

# NCVHS Work Group on Data Access and Use 2015 Work Plan

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a long history of collecting and making the data it collects available to researchers and the public through reports, tables, data centers, public use files and restricted access data files. In recent years, many new technologies have become available to streamline data collection, facilitate data sharing, and simplify data analysis. There are opportunities to leverage these new technologies to improve dissemination of HHS data.

Through the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), the Work Group on HHS Data Access and Use assists and advises HHS on recommendations to promote and expand access to and innovative uses and applications of HHS data to improve health and health care. Based on the expertise of its members and with input from HHS leadership, the NCVHS Work Group plans to devote work in 2015 to three work streams.

## 1. Guiding Principles for Data Access and Use

First, the Work Group will develop guidance that can help HHS agencies to increase the access and usability of their data to a broad constituency. The Work Group will develop a set of guiding principles extracted from best practices and approaches for the dissemination of data. In particular the Work Group will include practices that can address different segments of users. The goals of the guiding principles are threefold: make easier the use of the data, greater visibility of what data are available and increase the mechanisms used to publicize the data.

## 2. Data Dissemination Assessment Tool

Second, in 2015 the Work Group will develop a pre-consultation/assessment tool that the Work Group will provide to an HHS agency data owner regarding data dissemination activities. This assessment will allow us to gather a big picture of the HHS data dissemination activities and assist us in the development of best practices or guidance on data dissemination.

## 3. Agency Consultation

With the guiding principles and assessment tool from the two work streams, the Work Group will conduct its next consultation in Q2 2015 with an HHS data owner. HHS leadership has indicated that it has priority agencies for dissemination consultations. The Work Group will work with HHS leadership to schedule agency consultations for Q3 and Q4 as well.

It is expected that the guiding principles and assessment tool will be living/iterative documents that can be improved over time based on experience, feedback, and emerging trends. Furthermore, the Work Group will seek to leverage the guiding principles by ensuring proper dissemination to HHS agencies, sub-agencies, and more broadly.

NCVHS Work Group on Data Access and Use  
**Proposed 2015 Work Plan Summary Table**

	<b>Q4 2014</b>	<b>Q1 2015</b>	<b>Q2 2015</b>	<b>Q3 2015</b>	<b>Q4 2015</b>
<i>Quarterly in-person meeting</i>	<i>Wed Dec 3, 2014</i>	<i>Wed Feb 25, 2015</i>	<i>Thurs June 18, 2015</i>	<i>Thurs Sept 17, 2015</i>	<i>Thurs Nov 19, 2015</i>
<b>1. Guiding principles for data access and use</b>	Develop and circulate first draft by mid-January	Review and further refine at Q1 meeting.	Review/revise based on emerging evidence/trends/tools determine whether a broader consultation is needed	Evaluate, revise as necessary based on agency consultation	Evaluate, revise as necessary based on agency consultation. Disseminate
<b>2. Data dissemination assessment tool</b>	Develop and circulate draft by mid-January	Review and ‘finalize’ assessment tool at Q1 meeting	Send assessment tool to scheduled consultation	Evaluate, revise assessment tool as necessary based on agency consultation	Evaluate, revise assessment tool as necessary based on agency consultation
<b>3. Agency consultations</b>	None	None	SAMHSA. Determine what follow up and when. Possible industry consultation about best practices	Ask HHS	Ask HHS