**Integrated Population Health Data (iPHD) Project
Report to the Legislature
CY 2022-2024**

January 2025

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Executive Summary

- **Legislative Foundation:** Enacted through legislation in 2016, the New Jersey Integrated Population Health Data (iPHD) Project aims to enhance population health research by linking state administrative datasets. This initiative promotes a more comprehensive understanding of the factors impacting the health and well-being of New Jersey residents.

- **Governance and Operations**: The iPHD is operated by Rutgers Center for State Health Policy (Center/CSHP) and overseen by a 10-member Governing Board composed of representatives from New Jersey state agencies and Rutgers University, in addition to public members with relevant methodological and subject matter expertise. This structure ensures effective data oversight and alignment with New Jersey's population health priorities.

- **Funding and Data**: Initial funding and data sets for the iPHD were provided by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), with additional startup support provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) through its core grant to the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy. To date, the NJDOH has provided funding in the amount of $2.6 million to support iPHD operations and the Governing Board has approved five NJDOH datasets that have been transferred to the iPHD for use by approved researchers.

- **Review and Approvals**: Through a rigorous review process involving the iPHD Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Governing Board Review Subcommittee, 20 research projects were approved for data release between 2022 and 2024. This includes four in 2022 (Cycle I), six in 2023 (Cycle II), including RWJF's Health Data for Action grant program, and ten in 2024 (Cycles III and IV). All approved projects address critical public and population health priorities and advance data-driven research for NJ.

- **Stakeholder Engagement**: CSHP has undertaken several activities to increase awareness of and engagement with the iPHD. Activities include launching a [project specific website](#) in 2021, creating a list serv of interested parties (currently totaling 300), convening a Research Consortium in 2022, and distributing iPHD-related publications.

- **Priorities for the Coming Year (2025):** Looking ahead to 2025, the iPHD will continue to initiate two data application cycles and selected fee waivers will be awarded, contingent on the availability of funding. At minimum, one additional data set will be added to the iPHD holdings and agreements will be advanced with other state agencies to enable future transfer of data sets approved by the Governing Board. Finally, CSHP will host a Research Consortium meeting including broad stakeholder constituencies and researchers in spring/summer 2025.

Implementation of the iPHD

LEGISLATION

On January 11, 2016, Governor Chris Christie signed the New Jersey Integrated Population Health Data (iPHD) Project into law ([P.L. 2015, c. 193](#) [Article VI "Health Data" §§1-8 - C.30:4D-65 to 30:4D-72]). The iPHD is modeled on other successful [data integration projects](#) around the country and was established to transform New Jersey's healthcare delivery systems by integrating health data and other administrative datasets for population health and health policy researchers.

The overarching concept of the iPHD is that administrative data are much more informative and impactful when they are linked across different program areas (e.g., health, social services) than when they remain in isolation from one another. By creating a process for linking datasets across state departments and agencies, the iPHD enhances population health research by promoting a more complete understanding of the factors which impact the health and well-being of New Jersey residents.

The project has two primary goals:

1) To facilitate research leading to improvements in the health, safety, security, and well-being of New Jersey residents; and
2) To improve the cost-efficiency of state government programs in these areas.

GOVERNANCE

As outlined in the enabling 2016 legislation, the iPHD operates under the direction of a 10-member Governing Board and is managed by [Rutgers Center for State Health Policy](#) (CSHP). The project is *"in, but not of,"* the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) (NJDOH), and as such NJDOH contributed the initial five data sets into the iPHD and has provided funding totaling $2.6 million (with an additional $400,000 pending execution of amendment to the existing Memorandum of Agreement) to support the design and implementation of the project. These resources have been pivotal in establishing the iPHD.

The Governing Board was convened beginning in 2017 and brings together representatives from key state agencies, Rutgers University, and experts from the public sector. The designee of the New Jersey Commissioner of Health currently chairs the Governing Board, which includes five ex officio members, or their designees:

- The New Jersey Commissioner of Human Services,
- The New Jersey State Treasurer,
- The New Jersey Attorney General,
- The Chief Information Officer for Rutgers University, and
- The Director of the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy (non-voting).

