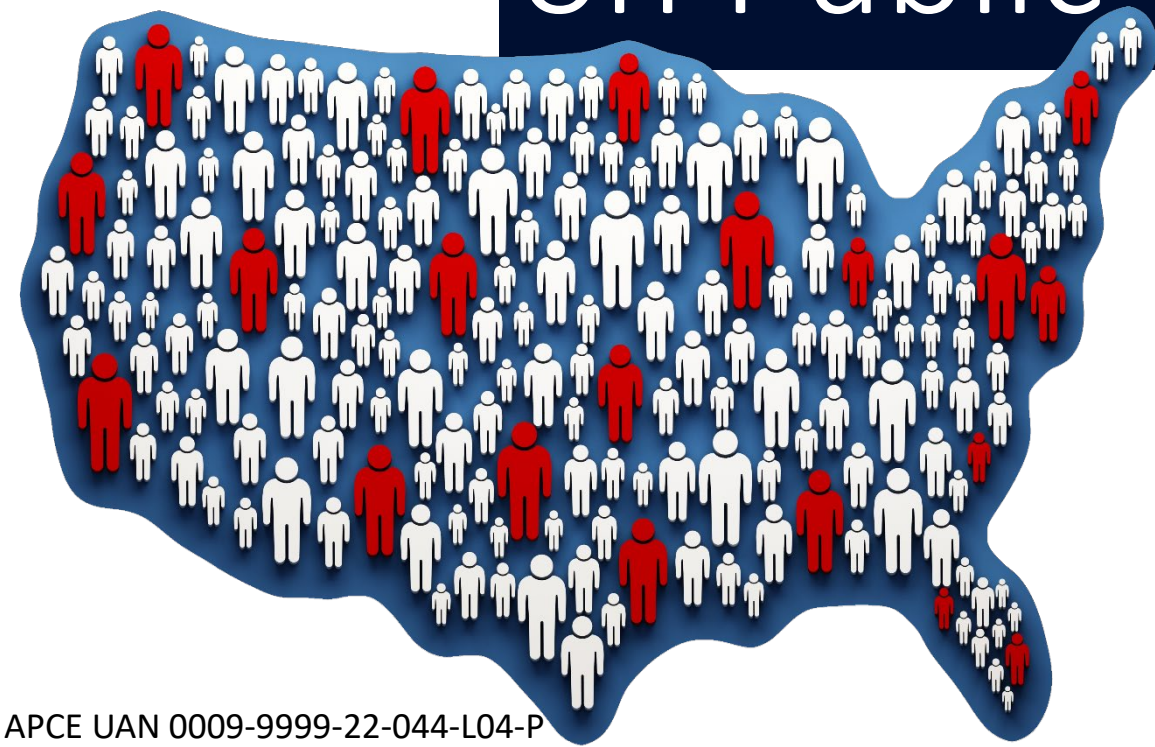


# Making the Connection: Local & National Perspectives on Public Health Data Exchange

Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**UConn**  
HEALTH

This webinar is funded by a grant from:



[Connie](#) has no undue influence on the content of this program.

# CME Series – with CPE sought as appropriate

Health Information Technology for Clinicians:  
How to Achieve Optimal Outcomes

Webinars and In-person events



Activity Director/Moderator: Thomas Agresta MD, MBI

Department of Family Medicine, Center for Quantitative Medicine

UConn Health

**UCONN**  
**HEALTH**

# Health Information Technology for Clinicians: How to Achieve Optimal Outcomes

## Sample Topics

- Medication Safety/ Reconciliation
- Health Data Analytics
- eCQMs (electronic clinical quality measures)
- Telehealth
- Image Sharing
- Precision Medicine
- Health Information Exchange
- Patient Consent models
- Public Health Informatics
- Patient-Generated Data

# Learning objectives

1

Define disease surveillance and the standards required for a robust network

2

Describe the current status of how public health data are collected and exchanged

3

Discuss lessons learned from COVID-related data exchange

4

Identify the optimal infrastructure necessary to develop a public health surveillance network

# Housekeeping



All participant lines will be muted during the panel discussion



The panelists will address your questions during the Q/A session from the Q/A chat feature



If we are not able to address your question today, we will follow up with you directly using your registered email.



This session will be recorded and available for download along with the slides used today.



