

INSIGHTS FOR INVESTIGATORS

NEW RESOURCES FOR iPHD DATA USERS

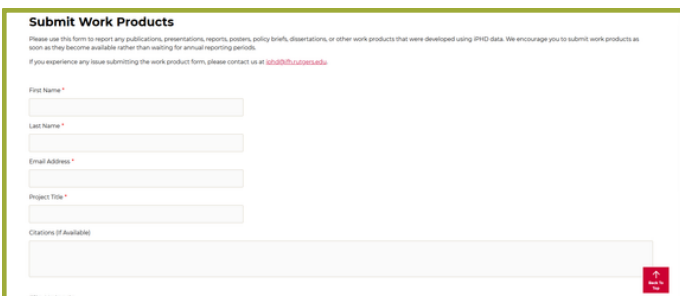
Ahead of the iPHD Project's ninth application cycle, launching in October 2026, the CSHP-iPHD operations team has been hard at work implementing several improvements and updates to the iPHD website.

iPHD PUBLICATION LIBRARY



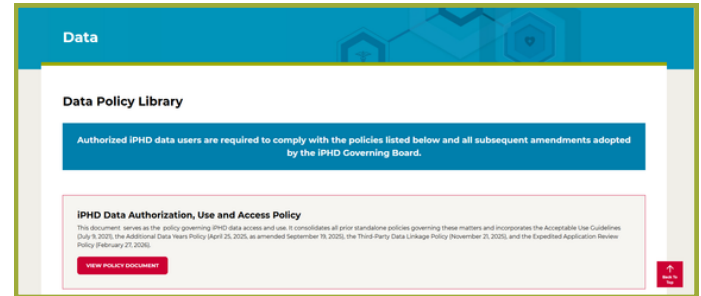
A new catalog of research publications drawing on iPHD data is now available. This catalog will be updated regularly with peer-reviewed publications and be expanded over time to include presentations, conference posters, and more. [Learn more.](#)

WEBFORM FOR WORK PRODUCTS

A screenshot of the 'Submit Work Products' webform. It includes a title 'Submit Work Products' and a brief instruction: 'Please use this form to report any publications, presentations, reports, posters, policy briefs, dissertations, or other work products that were developed using iPHD data. We encourage you to submit work products as soon as they become available rather than waiting for annual reporting periods.' Below this, there's a contact information note. The form fields include: First Name, Last Name, Email Address, Project Title, and Citations (if available). A 'Submit' button is at the bottom right.

In addition to submitting annual reports on project progress and deliverables, researchers approved for iPHD data access can use a new, simple webform on the iPHD website to share new work products outside of the regular reporting process. [Learn more.](#)

DATA ACCESS POLICY LIBRARY



In 2026, the iPHD Governing Board approved new policies to guide researchers in accessing and using iPHD datasets. Following these changes, a new policy library webpage was launched to provide easy access to this information. [Learn more.](#)

NEW DATA AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION CYCLE 9



Beginning in Cycle 9, two new datasets maintained by the NJ Department of Children and Families (NJDCF) will be available to iPHD data access applicants: **Children's System of Care (CSOC) Data for 2017 - 2025** and **Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) Data for 2017 - 2025.**

Additionally, **NJ Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Data** from the NJ Department of Health will be available **for 2002 - 2024**. Researchers should note that the availability of these datasets are subject to confirmation and release is anticipated for early 2027.

Additional materials, including data dictionaries and variable lists, will be available soon. [Learn more.](#)

Racial Disparities in Severe Maternal Morbidity During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from the New Jersey Integrated Population Health Data Project



PI: Cheryl A. Smith, PhD, *Central Jersey Family Health Consortium*

Project: Trends in Adverse Birth Outcomes: Variations by Race and COVID-19 Exposure

Dataset(s): NJ Birth Data (2019-2020); NJ Mortality Data (2019-2020); NJ Hospital Discharge Data (2018-2020); NJ CDRSS Data (2020)

Article Highlights:

- **Black birthing people experienced higher rates of severe maternal morbidity (SMM)**, with disparities persisting during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Black identity was associated with both a greater likelihood of experiencing SMM and a higher overall burden** of maternal health complications.
- **Cardiovascular and metabolic conditions were key drivers of SMM**, with obesity and COVID-19 hospitalization also contributing to elevated risk.
- Findings highlight the **need for better clinical management of chronic conditions alongside policies that address structural inequities** in maternal health.