In addition, the voting membership includes four public representatives appointed by key government officials:

- One member from an organization advocating for individuals whose data may be utilized by the iPHD project, appointed by the Senate President;
- One member who possesses human subjects research experience and is affiliated with a New Jersey research university, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; One member with legal expertise in privacy and security of personally identifiable information, appointed by the Governor; and
- One member with expertise in "big data" analysis and security, appointed by the Governor.

This governance structure ensures that the iPHD operates at the highest standards of governance, privacy, and methodological rigor. By 2017, the Bylaws were approved, and in 2018, the iPHD Project Charter was formally signed, authorizing its operations.

2024-25 iPHD GOVERNING BOARD

NAME	APPOINTMENT	AFFILIATION
Rachel Hammond, CIPP/G/US, CIPM, CIPT, Esq.	Designee, New Jersey Commissioner of Health (*Ex Officio*) **[Governing Board Chair]**	Chief Ethics, Data Privacy & Research Integrity Officer *New Jersey Department of Health*
Francis Baker, JD	Designee, New Jersey Attorney General (*Ex Officio*)	Deputy Attorney General *New Jersey Office of the Attorney General*
Joel C. Cantor, ScD	Non-voting Member (*Ex Officio*)	Distinguished Professor & Director *Rutgers Center for State Health Policy*
Janet Currie, PhD	Assembly Speaker Appointment, Human Subjects Research Expert	Henry Putnam Professor of Economics & Policy Affairs; Co-Director, Center for Health & Wellbeing *Princeton University*
Rashmi Jain, PhD	Gubernatorial Appointment, Large Data Systems & Data Security Expert	Chair, Information Management & Business Analytics *Montclair State University*
Elizabeth G. Litten, JD	Gubernatorial Appointment, Privacy & Security Expert	Partner & Chief Privacy & HIPAA Compliance Officer *Fox Rothschild LLP*
Kathleen Noonan, JD	Senate President Appointment, Public Representative	Chief Executive Officer *Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers*
Michele L. Norin, MEd	*Ex Officio* Member	Senior VP & Chief Information Officer *Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey*

NAME	APPOINTMENT	AFFILIATION
Gregory Woods, MPA	Designee, New Jersey Commissioner of Human Services *(Ex Officio)*	Director & Assistant Commissioner Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services *New Jersey Department of Human Services*
Mark McNally, JD	Governing Board Legal Counsel	Deputy Attorney General *New Jersey Office of the Attorney General*
TBD	Designee, New Jersey Department of the Treasury	*TBD*

FUNDING

NJDOH supported the iPHD with an original contract in the amount of $1 million in 2019 and contributed an additional $400,000 per fiscal year starting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. To date, NJDOH has awarded a total of $2.6 million to Rutgers Center for State Health Policy to support iPHD operations, including pilot funding and applicant fee waivers for research projects approved by the Governing Board. Additionally, iPHD has benefited from core funding provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to further advance iPHD operations over the past seven years.

In the initial iPHD application cycle (2022), the Governing Board approved four pilot awards with corresponding fee waivers, providing significant support to data recipients. In Cycle 2 (2023), the Board approved six projects, including two pilot awards with fee waivers and two additional fee waiver-only awards. With proof of concept established and with the desire to conserve resources, in November 2024, CSHP launched the first "data only" cycle offering no funding support to applicants. In 2025, CSHP will offer fee waivers based on the availability of funding.

Funding for Completed Cycles (2022-2024)				
Application Cycles	**Approved Projects**	**Total Pilot Funding**	**Total Fee Waivers**	**Total Support**
Cycle I (C1-2022)	4	$157,675	$111,920	$269,595
Cycle II (C2- 2023)	6	$59,953	$33,100	$93,053
Cycle III (C1-2024)	5	0	$36,800	$36,800
Cycle IV (C2- 2024)	5	All self-pay		
TOTALS	**20**	**$217,628**	**$181,820**	**$399,448**

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

In June 2018, Rutgers CSHP convened the inaugural iPHD Research Priority Meeting, engaging a group of 105 stakeholders from New Jersey's research universities, state agencies, and other organizations. By synthesizing the rich discussion and drawing on public information, CSHP developed, and the iPHD Governing Board adopted, three initial research priorities. In May 2020,

during the height of the pandemic, the Governing Board approved a fourth priority focused on COVID-19 and other public health emergencies. More recently, in January 2024, the Board added a fifth priority aimed at promoting equitable access to high-value health services.