Instructions on how to access will be sent after the session to your registered email along with instructions to earn CME and CPE credit.

# Presenters

Adi V. Gundlapalli, MD, PhD, MS



**Chief Public Health Informatics Officer  
Center for Disease Control  
Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services**

Manisha Juthani, MD



**Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Public Health**

Disclosures: All presenters have reported they have no conflicts to disclose

# Poll

**What do you believe is the most important outcome of public health surveillance?**

- a) Awareness of emerging health threats
- b) Disease detection and intervention
- c) Automated real-time data collection
- d) Response-ready data sharing
- e) Using the data to predict and forecast
- f) Generating meaningful public health insights



# MAKING THE CONNECTION: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON PUBLIC HEALTH DATA EXCHANGE

Public Health Webinar  
University of Connecticut School of Medicine  
June 9, 2022

Adi V. Gundlapalli, MD, PhD, MS  
Chief Public Health Informatics Officer  
Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services



A network diagram consisting of numerous grey nodes connected by thin grey lines, forming a complex web-like structure that spans the entire background of the slide.

# **PUBLIC HEALTH “CLINICAL” EXAMPLE**

# “Data is moving slower than the disease...”

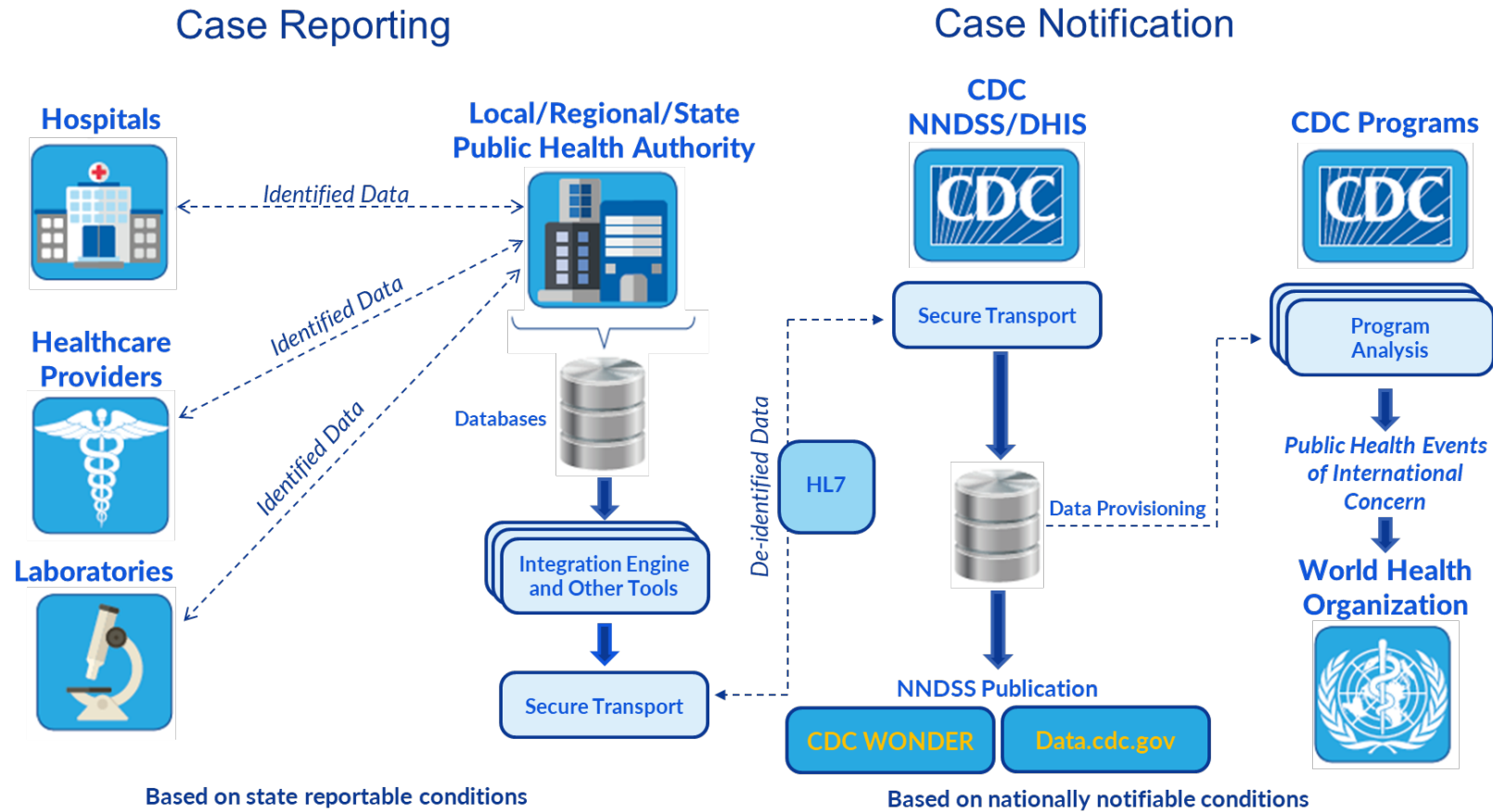
**“The nation’s public health data systems are antiquated and in dire need of security upgrades - paper records, phone calls, spreadsheets and faxes requiring manual data entry are still are in widespread use and have significant consequences including delayed detection and response, lost time, missed opportunities and lost lives.”**



