



Issue 12 - May 2014

Welcome to qualitymatters!

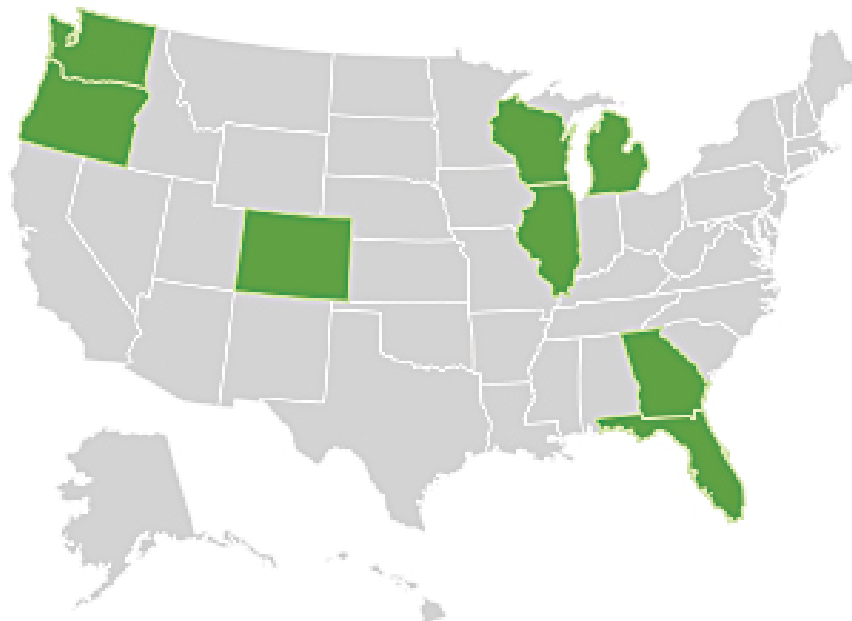
We hope you are gearing up for a great Memorial Day! As you know, we love giving out prizes! One of our new favorite prizes to give away is a Fitbit activity tracker. We recently created a PHQIX activity group on fitbit.com, and you can join the group even if you don't own a Fitbit! If you're interested in joining the PHQIX activity group, you will need to sign up for a free account if you don't already have one. Once you are logged in, click [here](#) to join the group! This is just another fun way to get active and connect with PHQIX users near and far.

Would you like to submit something for possible distribution in a future PHQIX newsletter? Let us know at contact@phqix.org.

-The PHQIX Team

News and Updates

Immunization-Related Quality Improvement (QI) Initiatives



We hope you had fun celebrating World Immunization Week! We celebrated by highlighting PHQIX immunization-related QI initiatives from eight states: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. Check out what your colleagues are doing to improve vaccine inventory management and immunization rates among children and adults by clicking [here](#).

New QI Initiatives Coming Soon!

We have three new initiatives in the queue. One initiative focuses on increasing enrollment in an early intervention program for HIV-positive individuals. The second initiative focuses on improving Vaccines for Children compliance and site visit efficiency, and the third initiative describes how a Kaizen event was used to improve a hazardous waste license renewal process. Find these on phqix.org within the next week!



Spring Drawing Winners!

Congratulations to Torney Smith from the state of Washington and Elizabeth Mizelle from North Carolina for winning our spring drawing! Torney and Elizabeth each won a Fitbit Flex for commenting on a PHQIX [QI initiative](#) or [Community Forum post](#). We appreciate their comments and hope they enjoy getting active with their new Fitbits!



Distribution of Health Departments in e-Public Health Accreditation Board (e-PHAB)

The PHAB recently published a one-page document with a map that identifies states with health departments that are accredited or in the process of being accredited. The map also indicates the distribution of accredited health departments by type (e.g., local, state, tribal, centralized, multijurisdictional). Check it out [here](#)!

Community Forum Activity

Check out two new topics on our [Community Forum](#)!

Follow-on QI Projects; State Projects with LHDs

We are involved with what we are calling QI2, a project continuing our work to improve customer service from the Public Health Lab to Local Health Departments (LHD). This is a take off on QI1 which was a pilot in an urban Local Health Department. Are any of you working on new or follow-on projects between your state Performance Improvement Program and Local Health Departments? If so, will you share your project, methodology, and what you hope to accomplish? Thank you in advance.

