Turning Knowledge Into Action

Health DATA (Data. Advocacy. Training. Assistance.) is a public service program of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. The goal of the program is to build the capacity of advocates, organizations, and coalitions to use health research data to address public health issues important to the communities they serve.

Health DATA conducts training programs and provides technical assistance to build knowledge and skills to access, understand, and apply data to program planning and advocacy. Program participants reflect a broad range of health interests and represent a diversity of public health and advocacy professionals, including:

- Executive Directors
- Health Educators
- Policy Advocates
- Fundraising and Development staff
- Program and Project Directors
- Other staff and volunteers

Past participant have used their training to apply health research data to:

- Present convincing policy proposals;
- Implement useful and informative needs assessments;
- Complete successful funding applications; and
- Increase their capacity to address community health issues.

Health DATA Training Programs

Health DATA offers a variety of training programs to build knowledge and skills to understand, analyze, and use health and social research data to advance policy and program goals. The training is interactive and stimulating, using games, role-playing, exercises, group discussion, and creative problem solving exercises. All training programs can be customized to include data specific to an organization’s area of interest. Most programs are available in Spanish.

The AskCHIS Community Workshop: Online Data Access Training for the California Health Interview Survey is an introductory workshop to build data knowledge and skills for planning and advocacy using AskCHIS the online data reporting system of the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). Participants learn how to obtain CHIS data on their topic of interest, how to use tools for analyzing CHIS data, and how to state and visually present CHIS data in tables, charts, and spreadsheets. The workshop is offered online and in person in communities throughout California.

Introduction to Health Data Workshop is an introductory workshop for staff and community members who have limited experience using health research data in their work. Participants build knowledge and skills to understand, analyze, and present research data to promote community health. Participants learn how to identify relevant and reliable sources of data and how to refine their data search. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants practice applying the skills they have learned to advance their health program and policy goals.

Performing a Community-Based Assessment Workshop teaches participants how to develop, implement, and evaluate a community health assessment. Participants learn how to plan an assessment, identify and map community assets, collect and analyze assessment data, and how to report results. At the conclusion of the workshop participants complete a community assessment action plan.

Train the Trainer Course is a three-day course for representatives of community-based organizations to learn how to train staff and volunteers to work with data. Participants learn how to train with the Introduction to Health Data curriculum or the Performing a Community Assessment curriculum. Topics include training with data, trainer self assessment, developing a training plan, using popular education and interactive learning techniques, and conducting and evaluating community workshops.
Data Specific Training and Technical Assistance is offered on data topics relevant to a particular public health issue or population of interest. Data specific projects have included the Kidsdata Workshop, a one day introduction to the online gateway to data on children’s health in California; ALERT: Assessment of Local Environmental Risk Training, to foster community and researcher engagement and collaboration; and Turning Data into Action: Fighting Air Pollution in Two Immigrant Communities, a strategic planning project to assess disproportionate exposure to traffic related air pollution.

Trends in the Health of Older Californians Training Conference is a one-day training event for program planners and policy advocates working on elder health issues. Staff and volunteers of community-based organizations learn how to access, understand, and use current research data on the health of older adults to support program development, policy advocacy, and fundraising.

Media Advocacy Workshop is a one-day workshop to build knowledge and skills to identify, understand, and apply media strategies to advocate public health policies. Using research data, participants learn how to identify target audiences, create and present policy messages to attract media coverage to influence public opinion and persuade policy makers.

Program Fees
Health DATA workshops and courses are available through grant support or on a fee basis. Fees include technical assistance support. Contact us for fee and scheduling information.

Technical Assistance
Technical assistance is available by request to participants of Health DATA training programs. Training participants receive one-on-one assistance with the collection, evaluation, application, and presentation of health research data. Additional assistance is available online through the Health DATA webpages at www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu.

How to Contact Us
To learn more about Health DATA, visit us online at www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu. We can be reached by email at hdp@ucla.edu or phone us at (310) 794-0983 to answer your questions or to discuss how we can help your organization.

Established in 1994, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research conducts research on national, state and local health policy issues, provides public service to policy makers and community leaders, and offers educational opportunities for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. For more information visit our web site at www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu.

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