Testimony of Janet Hamilton, Director of Science and Policy at CSTE, speaks at Public Witness Day, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (116th Congress)  
April 9, 2019

# Complex public health data ecosystem

## Case-Based Disease Surveillance



NNDSS: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System; DHIS: Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance;

HL7: Health Level Seven international standard

EHR: electronic health records; HHS: US Dept. of Health and Human Services; STLT: State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial partners

# Data Modernization Initiative (DMI)

- Launched in 2019 by CDC in collaboration with public health partners
- Funded by CARES Act, American Rescue Plan, and dedicated appropriations
- Working to develop and sustain modern, integrated, and real-time public health data and surveillance

The screenshot shows a webpage from the CDC's 'Public Health Surveillance and Data' section. The page title is 'CDC Data Modernization Initiative – Notable Milestones: 2019-2022'. The main content area features a paragraph explaining that the DMI is a comprehensive strategy to move public health from tracking threats to predicting them. Below this, there are several key milestones highlighted with images and text boxes:

- Complex threats expose gaps and prompt action:** Partners [sound the alarm](#) that public health data are "moving slower than disease".
- For the first time, Congress dedicates \$50 million in FY2020 to support data modernization.**
- Epidemics like opioids, suicide, and EVALI challenge public health's capabilities.**
- Public Health Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) launches with a vision of world class data and analytics.**
- CDC answers the urgent call:** Focus on [core surveillance](#) systems improves early warning signals for biggest health threats.

On the left side of the page, there is a navigation menu with categories like 'Surveillance and Data', 'Strategies for Improvement', 'Public Health Data Modernization Initiative', 'DMI and Health Equity', 'DMI Basics', 'Monitoring + Evaluation', 'Notable Milestones: 2019-2022', 'Communication Resources', 'Projects', 'What's New', 'Publications and Resources', 'Blogs and Stories', and 'Multimedia'. At the bottom left, there is a 'Get Email Updates' form with an email address input field and a 'Submit' button.

[https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/surveillance-data-strategies/milestones\\_2019-2020.html](https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/surveillance-data-strategies/milestones_2019-2020.html)