To be considered for review and approval by the iPHD Governing Board, research applications should address one or more of the research priorities below*:

1) Informing New Jersey's integrated approach to addressing **the opioid epidemic**;
2) Improving **maternal and infant health**;
3) Assuring access to physical and behavioral health services and addressing **social determinants of health**;
4) Conducting analyses to support New Jersey's response to **COVID-19 and other public health emergencies**; and
5) Promoting equitable access to **high-value health services**.

* As per iPHD's Acceptable Use Policy, applications that address important issues outside of the current five research priorities may be considered if deemed by the Governing Board to be valuable to the State and/or make a significant research contribution to improve population health.

DATA ACQUISITION & PREPARATION

In March 2019, the Governing Board identified four initial data sets maintained by NJDOH for inclusion in the iPHD. These datasets – NJ Birth, NJ Mortality, NJ Hospital Discharge Data Collection System, and NJ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) data – were selected based on their alignment with one of the project's three initial research priorities and their potential to support impactful research on pressing health issues in the State. In August 2020, the Governing Board approved the inclusion of COVID-19 data from the NJ Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS), following the adoption of a pandemic-related research priority in May. A data use agreement was executed between NJDOH and Rutgers on behalf of CSHP in November 2021, allowing for the secure transfer of NJDOH data into the iPHD.

In October 2022, the iPHD data team began cleaning, normalizing, validating, and processing records for four of the five approved data sets. This included using a probabilistic record matching to identify whether two or more records were likely to represent the same person across all available records. Matches were determined using the "Choicemaker" approximate record matching model, with technical assistance from the Choicemaker consulting team. The EMS data set was received in December 2023, with data integration commencing in early 2024. Data linkage is a cornerstone of the iPHD and enables researchers to conduct deeper analyses of the factors impacting population health in New Jersey, which ultimately can lead to improved programs and practices. The data team has so far reviewed over 77 million records across five data sets.

To date, the iPHD Governing Board voted to proceed with discussions to transfer twelve datasets to further enhance research capabilities. Discussions are ongoing with the respective agencies to execute a data use agreement to facilitate the data transfer. In February 2025, a data use agreement was executed between NJDOH and CSHP for the addition of five new datasets into iPHD, including:

COVID Vaccine Data, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Survey (PRAMS) Data, Cardiac Catheterization Data, Cardiac Surgery Data, and Trauma Registry Data.

GB APPROVED DATASETS FOR FUTURE TRANSFER TO IPHD

Data Set	NJ Agency	GB Approval Date	Projected Availability
NJ Medicaid	DHS	July 9, 2021	TBD
COVID Vaccine	NJDOH	July 15, 2022	2025
Cancer Registry	NJDOH	June 9, 2023	2026
Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)	NJDOH		Early 2025
Substance Abuse Monitoring System (SAMS)	DHS		TBD
NJ Incarceration Data	DOC	June 9, 2023	TBD
Cardiac Catheterization Data	NJDOH	January 26, 2024	2025-2026
Cardiac Surgery Data	NJDOH		2025-2026
Trauma Registry Data	NJDOH		2025-2026
Children's System of Care (CSOC) CYBER Data	DCF	March 22, 2024	Late 2025
Child Protection and Permanency Data	DCF	March 22, 2024	Late 2025
Perinatal Risk Assessment (PRA) Data	NJDOH	May 17, 2024	Early 2025

PROJECT WEBSITE

In 2021, CSHP launched the iPHD website which now serves as the primary platform for disseminating key information about the project. It provides comprehensive resources on available datasets, ongoing research projects, and application materials while also serving as a streamlined submission portal for researchers. To ensure the website remains relevant, the iPHD team regularly updates content to reflect new developments. CSHP is exploring enhancements to improve the applicant experience and streamline project workflows in CY 2025 to further support researchers.

RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

On June 1, 2022, CSHP hosted the first iPHD Research Consortium virtually, fulfilling the legislative requirement to periodically convene researchers from New Jersey academic institutions. These gatherings are designed to drive actionable population health research aimed at improving health outcomes for New Jersey residents. By fostering a community of interested parties in the iPHD and encouraging research collaboration, the consortium highlights the State's research capabilities. It also serves as a vital pulse check to ensure iPHD priorities remain aligned with state strategies, while promoting accountability to New Jersey residents and other key stakeholders.

