

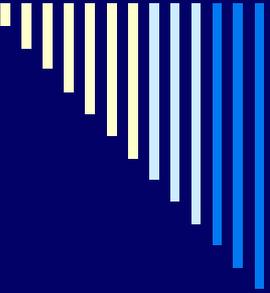
# A State's View of the PHIN

**Jac Davies, MS, MPH**

**Washington State Department of Health**

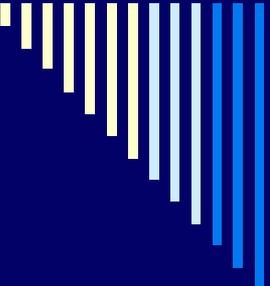
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# Overview

- Description of Activities in Washington State
  - Need for Information Technology Standards at State Level
  - Benefits of the PHIN
  - Concerns Raised by the PHIN
  - Recommendations
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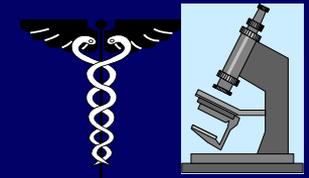


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# Washington State Activities

- Combined NEDSS and HAN activities under one umbrella program – WEDSS
  - Working on multiple projects, each intended to address one component of the notifiable condition surveillance system.
  - Using appropriate national standards to assure interoperability of these projects with each other and with external systems.
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# WEDSS



*Health Event Reporter:*  
Lab, Hospital  
or Physician

**DOH:**  
• Integrated Databases  
• Data Collection System  
• Information  
Dissemination System

**DOH Programs:**  
Analytical Tools

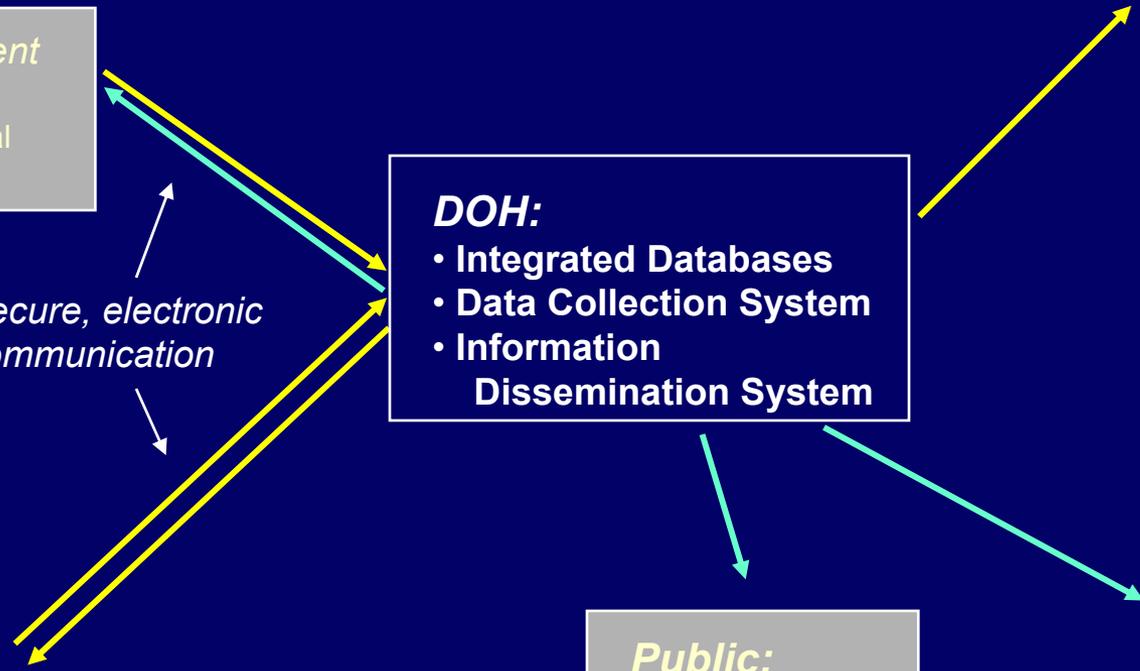
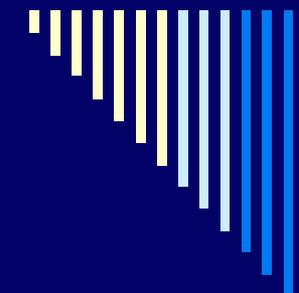
**LHJ's:**  
Case  
Management  
System

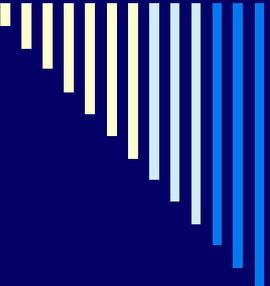
**Public:**  
Researchers  
Health Plans  
Academia