# Core Capabilities of Public Health

SYNDROMIC  
SURVEILLANCE

**Gives** faster understanding of emerging health threats through electronic reporting of emergency department visits

ELECTRONIC  
CASE  
REPORTING

**Reduces** burden on states for reporting notifiable diseases to CDC through modernized electronic messages

NOTIFIABLE  
DISEASES

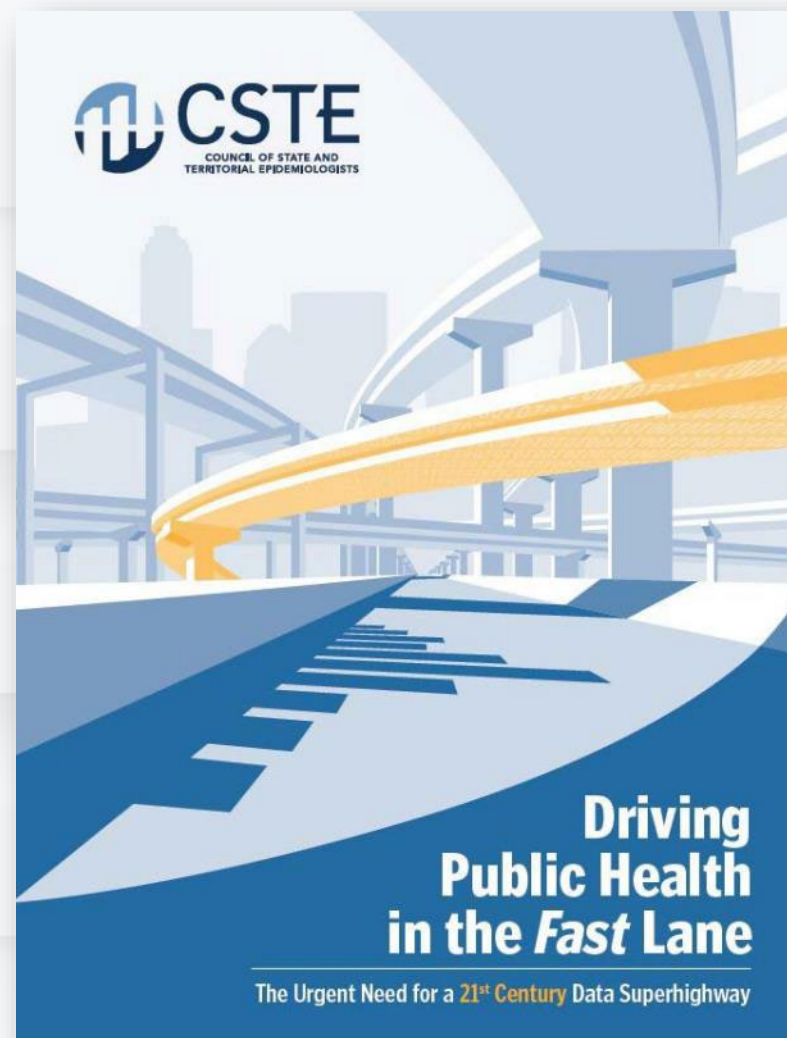
**Offers** earlier disease detection and intervention through automated reporting of certain diseases and conditions from electronic health records

ELECTRONIC  
LABORATORY  
REPORTING

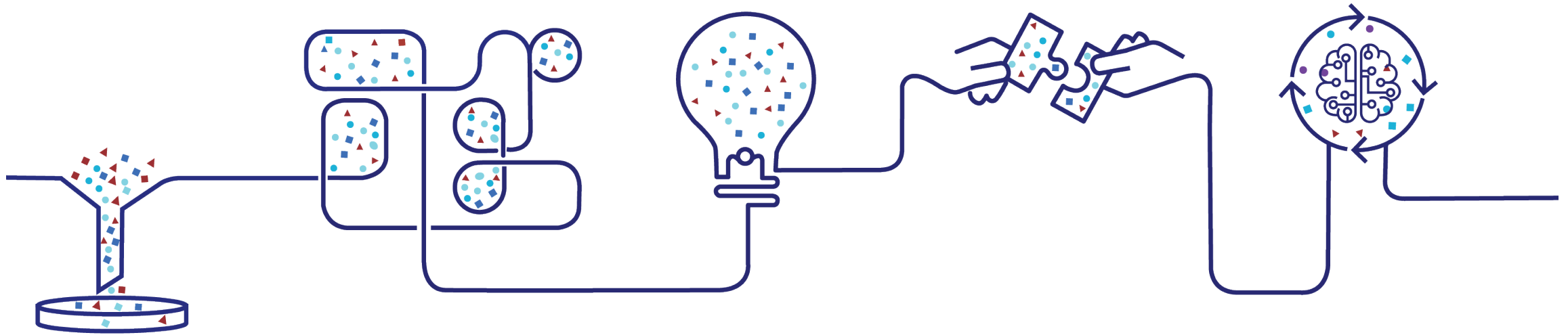
**Supports** faster, more complete automated laboratory reporting of notifiable conditions to local and state health departments

VITAL  
RECORDS

**Captures** data from ~6 million births and deaths annually that can signal changes in trends, monitor urgent public health events, and provide faster notification of cause of death



# DMI Priorities



**Build the right  
foundation**

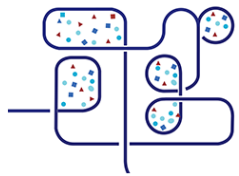
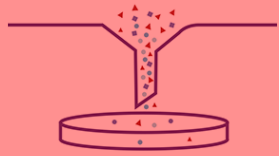
**Accelerate data  
into action**

**Develop a  
state-of-the-art  
workforce**

**Support  
+ extend  
partnerships**

**Manage change  
+ governance**

Provide the new information infrastructure and automated data sources for response-ready data sharing.