Then-Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli delivered opening remarks at the June 2022 consortium, which also featured presentations from Governing Board chair Rachel Hammond, CSHP director Joel Cantor, and CSHP executive director Margaret Koller. In addition to introducing many state researchers and policymakers to the iPHD, the gathering also promoted New Jersey's research institutions as leaders in social science research. Planning is currently underway for a second research consortium to be held in spring/summer 2025 which will include researchers from New Jersey academic institutions and beyond.

Data Maintained by the iPHD

The iPHD provides researchers whose projects have been approved by the Governing Board with access to up to five data sets maintained by NJDOH and transferred to CSHP through a Data Use Agreement (DUA). Detailed information about the iPHD, including data sets, variable lists, data dictionaries, suggested citations, and data use policies, can be found on the iPHD website.

Data File	Data Years Currently Available													
	'00-'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22
NJ Birth Data	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
NJ Mortality Data	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
NJ Hospital Discharge Data Collection System		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NJ CDRSS (COVID-19 only)												X	X	X
NJ EMS									X	X	X	X	X	X

Approved Release of iPHD Data

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

To ensure that data access supports methodologically sound research that will inform one of the five research priorities, the iPHD employs a rigorous two-step review process for all applications. Once all application materials are submitted through the iPHD website, staff at CSHP conduct an initial review for completeness.

The application is then forwarded to two experts on the iPHD Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for review and scoring, including noting the proposals' strengths and weaknesses. The RAC's recommendations, along with the application materials, are subsequently reviewed by the Governing Board Review Subcommittee, which provides additional feedback and makes formal recommendations to the Governing Board.

The Governing Board votes on all applications at a standing public meeting convened under the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). For those projects for which the Governing Board approves data release, a Data Use Agreement (DUA) is executed between Rutgers University, on behalf of CSHP, and the approved research institution to facilitate data exchange.

SUMMARY OF APPROVED iPHD PROJECTS

CYCLE I - 2022

During the 2022 application cycle, the iPHD Governing Board reviewed eleven submissions and voted to approve four research projects for data release. All approved projects focus on critical and timely topics in population health, reflecting the iPHD's commitment to addressing New Jersey's most pressing public health challenges. Each approved project received $40,000 in pilot funding, along with data fee waivers, from the iPHD to support their work. By June 2023, datasets were successfully and securely transferred to three of the four approved project teams, with the final transfer pending.

PROJECT TITLE	DATA SETS	RESEARCH PRIORITIES	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)
Trends in Adverse Birth Outcomes: Variations by Race and COVID-19 Exposure*	**NJ Birth Data** (2019-2020) **NJ Mortality Data** (2019-2020) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2018-2020) **NJ CDRSS Data** (2020)	**COVID-19 and Other Public Health Emergencies** **Maternal and Infant Health** **Social Determinants of Health**	**Cheryl McFarland** Director of Evaluation & Analytics, *Central Jersey Family Health Consortium* **Legislative District 17**

PROJECT TITLE	DATA SETS	RESEARCH PRIORITIES	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)
Social Vulnerability, Disparities, and the Health Impacts of the Intersecting COVID-19 and Opioid Epidemics on New Jersey Communities**	**NJ Mortality Data** (2010-2020) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2020) **NJ CDRSS Data** (2020-2021)	**Opioid Epidemic** **Social Determinants of Health** **COVID-19 and Other Public Health Emergencies**	**Stephen Crystal** Director, Center for Health Services Research, *Rutgers Institute for Health* **Legislative District 17**
Perinatal Depression and Emergency Department Visits in the Postpartum Period: A Quasi-Experimental Analysis	**NJ Birth Data** (2010-2020) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2020)	**Maternal and Infant Health** **Social Determinants of Health**	**Slawa Rokicki** Instructor, School of Public Health, *Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences* **Mark McGovern** Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, *Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences* **Legislative District 17**
Ensuring Programmatic Exposure and Efficacy in Areas of Greatest Need: A Geographical Study of Mental Health Outcomes and Provision of Behavioral Health Services by the NJ Pediatric Psychiatry Collaborative†	**NJ Mortality Data** (2010-2020) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2020)	**Social Determinants of Health**	**Morgan Peltier** Research Biostatistician, Department of Psychiatry, *Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine* **Legislative District 28**

* This project received pilot funding in memory of Colette Lamothe-Galette, former Deputy Commissioner of the NJ Department of Health who was a lifelong champion for improving maternal health and birth outcomes and child health equity until her passing in April 2020.

