

DASH PROJECT PROFILE

Maine Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH)

Portland, ME



“Our focus is bringing social determinants data right into the workflow of care managers within an ACO group.”

OVERVIEW

HealthInfoNet (HIN), a nonprofit that serves as the statewide health information exchange (HIE), is leveraging the HIE and a real-time predictive analytics system to integrate electronic health record and social determinant data across three critical access hospitals, seven federally qualified health centers, and two Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in Maine. The HIE and predictive modeling programs will be deployed to identify the most complex, high-risk patients so that care management teams can connect them to appropriate community services. In particular, the project team is identifying the most appropriate datasets related to social determinants of health to incorporate within the HIE.

PROJECT APPROACH

The Maine DASH project will:

- **Meet with partners to review multi-sector data sets:** HIN is convening partners and meeting with data owners to determine to most useful data sets for integration within the HIE and explore mechanisms for collecting these data in a standardized way across provider settings.
- **Integrate social determinant data into the state HIE:** Data from housing, medical transportation, and child services will be assessed and integrated into the HIE to help clinical providers have a better understanding of their patients’ social needs.
- **Develop predictive analytic tools:** Predictive modeling will be used to identify and track chronic disease burdens, prior hospital use, emergency conditions, and social determinants to prevent patients from becoming and remaining high-risk.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Target Population	Chronically ill patients of ACO member hospitals and federally qualified health centers
Health Objective	Improve health outcomes for patients suffering from chronic diseases while reducing hospital/emergency department admissions and readmissions
Geographic Scale	State
Sectors	Clinical health care, social/human services, housing/homelessness, transportation, information management infrastructure, education/schools, food/nutrition
Data Types	Service (EHRs, case management), administrative
Data Integration	Expand HIE data model to include social determinant data
Project Expertise	Bi-directional HL7 query based Health Information Exchange; data analytics for identifying persons at high risk for future hospital/emergency room utilization

LEAD AGENCY

HealthInfoNet (HIN) is an independent nonprofit organization that manages Maine’s HIE, using information technology to improve patient care. HealthInfoNet is one of the most successful HIEs in the nation, contracting with all hospitals, 80% of the primary care practices, and 20% of the specialty practices across the state. HIN is establishing the tools, workflows, communication, consent mechanisms, and other activities that are developed with and deployed to collaborators.

PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS

Seven federally qualified health centers: Using a risk stratification care management model, these organizations collaborate extensively with each other and with partners in the Community Care Partnership of Maine, an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) established in 2015, around care management methods and data collection. The care management approach focuses on the needs of high utilizer patients and includes a multi-disciplinary, community-based approach centered in practice-integrated care management teams.

Three critical access hospitals: These hospitals, which are part of the Community Care Partnership of Maine ACO, work with clinical providers, and Long-term Post-Acute Care (LTPAC) providers to focus on the care management of patients who are high utilizers of health care services.

Two community action agencies: Two CAAs, located in Bangor and York, provide a number of services for low-income families including housing services, WIC, transportation and other crucial supports. They are partnering with HIN to implement data connections and prioritize the mapping of the most meaningful datasets from the disparate systems. They will also be implementing processes to obtain consent to release community program data with HIN.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

This initiative will greatly enhance population health management capabilities across Maine via evidence-informed interventions. Incorporating social determinant data from community action agencies and other multi-sector partners into the state HIE will augment the medical record to help service providers (social or health) understand the broader needs of patients and support them in maintaining their health and well-being. The often neglected rural hospitals and federally qualified health centers will maximize their efforts to provide focused, optimal health care, ultimately leading to fewer emergency department visits/hospitalizations and better patient outcomes.

USE CASE SUMMARY

USE CASE	ACTOR	SYSTEM	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Needs assessment, program planning, and pilot deploymentPatient risk assessmentCare coordination of social and medical services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Critical access hospitals (CAHs)Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs)Community action agencies (CAAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Population and patient-level descriptive and predictive analytics toolHIE with health care and social determinant data to be extracted from EHRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CAHs and FQHCs have improved ability to target and engage at-risk patients for intervention in real-timeData from CAAs is incorporated into treatment plans to address social determinants of health

ABOUT DASH

HealthInfoNet 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.