## Automated real-time data collection

eCR, ELR, Syndromic, Vital records, Immunizations  
Reduce burden and allow data providers to “turn off their fax machines”



## Cloud-based services

Streamline the way we process, store, and visualize data



## “North star” architecture

Create a collaborative vision to improve STLT access to actionable intelligence



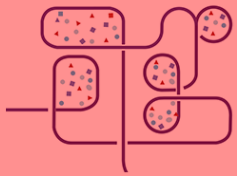
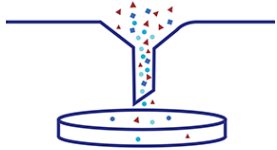
## Reduced silos

Migrate stand-alone systems to a common architecture at CDC and STLTs



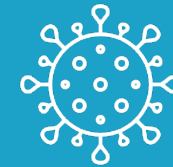


Create faster, more integrated use of data for real-time situational awareness and forecasting.



## Rapid outbreak response

Build on COVID-19 “Common Operating Picture” platforms and prepare pandemic-prone programs to scale up in emergencies



## Forecasting and outbreak analytics

Use data in new ways to mitigate problems earlier and direct resources more effectively



## Linking and opening data

Link and integrate data from diverse sources for more actionable insights

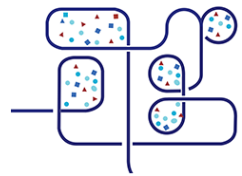
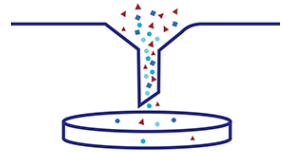


## Connected public health and healthcare data

Adopt interoperability standards and create hubs for data exchange while protecting privacy and security



Identify, recruit, and retain experts to generate meaningful public health insights.



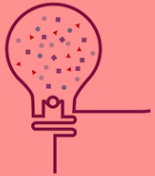
## Recruitment

Attract a diverse, qualified public health science workforce



## Training

Build the skills of the current and future workforce through team-based programs and fellowships



## Forecasting workforce needs

Modernize and expand the use of public health workforce data to identify future needs

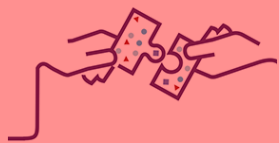
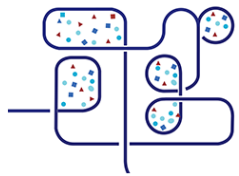
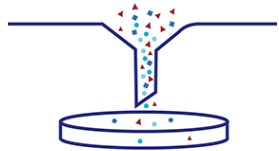


## State + local support

Build a public health workforce that represents the communities in which they work



Engage with state, territorial, local, tribal, and other partners to address policy challenges and solve problems.



## Policies

Support the exchange and use of data between CDC, STLTs, partners, and data providers



## Transparency

Increase access to modernization plans and progress for better alignment



## Data Use Agreements

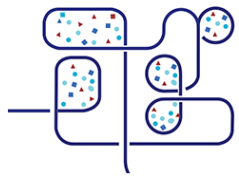
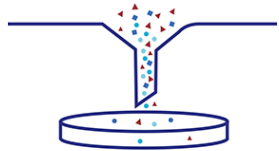
Reduce the burden for accessing, sharing, and using CDC data



## Collaboration

Innovate with research, academic, and public and private partners

Provide the necessary support for modernization and adoption of unified technology, data, and data products.



## Governance

Approve strategic and efficient IT and data investments



## Monitoring + Evaluation

Measure progress for accountability and continuous improvement



## Change management

Encourage a culture of innovation, collaboration, inclusion, and adaptability



## Procurement

Make acquisition processes more efficient and effective

# What does success look like?

- **Decrease burden** on providers and hospitals by replacing faxes and phone calls with automated reporting directly from electronic health records
- **Free up public health staff time** by providing them the infrastructure, tools and training to use data for more targeted interventions for their communities
- **Have awareness of emerging threats** across the U.S. to inform forecasting and to direct resources to prevent or mitigate public health impacts



A background network diagram consisting of numerous grey circular nodes connected by thin grey lines, forming a complex web-like structure across the top and right portions of the slide.