** This project received pilot funding in memory of Ranjana Madhusudhan, PhD, former Chief Economist at the NJ Department of Treasury who served actively as the Treasurer's designee on the iPHD Governing Board from 2018 until her passing in April 2020.

† Data transfer pending IRB approval from awardee's institution.

Cycle II - 2023

The 2023 application cycle demonstrated the growing interest in iPHD, with 17 applications received – a 54% increase over Cycle I. Among the six applications approved for the data release, the Board voted to award pilot funding to two projects and waive data access fees for two others. The remaining two projects were approved for the "self-pay" option. By December 2024, data

transfer was completed for two projects. The remaining four are scheduled for data transfer in January 2025, pending finalization of the EMS data set linkage.

PROJECT TITLE	DATA SETS	RESEARCH PRIORITY(IES)	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)
Opioid-related overdose and mortality among pregnant and postpartum individuals in New Jersey*	**NJ Birth Data** (2010-2020) **NJ Mortality Data** (2010-2020) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2020) **NJ EMS Data** (2017-2020)	**Opioid Epidemic** **Maternal and Infant Health**	**Elizabeth Suarez** Instructor, Center for Pharmacoepidemiology and Treatment Science, *Rutgers Institute for Health* **Legislative District 17**
Linked Administrative Data as Surveillance of Overdose Crisis and Drug-related Adverse Health Events in New Jersey**	**NJ Mortality Data** (2010-2020) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (All Years) **NJ EMS Data** (2017-2020)	**Opioid Epidemic**	**Grant Victor** Assistant Professor, *Rutgers University School of Social Work* **Legislative District 17**
Impact of "Opt for Help and Hope" on Drug Overdose Deaths Among NJ Criminal Defendants, 2020-2025*	**NJ Mortality Data** (2020-2021) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2020-2021) **NJ EMS Data** (2020-2021)	**Opioid Epidemic**	**Kelly Levy** Deputy Attorney General, Acting Director, Office of the New Jersey Coordinator of Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (NJ CARES), New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety, *New Jersey Office of the Attorney General* **Legislative District 15**
Integrating EMS Data with Hospital, Mortality, and Geographic Data to Identify Opioid Overdose Patterns Across Settings in New Jersey Communities	**NJ Mortality Data** (2010-2020) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2020) **NJ CDRSS Data** (2020-2021) **NJ EMS Data** (All Years)	**Opioid Epidemic** **Social Determinants of Health** **COVID-19 and Other Public Health Emergencies**	**Stephen Crystal** Director, Center for Health Services Research, *Rutgers Institute for Health* **Legislative District 17**

PROJECT TITLE	DATA SETS	RESEARCH PRIORITY(IES)	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)
The Impact of Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) on Mother and Children's Hospitalization/ED Use One Year After Birth**	**NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2016-2020) **NJ Mortality Data** (2016-2020) **NJ Birth Data** (2016-2019)	**Maternal and Infant Health** **Social Determinants of Health**	**Sze Yan Liu** Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, *Montclair State University* **Legislative District 34**
Prophylactic Salpingectomy Use at the Time of Postpartum Sterilization	**NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (All Years)	**Maternal and Infant Health**	**Xiao Xu** Herbert and Florence Irving Associate Professor of Reproductive Sciences, *Columbia University*

* Fee waiver recipient

**Pilot funding recipient

Cycle III – 2024-1

In 2024 CSHP, in consultation with the Governing Board, decided to eliminate the pilot funding option from the Request for Applications (RFA) to focus resources on expanding data access. iPHD received eleven applications for the first cycle of 2024 (Cycle III overall). In September, the Board voted to approve five projects. Two projects were awarded data access fee waivers, and three projects were approved for the "self-pay" option.

