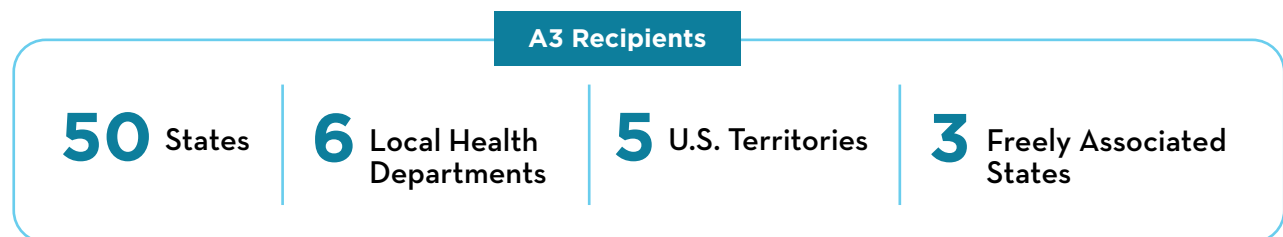


How Is CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) Advancing Data Modernization in the Nation's Health Departments?

Data Modernization (A3) Mid-Grant Evaluation Findings (Aug 2023-June 2025)

Public health data modernization is critical to ensure health departments can efficiently collect, exchange, analyze, and use data to support public health action. In May 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) equipped 64 PHIG recipients with funds and technical assistance to strengthen data modernization (DM) capacity through Strategy A3: Data Modernization. As of May 2025, PHIG national and regional partners have fulfilled 934 technical assistance requests from recipients - 82 of those focused on data modernization.



1. PHIG is helping health departments lay the foundation for long-term data modernization (DM) by strengthening the systems, workforce, and planning needed to support sustainable transformation.

Building on DM investments through CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) funding, PHIG A3 recipients* are advancing core modernization activities, including assessing current data infrastructure, developing implementation plans, and building workforce capacity ("current" - within the last 2 years). At the midpoint of PHIG,



56% of A3 recipients reported having a current DM assessment to identify priorities and guide modernization efforts.



42% reported having a current DM implementation plan to prioritize investments and advance interoperable data systems.



31% reported having a current DM workforce development plan to strengthen the staff and skills needed to sustain modernization efforts.

These findings reflect that health departments are moving deliberately and strategically to ensure their data modernization efforts are effective, sustainable, and in service of better public health decision making.

**This brief reports only on recipients that received A3 funding. Other PHIG recipients may be advancing data modernization through other funding sources.*

Recipient Spotlight



The **Palau Ministry of Health and Human Services** is using PHIG funding to move from siloed data systems that make it difficult to access timely, reliable data to a more integrated, efficient infrastructure suited to a small island nation. PHIG is helping Palau engage partners such as clinicians, nurses, and staff early to ensure new data systems reflect how people actually work while building institutional knowledge and confidence within Palau's data modernization team.

"Modernization means building systems that support people. We're not replacing those people, we're just bolstering them."

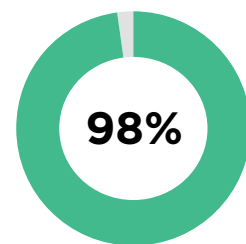
- **Tmong Udui**, Acting Chief of the Division of Health Information and Intelligence, Palau Ministry of Health and Human Services

2.

PHIG is helping health departments build the workforce needed to support modern data systems and improve public health decision-making.

Nearly all A3 recipients (97%) reported plans to recruit, hire, or maintain data modernization-related positions, and 81% planned activities to train staff and partners on DM tools and skills. The percentage of A3 recipients reporting a DM Director or Coordinator increased from 66% during the first six months of A3 funding to 91% at the midpoint of the grant.

Approximately 98% reported undertaking workforce activities intended to address at least one key DM-related competency. More than 80% reported activities that focused on workforce capacity in data exchange and interoperability standards, data visualization, and IT platforms and systems. **Health departments are not just investing in software and data platforms, they are hiring and training the people needed to translate raw data into meaningful decisions.**



of A3 recipients reported activities intended to address **at least one key DM-related skill or capability.**

Recipient Spotlight



Using PHIG funding, the **New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Center for Population Health Data Science (CPHDS)** is helping its public health workforce build skills to better understand, use, and communicate data. CPHDS provides hands-on learning through short workshops, demonstrations, and trainings on data modernization. These activities help public health professionals use data more effectively in their day-to-day work.