# Thank you!

[DMI@cdc.gov](mailto:DMI@cdc.gov)

[agundlapalli@cdc.gov](mailto:agundlapalli@cdc.gov)

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348    [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)



The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

# Poll

**What public health data would be helpful to share in Connecticut?**

- a) Birth and Death records
- b) Infectious Disease status
- c) Immunization status





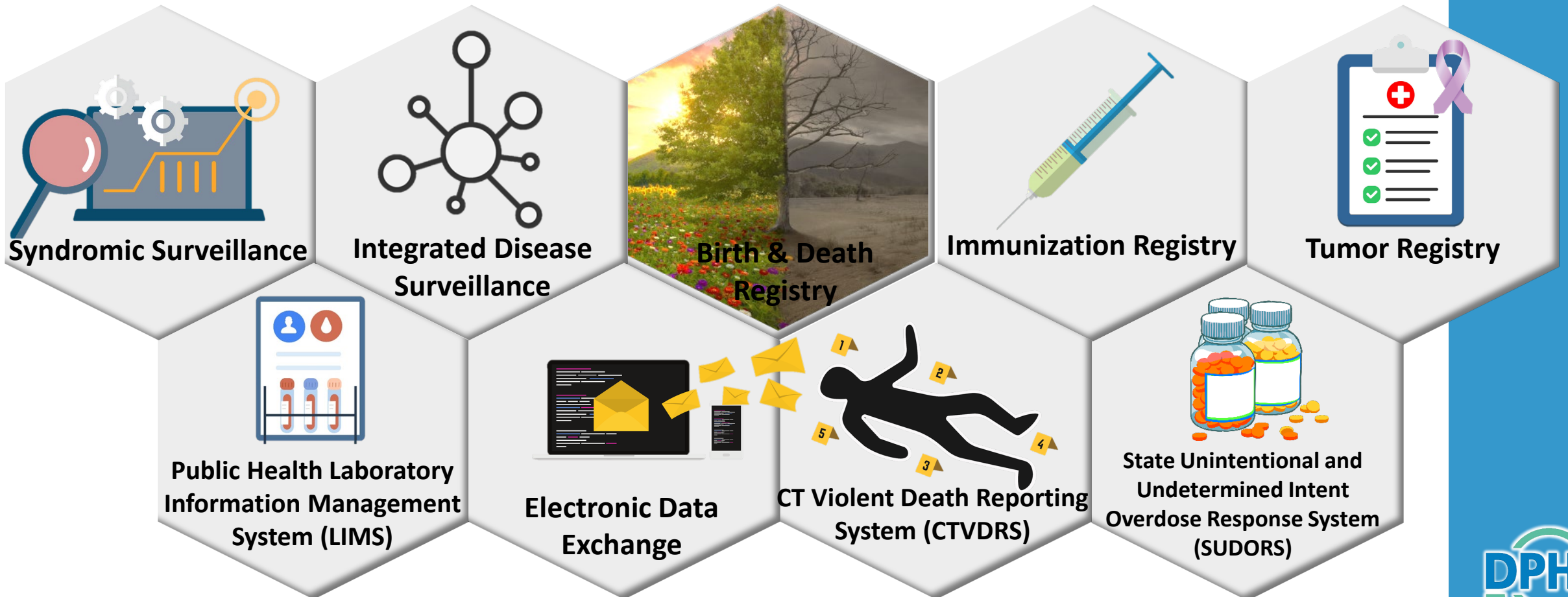
Dr. Manisha Juthani, MD

Commissioner Connecticut Department of Public Health





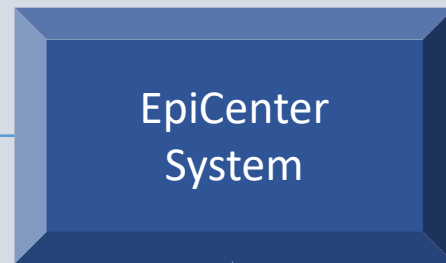
# Core Systems That Support Public Health Surveillance – State and Local Health



