alignment of housing and health, ultimately improving the health of low-income residents while reducing medical costs. Housing authorities will receive timely, relevant, and actionable data for program planning and evaluation, empowering them to provide more targeted preventive services that address residents' needs. The team is exploring opportunities to potentially expand and sustain the partnership and integrate additional datasets from other sectors. As the integrated data system continues to grow, more powerful analyses can illuminate issues driving health inequities in King County.

USE CASE SUMMARY

USE CASE	ACTOR	SYSTEM	OUTCOME
• Service planning and evaluation • Health outcome information • Health equity analysis • Best practices in cross-sector work	• Public Health – Seattle & King County • Public Housing Authorities	• Integrated data system (public housing authority and Medicaid claims data linked)	• Public housing authorities will implement place-based interventions that address the most pressing health needs of residents

ABOUT DASH

Public Health – Seattle & King County is a grantee of Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) — a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, with direction and technical assistance provided by the Illinois Public Health Institute in partnership with the Michigan Public Health Institute. DASH aims to identify barriers, opportunities, promising practices and indicators of progress for multi-sector collaborations to connect information systems and share data for community health improvement. DASH is a partner of All In: Data for Community Health, a national network of projects with the common goal of improving multi-sector data sharing and collaboration.

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