PROJECT TITLE	DATA SETS	RESEARCH PRIORITIES	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)
Emergency Medical Services for Children Evaluation of Readiness and Outcomes	**NJ Mortality Data** (2018-2024) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2018-2024) **NJ EMS Data** (2018-2024)	**Maternal and Infant Health**	**Matthew Hansen** Professor of Emergency Medicine, School of Medicine Co-Director, Innovative, Disruptive, Emergency Applications for Emergency Medicine *Oregon Health and Science University*

PROJECT TITLE	DATA SETS	RESEARCH PRIORITY(IES)	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)
Effects of Legacy Pesticides on Maternal, Infant, and Child Health in New Jersey	**NJ Birth Data** (2000-2021) **NJ Mortality Data** (2000-2021) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2022)	**Maternal and Infant Health**	**Janet Currie** Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs Co-Director, Center for Health and Wellbeing *Princeton University* **Legislative District 16**
Impacts of Health Insurance on Infant Health and Utilization: An Instrumental Variables Approach	**NJ Birth Data** (2010-2021) **NJ Mortality Data** (2010-2021) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2022)	**Maternal and Infant Health** **Social Determinants of Health**	**Benjamin Chartock** Assistant Professor *Bentley University* **David Slusky** Professor of Economics Professor of Population Health *The University of Kansas*
Neighborhood Level Factors and Variation in Fatal and Non-fatal Overdose rates by Race and Ethnicity*	**NJ Mortality Data** (2020-2022) **NJ EMS Data** (2020-2022)	**Opioid Epidemic** **Social Determinants of Health**	**Sarah Cooper** PhD Student **Faculty Advisor** **Lenna Nepomnyaschy** Associate Professor *Rutgers School of Social Work* **Legislative District 17**
Prevalence of Maternal Substance Use During Pregnancy and Association with Offspring Birth Outcomes*	**NJ Birth Data** (2016-2021)	**Maternal and Infant Health** **Social Determinants of Health** **COVID-19 and Other Public Health Emergencies**	**Jessica E. Salvatore** Associate Professor Department of Psychiatry *Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School* **Legislative District 17**

* Fee waiver recipient

Cycle IV – 2024-2

The RFA for the second cycle in 2024 was exclusively for "self-pay" applicants, reflecting the iPHD's focus on expanded access and program sustainability. During this cycle, six applications were submitted, and in November 2024, the iPHD Governing Board approved five projects for data release.

PROJECT TITLE	DATA SETS	RESEARCH PRIORITIES	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)
Reducing Disparities for Children in Rural Emergency Resuscitation (RESCU-ER)	**NJ Mortality Data** (2017-2021) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2017-2022) **NJ EMS Data** (2017-2022)	**Maternal and Infant Health** **High Value Care**	**Jeanne-Marie Guise** Chair, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology *Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center*
Pilot Data Linkage for the NJ Population Health Cohort (NJHealth) Study	**NJ Birth Data** (2000-current) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (All Years)	**Social Determinants of Health**	**Mara G. Sheftel** Instructor *Rutgers School of Public Health/ Center for State Health Policy, Institute for Health* **Legislative District 17**
Perinatal Depression and Infant Mortality	**NJ Mortality Data** (2016-2021)	**Maternal and Infant Health**	**Slawa Rokicki** Assistant Professor *Rutgers School of Public Health* **Legislative District 17**
Integrating EMS and Prison Release Data with Hospital, Mortality, and Geographic Data to Identify Opioid Overdose Patterns Across Settings in New Jersey Communities	**NJ Mortality Data** (2000-2021) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2022) **NJ CDRSS Data** (2020-2022) **NJ EMS Data** (2017-2022)	**Opioid Epidemic** **Social Determinants of Health** **COVID-19 and Other Public Health Emergencies**	**Stephen Crystal** Director, Center for Health Services Research *Rutgers Institute for Health* **Legislative District 17**

PROJECT TITLE	DATA SETS	RESEARCH PRIORITIES	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)
Neighborhood Evictions and Maternal and Infant Outcomes in New Jersey	**NJ Birth Data** (2010-2018) **NJ Hospital Discharge Data** (2010-2018)	**Maternal and Infant Health** **Social Determinants of Health**	**Mark McGovern** Associate Professor *Rutgers School of Public Health* **Dan Treglia** Instructor *Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/Center for State Health Policy, Institute for Health* **Legislative District 17**

Cycle V – 2024-3

The iPHD Project has received nine applications for the third and final cycle of 2024. The applications are currently under review, and decisions regarding data release and fee waivers will be made during the February 2025 Governing Board meeting.

Publications Based on iPHD Data

Research using iPHD data is ongoing and publications, including presentations, are listed below.