3.

PHIG is helping health departments modernize core data systems and strengthen interoperability so critical public health information can move more efficiently across systems and partners.

All A3 recipients reported plans to enhance core public health data systems, including laboratory systems (92%) and surveillance systems (73%), while many also planned to strengthen data exchange with healthcare providers, adopt interoperability standards, and engage with health information exchange partners. Additionally, nearly all A3 recipients planned to modernize their data architecture, systems, and tools, which includes the use of cloud-based platforms, configuring data lakes or data warehouses, and implementing shared services.

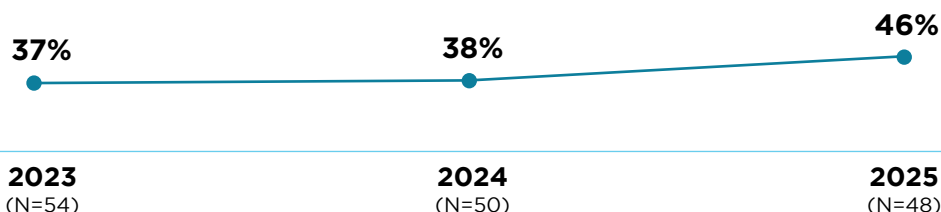
61% of A3 recipients reported plans to implement or adopt **cloud-based platforms**. These platforms deliver computing and data services over the internet, allowing data and applications to run without on-site hardware. They support data storage, integration, and analytics in a shared environment.

58% of A3 recipients reported plans to configure **data lakes or data warehouses**. While both data lakes and warehouses provide centralized storage, data lakes store raw data in many formats, while data warehouses store clean, structured data and support fast analysis and reporting.

30% of A3 recipients reported plans to implement **shared services** — digital tools or platforms that multiple public health agencies can use, allowing agencies to use existing solutions rather than building their own. Shared services also support data exchange and system functionality across programs and jurisdictions.

At the midpoint of PHIG, recipients are demonstrating measurable progress toward more connected data systems. More A3 recipient laboratories are exchanging at least 75% of test orders and results electronically, and the share of laboratory reports received electronically increased from 89% to 96%.

Since 2023, more A3 public health laboratories are processing at least 75% of lab orders and results via Electronic Test Orders and Results



Together, these efforts are strengthening secure, efficient data exchange across the public health and healthcare ecosystem, enhancing agencies' ability to monitor, respond to, and address public health threats.

Recipient Spotlight



Using PHIG funding, the **North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services** public health laboratory expanded its electronic system for ordering and receiving medical test results to correctional facilities. The laboratory information system can now receive medical test orders and send preliminary and final results electronically for 100% of clinical tests, making it easier for correctional facilities to access test results.

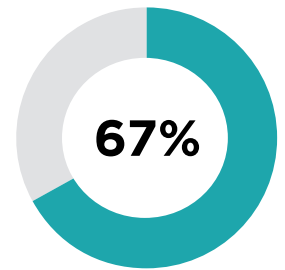
4.

PHIG is helping health departments build the capacity to analyze, visualize, and share public health data.

Two-thirds of A3 recipients (67%) reported plans to adopt more modern approaches to data preparation, visualization, and analytics. Nearly half (48%) planned to enhance data visualization capabilities through dashboards and staff training, while others planned to automate routine data processing and analysis tasks to reduce manual effort and improve efficiency.

Recipients are also modernizing the infrastructure that supports these efforts. Nearly half (48%) reported workplan activities focused on data governance, including developing data governance policies or frameworks, with some planning or developing data use agreements (16%) or participating in Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) activities (13%) to improve data sharing.

Collectively, these planned activities are intended to improve agencies' ability to analyze and use public health data, while making up-to-date data more accessible to external decision-makers, partners, and the communities they serve.



of A3 recipients reported plans to adopt **more modern approaches to data preparation, visualization, and analytics.**

Recipient Spotlight



The **Indiana Department of Health** is using PHIG funds to transform public health data into public-facing stories and dashboards that help partners and community members better and identify risks for emerging health issues such as tick-borne diseases.

Why This Matters

These findings demonstrate that PHIG is enabling recipients to build critical infrastructure that supports more connected, accessible, and actionable public health data. These efforts help health departments put the people, processes, technology, and governance policies in place to build a data infrastructure that can power faster, better public health decisions that address evolving community health needs.