Laverne Snow, Utah Department of Health

Post a response [here](#).

Tools for QI Prioritization?

I am wondering what tools that you use today when you are deciding where to start? Especially early on, there are lots of "low-hanging fruit", but how do you make sure to focus on those that are going to make the biggest difference? And when do you start looking at the bigger, more complex changes that will have a larger payoff?

Brittany Hagedorn, SIMUL8 Corporation

Post a response [here](#).

Local Ideas

Quality Improvement and Lean Project Collaborative Meeting

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is planning a fun afternoon event for the QI/Lean teams to convene and share their work. Participants will discuss highlights of their projects and QI and Lean tools that worked well for them. They will engage in interactive exercises to share the successes and challenges of QI. They will also enjoy refreshments and have a chance to win some prizes! Please feel free to contact [Joan Ascheim](#) for more information about this event.

Maine CDC Uses Public Health Antibiotic Stewardship Driver Diagram to Address *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI)

In response to an increase in reported outbreaks of CDI in long-term care and other healthcare facilities, the [Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (Maine CDC) began participating as a pilot site in the [Public Health Foundation's Antibiotic Stewardship Program](#).

[See how Maine CDC used the Public Health Antibiotic Stewardship Driver Diagram](#) as a tool to help reduce transmission and acquisition of CDI through effective collaboration with healthcare partners.

Upcoming Events

May Drawing

Want to be held accountable to your fitness goals? We're giving away Fitbits to two more lucky winners! Find your favorite QI initiative and comment on it. If you're not sure what to say, write a comment telling us why you love it. Be sure to post a comment by May 30 to be entered in the drawing. Browse [all QI initiatives](#) or search for [QI initiatives by key category](#).



Register Now for the Next NACCHO Performance Improvement Webinar

NACCHO's next webinar, [Paving your Way to Improvement: Using NACCHO's Roadmap to a Culture of Quality](#), will take place on Thursday, May 29 at 2 p.m ET. When building a culture of

quality in Local Health Departments (LHDs), an evolution of change impacts both the people and processes within the organization. NACCHO's Roadmap to a Culture of Quality provides LHDs with guidance on progressing through six phases or levels of QI maturity until a culture of quality has been reached and can be sustained. NACCHO's Organizational Culture of Quality Self-Assessment Tool allows LHDs to conduct an in-depth assessment of critical aspects of a quality culture. This webinar will explain how to use each of these tools and share the insights and perspectives of LHDs that leveraged these resources to grow a culture of quality. Registration is free, but space is limited. For more information and to register, [click here](#).



If you have ever missed a NACCHO Accreditation & QI webinar, you can view past recordings on our [webinar archives page](#), which includes two new recordings on performance management and workforce development.

NACCHO Annual Conference-Register Now!

July 8-10, 2014; Atlanta, Georgia

The NACCHO Annual Conference is a great place to network with other local health officials and public health partners from across the nation. This year's meeting will offer plenary sessions, sharing sessions, and workshops that explore the impact of scientific research, innovative practice, and policy implementation and development on the core functions of public health practice: assessment, policy, and assurance. The schedule includes multiple sessions related to QI.

[Register](#) on or before **June 5, 2014**, to take advantage of early bird rates!

NNPHI Open Forum for QI

June 12-13, 2014; Kansas City, Missouri

The Open Forum is a unique opportunity to learn from leaders in the field of QI for public health and to network with your peers. A pre-meeting workshop on performance management will take place on Wednesday, June 11. Registration closed on May 16. Click [here](#) to register for the waitlist.



During the Open Forum, PHQIX will hold a participatory drawing called Find Your PHQIX Match! **Visit the PHQIX Internet Cafe** exhibit to learn how you can participate, win cool prizes, and network with the QI community!

Featured Resources

Sustain Your QI Programs with Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Funding

Looking for ways to sustain ongoing QI initiatives? Federal PHHS Block Grants can help state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments strengthen infrastructure and prepare for accreditation with activities such as performance management, QI, and workforce development. Find out more [here](#).

Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR)

Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response

CIFOR recently released specific metrics and target ranges for selected performance indicators in Chapter 8 of the CIFOR Guidelines, which was developed for use by state and local public health agencies to evaluate the performance of their foodborne disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, and control programs. Read more [here](#).

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