[Click here to learn more about this publication.](#)

RESEARCH & DATA ROUNDUP



FEATURED PROJECT:

OPIOID-RELATED OVERDOSE AND MORTALITY AMONG PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM INDIVIDUALS IN NEW JERSEY

PI: Elizabeth Suarez, PhD, MPH, *Rutgers School of Public Health*

Project in Brief: This project identifies trends in pregnancy-associated opioid overdose over time and across demographics and health status, with important implications for informing the development of new interventions to target the most at-risk groups in the state. [Learn more.](#)

Dataset(s) Used:

- NJ Birth Data (2010-2020)
- NJ Mortality Data (2010-2020)
- NJ Hospital Discharge Data (2010-2020)
- NJ EMS Data (2017-2020)

iPHD DATA DIGEST: iPHD DATA USER FORUM COMING SOON



As the community of iPHD data access recipients grows, so too are the number of opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing across projects, research priorities, and datasets.

To help support this growing community of scholars, the iPHD Project will be launching a new online user forum for data access recipients to share questions, insights, and best practices that promote the responsible, effective use of iPHD datasets and advance policy-relevant research.

Keep an eye on your inbox - more information will be shared with data access recipients soon.

CYCLE 8 UPDATE: GOVERNING BOARD APPROVES 10 NEW PROJECTS

So far in 2026, the iPHD Governing Board has approved thirteen new research projects for data access. This includes ten new projects from the eighth application cycle, representing investigators from a diverse group of academic institutions, government agencies, and public health organizations across New Jersey and beyond. The projects span a wide range of policy-relevant topics, including maternal and infant health, behavioral health and substance use, health care and emergency systems, and aging and the impact of chronic conditions.

A total of 47 projects have been approved for data access since the iPHD's inaugural application cycle in 2022. Visit the project website to [learn more](#) about these approved projects.

NEW PROJECTS ADDRESS A NUMBER OF POLICY-RELEVANT TOPICS, INCLUDING:

MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH



Pregnancy outcomes
Prenatal care
Stillbirth prevention
Maternal health disparities

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE



Addiction treatment
Substance use disorders
Youth behavioral health
Suicide prevention

HEALTH CARE & EMERGENCY SYSTEMS



Emergency medical services
Health care access
Care quality and value
Health system performance

AGING & CHRONIC CONDITIONS



Dementia and cognitive decline
Aging populations
Long-term health outcomes

GET TO KNOW THE GOVERNING BOARD: NEW CSHP DIRECTOR JOINS BOARD



Lindsay Lawer Shea, DrPH, MS is the new director of the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy and an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Governing Board.

She is experienced in public health, health services, and disability policy research, with special expertise in the use of large administrative datasets, including national Medicaid claims, to understand population-level trends among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

[Learn more about Dr. Shea and her experience here.](#)

GET TO KNOW THE TEAM: MANISHA AGRAWAL, MPH iPHD OPERATIONS MANAGER



Manisha Agrawal, MPH is a Senior Research Analyst at the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, where she serves as the Operations Manager for the iPHD Project. Ms. Agrawal manages applicant relations and coordinates the application review process, liaising with Governing Board and Research Review Committee (RRC) members and reviewing documentation.

In addition to her work on the iPHD Project, Ms. Agrawal provides research and project management support for several ongoing projects at CSHP. Her research interests include chronic disease management, maternal and infant health, and substance use disorders.

[Visit the iPHD Project website to learn more about the team.](#)