

## Web-based Public Health Data in Washington: How to use the CHAT and WTN Query Systems

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*Abstract:* Public health data are collected using an array of surveillance systems, but data users increasingly expect data to be accessible through more centralized and integrated web-based applications. Applications must also be designed to be responsive to a range of data needs, from de-identified publicly accessible files to more restricted data sets used by Community Health Assessment practitioners and other public health professionals. In Washington, the VistaPHw application has provided access to restricted data as well as analytical tools for well over a decade, while unrestricted data sets were made available through myriad resources on public health agency websites. The Washington State Department of Health is releasing a new restricted-access Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT) in summer 2009. CHAT will replace VistaPHw. At the same time, release of the Washington Tracking Network (WTN) Portal is also providing data, information and tools for public users. These two web-based data query systems use a shared platform, similar architecture and standardized tools, revealing two facets of a common vision for data dissemination.

During this workshop, participants will learn how to use both the CHAT and WTN web-based data query systems. Participants will learn about the processes behind priorities that informed the initial release of these applications. They will also learn about the next steps and decisions informing future data and functionality of these tools. Exercises during the workshop will allow participants to get hands-on experience performing queries and analyses. Participants are encouraged to bring wireless enabled laptops.