**CDC**

*Secure, electronic  
communication*

*Complete Data* →  
*Select Data* →



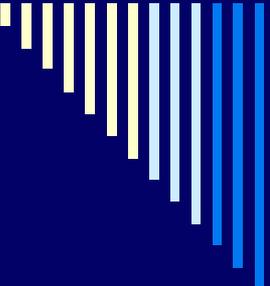


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# Need for IT Standards

## □ Data sharing

- Collection from data reporters
  - Distribution within organization
  - Distribution to other public health agencies
    - Individual record for case investigation
    - Aggregate records for trends analysis
  - Dissemination of information
    - Data reporters
    - Health care system
    - General public
-

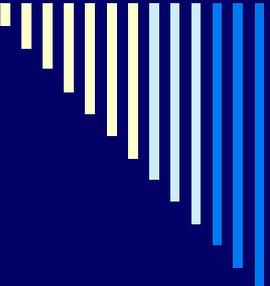


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# Need for IT Standards

## □ Efficient Resource Utilization

- Maximize utility
    - Assure system is usable and meets business needs
  - Minimize costs
    - Develop using current software engineering practices
  - Improve supportability
    - Design to be supportable and maintainable over time
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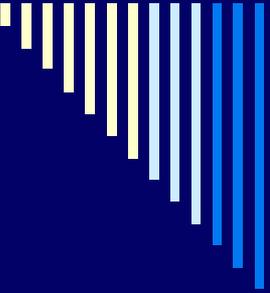
# Benefits of the PHIN

- PHIN provides states with a “road map” to use in designing information systems.
    - Utilizing nationally accepted standards will help states be more efficient and effective in developing systems.
  - Integration of state systems through implementation of common standards makes sense.
    - States will not have to figure out mechanisms for data sharing on a state-by-state basis.
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# Benefits of the PHIN

- Organizing all CDC programs under a common set of IT standards is very beneficial to states.

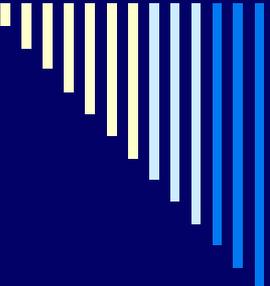




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# Concerns Raised by the PHIN

- States are in different stages of maturity around IT systems, and may not be able to implement all PHIN elements.
  - States have different policy and resource constraints that may prevent implementation of some PHIN elements.
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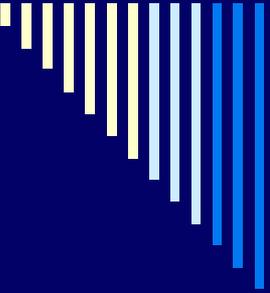


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# Concerns Raised by PHIN

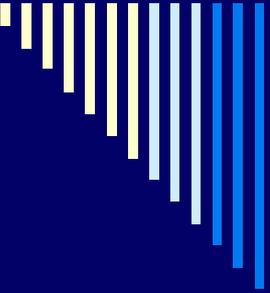
- ❑ Some of the PHIN elements appear to be “bleeding edge” and may not be appropriate for immediate implementation.
  - ❑ Development and adoption of PHIN standards has been fast-tracked, with minimal state involvement.
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# Concerns Raised by PHIN

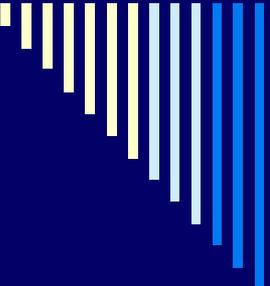
- PHIN standards should not be developed or implemented in a way that requires states to use CDC-developed systems in order to be “PHIN compliant.”
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# Recommendations

- For external organizations, focus PHIN standards on data exchange, not on application development.
    - Vocabulary
    - Transfer Mechanism
    - Security (including public health directory)
  - For CDC programs, focus PHIN standards on both data exchange and application development.
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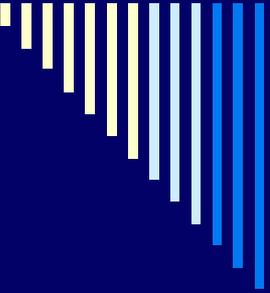


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# Recommendations

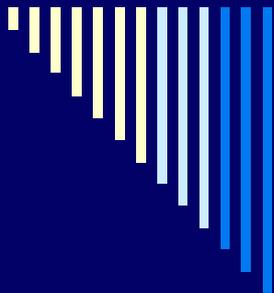
- Establish a realistic timeline and prioritized implementation sequence for PHIN Standards.
  - Clearly define “PHIN compliance.”
  - Clarify relationship between PHIN, HAN and NEDSS standards.
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# Recommendations

- Assure active state involvement in development, adoption, review and governance of PHIN standards.
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