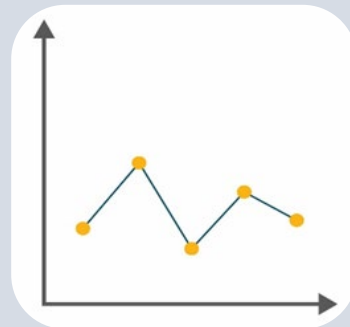
# Highlighting EpiCenter Use Case: The Opioid Crisis



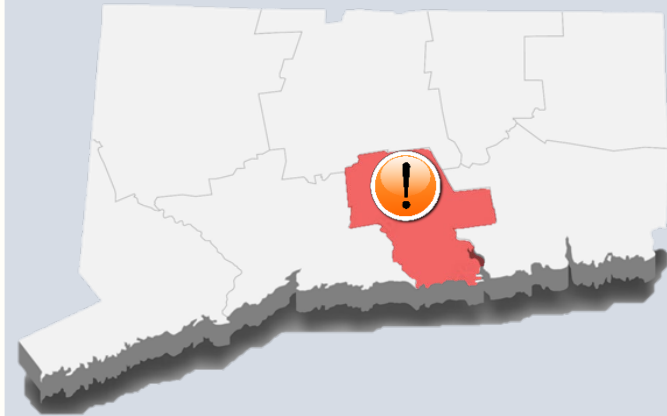
Near real-time reports on  
ED visits from all 38  
licensed hospitals in CT



The Injury and Violence  
Surveillance Unit (IVSU)



Drug overdose-related ED visits



DPH staff is alerted within 24  
hours if overdoses spike in certain  
geographic areas, initiating an  
investigation

# Infectious Disease Section Informatics Program

- Manages



- Integrated disease surveillance and case management system for nearly all reportable diseases and other needs
- Electronic data exchange for lab results and reporting to CDC

- COVID-19 Laboratory testing



- Expanded from the State Lab to academic and commercial labs – PCR tests
- Further expansion to testing at pharmacies, mobile sites, provider offices, schools, etc. as rapid PCR and then rapid antigen tests received FDA EUA

- COVID-19 Provider reporting



- Open access provider COVID-19 case reporting portal stood up
- Hospital IPs asked to do direct data entry into surveillance system for hospitalized cases

# Improvements

## Pre-pandemic

**3.5 FTE** Program Staff **+** **1 FTE** IT Staff

**~390K** Lab tests, all diseases/year

Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR), all reportables, with:

- 3 Hospital Systems
- 2 Stand-Alone Hospitals
- Quest and State Lab

**No** Electronic Provider Reporting of Tests  
Electronic Case Reporting

## Year 3 pandemic

**8 FTE** Program Staff (3 pending) **+** **7 FTE** IT Staff (6 pending)

**19M** COVID-19 test alone

**>200**

Lab Entities- all but 2 acute care hospitals, all major commercial labs, Labs doing COVID-19 testing across US

**>300**

POC, Mobile, Pharmacy, etc. COVID-19 Testing Locations reporting via flat files

**NEW**

Development of data analytics platform as data warehouse, selected data is automatically pulled and available for analysis  
Electronic case reporting project

## Successes

**19**

**Million**

COVID-19 Lab Results Processed and Captured

Automated processing to capture data for the COVID-19 Daily and Weekly Reports



Never missed a day of COVID-19 reporting to the public



# CT WIZ



Originally used to monitor vaccination status for children ages 0 to 5, primarily for school entrance



CT Wiz expanded to meet federal requirement for state level tracking of COVID-19 vaccines administered



Infrastructure Improved, allowing information to be more accessible, CT residents have access to their COVID-19 vaccine information



Legislation passed this session to make this permanent and make ALL vaccine information available

Legislation presented communications challenges around HIE and how to make people comfortable with public health surveillance