Journal Articles:

Rokicki, S. (2024). Perinatal Depression Associated with Increased Pediatric Emergency Department Use and Charges in the First Year of Life. Health Affairs, 43(4), 477-485. https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2023.01443

Presentations:

Amba, V., Xu, J., Treitler, P., Xie, F., Lloyd, J., Crystal, S. "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Injection Drug Use-Related Serious Bacterial Infections from 2010-2020 in New Jersey". 2024 Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting. May 16, 2024. Boston, MA.

Amba, V., Xu, J., Treitler, P., Xie, F., Lloyd, J., Crystal, S. "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Injection Drug Use-Related Serious Bacterial Infections from 2010-2020 in New Jersey". American College of Physicians Internal Medicine 2024. April 19, 2024. Boston, MA.

Rokicki, S. "Perinatal Depression and Pediatric Emergency Department Use in the First Year of Life". American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference, June 2024.

MEDIA COVERAGE

In May 2022, CSHP Director and ex officio Governing Board member Joel Cantor, along with colleagues Frank J. Thompson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Margaret Koller, CSHP Executive Director, and Natassia M. Rozario, Senior Manager at Manatt Health, co-authored an article for *The Milbank Blog*. Published ahead of the inaugural Research Consortium in June 2022, the piece highlights the iPHD's "bottom-up" governance model, which empowers researchers to craft their own questions and study designs in alignment with the project's research priorities.

The iPHD also generated earned media coverage in several health and technology focused publications, including Healthtech Analytics, the American Journal of Managed Care, and Healthcare Innovation. This visibility was bolstered through the distribution of press releases published i*n Rutgers Today,* the university's news website. Releases following the Research Consortium and the first application cycle were pitched to media lists and promoted on social media by CSHP, other units within Rutgers University, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Leveraging the "rutgers.edu" domain further enhanced the visibility and searchability of these communications.

2025 Strategic Planning

To advance the aims of the iPHD in the next calendar year, CSHP will continue project-related communication activities designed to engage key iPHD stakeholders and prospective applicants for data access. Additionally, CSHP will be implementing process and program improvements to enhance and streamline the application experience.

These activities and improvements include:

- **2025 Research Consortium:** In 2025, CSHP will convene the second iPHD Research Consortium to update the New Jersey research and policymaking communities on the progress of the project in the two years since the last convening. Attendees will be briefed on ongoing research using iPHD data and will engage in discussions about the direction of the project, including the addition of data sets and the consideration of additional research priorities.

- **Social Media & Digital Outreach:** CSHP is enhancing its digital presence to promote the iPHD. This includes the launch of a dedicated LinkedIn page to provide updates on key dates, application process overviews, and highlights of ongoing research using iPHD data. Content will include infographics, videos, and other engaging formats to inform prospective applicants and stakeholders. Social campaigns will leverage tagging, mentions, and hashtags to maximize visibility, increase awareness, and broaden participation, extending the iPHD's reach to researchers and institutions beyond New Jersey.

- **Expanding iPHD Data Set Holdings:** The iPHD Governing Board is committed to expanding the scope of iPHD by incorporating additional data sets from NJDOH and other

State agencies. Discussions are ongoing between CSHP and NJDOH for the provision of New Jersey Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data and NJ COVID-19 Vaccine data. Additionally, the Board is looking to incorporate data from the NJ State Cancer Registry and *NJ FamilyCare*, the State's Medicaid program. The goal is to incorporate a minimum of one new dataset annually, further strengthening the iPHD's ability to support impactful research. CSHP is currently cleaning and linking New Jersey Emergency Medical Services (EMS) data for transfer to approved applicants in January 2025.

- **Process Review & Improvement:** In Fall 2024, CSHP launched a comprehensive review of iPHD policies and procedures to enhance efficiency and maximize its impact on population health. This initiative involves identifying opportunities for improvement by analyzing best practices from successful data integration effort, which are increasingly prevalent in other states, and gathering input from key stakeholders. These stakeholders include past applicants, data access recipients, and individuals involved in the application process, including Governing Board and Review Subcommittee members.

The primary goal of this initiative is to shorten the time to release data while maintaining the rigorous standards of the iPHD's review framework. By implementing these improvements, the iPHD aims to become more efficient and accessible, enabling faster access to rich datasets for researchers. Additionally, these efforts are designed to attract a wider pool of applicants, both within and beyond New Jersey and move the iPHD toward long-term sustainability.

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