Data Across Sectors for Health

DASH PROJECT PROFILE

Baltimore Falls Reduction Initiative Engaging Neighborhoods and Data (B'FRIEND)

Baltimore, MD

"The focus of our project is helping our network of community partners, who are doing amazing work around falls, to be more data-driven and precise in their initiatives."

OVERVIEW

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)—working with a collaborative that includes the Mayor's Office, CRISP (Maryland's HIE), community-based organizations and nonprofits, and faculty at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland—is leading a city-wide effort to reduce falls among residents age 65 and older. B'FRIEND is creating a real-time data surveillance system that will track fall-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations. The project is also integrating core medical data with other health, housing, environmental and social service data related to fall risks. Data analyses will be used to align community programs, direct place-based interventions, develop new interventions, and inform a public health campaign.

PROJECT APPROACH

The B'FRIEND project will:

- **Engage community partners:** BCHD convenes a Community Advisory Board including government, academic, and community-based partners that provides regular input and guides decisions and activities.
- **Create a surveillance system to track falls:** CRISP (Maryland's HIE) will be used to collect data on fall-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations.
- **Analyze data to inform intervention strategies:** Core medical data will be integrated with data from other city agencies and partner organizations to conduct analyses that will inform new and existing initiatives.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Target Population	Adults aged 65 years and older living in Baltimore City
Health Objective	Reduce the rate of falls leading to hospitalization or emergency department visit among older adults by one-third in three years
Geographic Scale	City, neighborhoods
Sectors	Clinical health care, public health, housing, social/human services, community-based organizations, academia/research, elected/appointed officials, information management infrastructure
Data Types	Service (EHRs, case management), surveillance, geographic, outcomes, administrative, personal demographic, community-generated
Data Integration	Integrate data in HIE with multi-sector data; conduct geospatial and ecological analyses of falls and display in maps and dashboard reports
Project Expertise	Building community-engaged, multi-sector coalitions to address public health issues

LEAD AGENCY

Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD): The health department leads implementation of B'FRIEND. Staff convene the data analysis and integration team, which consists of researchers from the HIE and Johns Hopkins University, as well as a community stakeholder group. Public health data such as home health needs, aging services utilization, and engagement with home visitors, as well as data from other city agencies including housing and 311, will also be compiled and reviewed by the BCHD.

PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS.

Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP): The nonprofit CRISP is the designated statewide HIE. They have established a Master Person Index and receive data from hospitals, laboratories, and Medicaid claims. This data will be used to develop risk scores.

Johns Hopkins University (JHU): The Center for Population Health and Information Technology (CPHIT) is creating a surveillance model and risk score for predicting falls leading to ED visits and inpatient visits.

University of Maryland (UMD): Geriatric experts at the University of Maryland and JHU will develop place-based initiatives informed by the falls prediction risk scores.

Leading nonprofit organizations: Over 20 organizations participate in the community stakeholder group for B'FRIEND, including Civic Works, a nonprofit strengthening Baltimore's communities through education, skills development, and community service, and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, working to break the link between unhealthy housing and families.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The goal of B'FRIEND is to achieve a one-third reduction in falls requiring emergency department or inpatient hospital care among older adults in Baltimore City over three years. This anticipated impact will be achieved by combining nearly real-time health care data on falls with data and information from other sectors to produce reports that guide the development and specific location for new interventions. As more organizations across the city join B'FRIEND, the collaboration can serve as a model for using data to address other pressing public health challenges in Baltimore and beyond.

USE CASE SUMMARY

USE CASE	ACTOR	SYSTEM	OUTCOME
• Surveillance-based interventions	• Health department • Community organizations • City agencies/programs (Housing, 311)	• Hot-spotting and dashboards • Geo-spatial and ecological analysis	• Developing and implementing more effective fall prevention strategies • Targeting programs, outreach, and education in areas with high falls

ABOUT DASH

The Baltimore City Health Department is a grantee of Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) — a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, with direction and technical assistance provided by the Illinois Public Health Institute in partnership with the Michigan Public Health Institute. DASH aims to identify barriers, opportunities, promising practices and indicators of progress for multi-sector collaborations to connect information systems and share data for community health improvement. DASH is a partner of All In: Data for Community Health, a national network of projects with the common goal of improving multi-sector data sharing and collaboration.

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