# CT DPH DMI Efforts

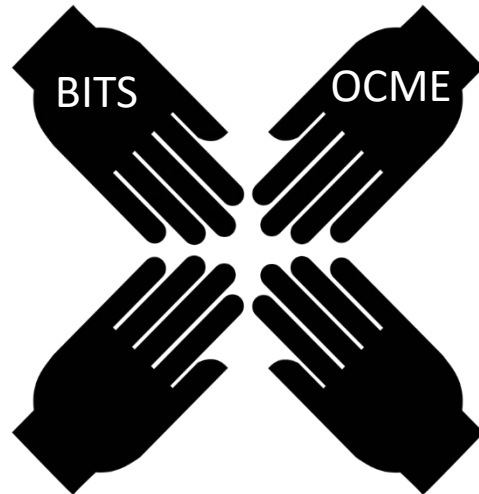
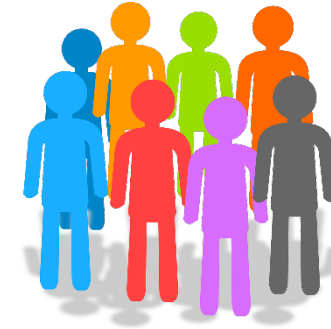
Building a Private  
Cloud Data Center



Enterprise Data  
Exchange



Increased Staff  
in Critical Areas



Other State  
Agencies

School of  
Public Health

Strong Partnerships

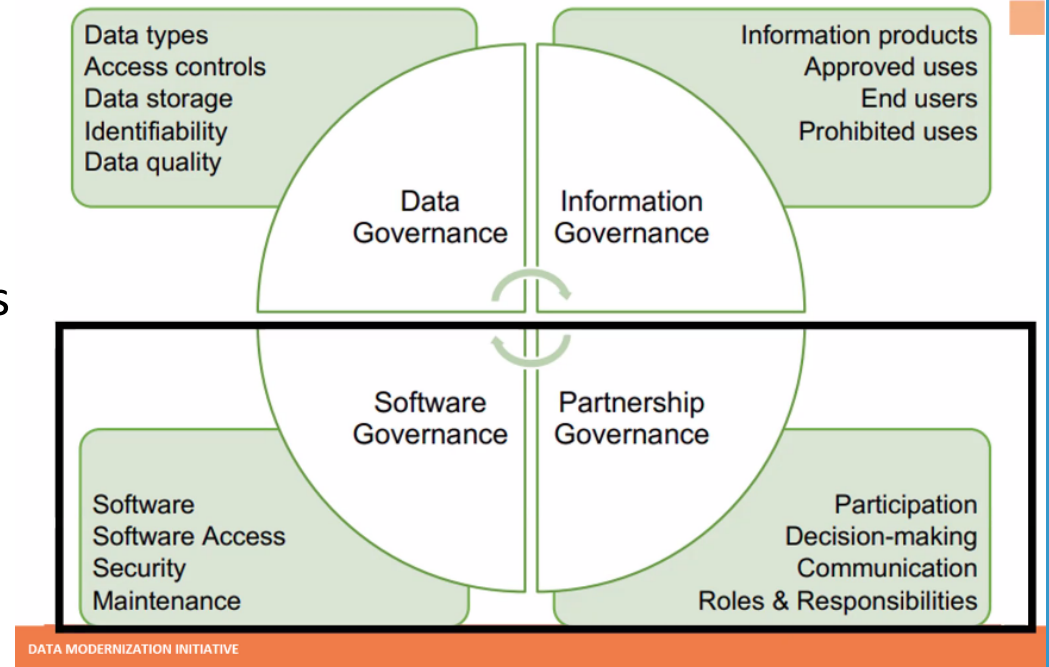


Establishing Enterprise  
Governance Framework



# Data Modernization Initiative Gaps Identified During Assessment – April 2022

- Agency Data Governance Needed
  - Follow the DMI Governance 'Circle'
  - Establish a DPH DMI Champion
  - Assign a DPH DMI Lead
  - Create a DMI Steering Committee with participation from key program staff as well as management
- Outdated State Job Titles & Classifications
  - Informatics
  - Information Technology
  - Data Scientists
- Under Resourced Areas
  - Not enough staff
    - Informatics
    - Information Technology



# Example Public Health Use Cases

Maryland PDMP



COVID-19 Results,  
Vaccinations &  
POC Test  
Reporting



Public Health  
Investigations



Registry  
Integration



Colorectal Cancer  
Screening



HIV/AIDS Lost to  
Care



PREP Medication  
Reporting



WIC Access



Birth Score Alert



Heat Maps





# Questions

- Contact us for further information /  
[HIELearning@uchc.edu](mailto:HIELearning@uchc.edu)  
Or
- Visit us at:  
<https://health.uconn.edu/health-interopability-learning/>

Listen to our Podcast!



Stay tuned for the next event!

THANK YOU

*for your participation*