

## DASH PROJECT PROFILE

# Allegheny County Data Sharing Alliance for Health

Pittsburgh, PA



“We’re pulling multiple data sets so that we are not just looking at more classic health outcomes and health behaviors, but we are also looking at built environment and other social determinants.”

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Target Population	Residents of Allegheny County
Health Objective	Improve the cardiovascular health of 1.2 million residents in the county
Geographic Scale	County
Sectors	Public health, social/human services, economic development, clinical health care, transportation, academia/research, parks/recreation
Data Types	Administrative, geographic, personal demographic, surveillance, outcome
Data Integration	Integrated data warehouse that merges multi-sector data, some of which will then be used to develop a simulator model for cardiovascular disease
Project Expertise	Building and maintaining data warehouses

## OVERVIEW

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is forming the Allegheny Data Sharing Alliance for Health—a connected data warehouse that combines data from multiple sectors to create a more complete picture of the factors impacting the cardiovascular health of the county’s 1.2 million residents. The collaboration will merge existing data sets from five sectors: public health, human services, economic development, healthcare, and transportation. Once amassed, the data will be exported to a modeling platform, the Framework for Reconstructing Epidemic Dynamics (FRED). Ultimately, a geographically accurate model of the complex distribution of cardiovascular disease risk factors in the county will enable the community to test the potential impact of various interventions.

## PROJECT APPROACH

The Allegheny County Data Sharing Alliance will:

- **Expand the data warehouse:** ACHD is collecting and importing new data sources into the data warehouse to help leaders in various sectors solve public health challenges together.
- **Create a model for CVD risk:** Data will be exported to FRED, the modeling platform, so that information can be analyzed and used to design interventions to improve cardiovascular risk.
- **Develop a dissemination strategy:** Findings will be disseminated to local leaders and members of the target population to engage the community in developing appropriate interventions.

## LEAD AGENCY

**Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD)** works to ensure quality public health services are available, promote wellness, and protect Allegheny County's citizens from harmful effects of environmental hazards. They are convening the Allegheny County Data Sharing Alliance for Health, building a connected data warehouse that provides multi-source data to impact the health of county residents, and contributing public health data to this endeavor.

## PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS

**Allegheny County Department of Human Services:** Develops, administers and monitors the DHS data warehouse. They are acquiring and combining multi-sector data for the data warehouse and contributing human services data.

**Allegheny County Economic Development:** Provides geo-spatial data by census tract that focuses on land use, parks, transportation, proposed land developments, land use ordinances, zoning, and housing market information.

**Jewish Healthcare Foundation:** Provides customized Pennsylvania Healthcare Cost Containment data, and coordinates a network of 40 regional funders that will work collaboratively with the alliance for sustainability efforts.

**Carnegie Mellon Traffic21 Institute:** Provides data on traffic density, automobile ownership, bus routes and ridership, roads and bridges, average distance to work by census tract, and bike and pedestrian accessibility.

**Two health plans** (The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health Plan and the Gateway Health Plan) provide commercially insured and Medicare Advantage Program claims data by census tract and aggregate, self-reported health risk data on commercially insured members.

**University of Pittsburgh:** The school's Public Health Dynamics Laboratory developed FRED, a geographically and demographically accurate modeling platform for the county population. The Center for Social and Urban Research provides technical support and space on their open data platform to distribute and visualize data for public consumption.

**RAND Corporation:** Provides technical assistance on the integration, use and application of data for decision-making.

**Allegheny County; County Statistics:** Facilitates data sharing between ACHD and the Western PA regional Data Center.

## ANTICIPATED IMPACT

With a wide range of data sources and sectors collaborating, the Allegheny County Data Sharing Alliance for Health provides a foundation for thoughtful joint decision-making, and ultimately, more effective interventions to improve cardiovascular health. The data warehouse infrastructure can be utilized for future examination of a wide variety of pressing health challenges identified in the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny.

## USE CASE SUMMARY

USE CASE	ACTOR	SYSTEM	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Root cause analysis of CVD for collective impact</li><li>• Monitor progress of the Plan for Healthier Allegheny</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACHD</li><li>• Community coalition comprised of a broad group of stakeholders</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-sector data warehouse</li><li>• University of Pittsburgh FRED modeling platform</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joint decision-making and problem solving to address root causes</li><li>• More effective interventions</li></ul>

## ABOUT DASH

*The Allegheny County Health Department 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.*