

SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

November 2013

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

Completed Disparity Webinar Training Sessions Now Available Through Archive

Webinar: Improving and Expanding SPARCS Race and Ethnicity Data Collection *October 10, 2013; 1:00-2:00 PM*

Please view the webinar archive at:
<http://www.hanys.org/r/recordings/>

Webcast: Collecting the Data: First Steps in Achieving Health Equity *October 17, 2013; 9:00-10:30 AM*

Please view the webinar archive at:
http://www.albany.edu/sph/cphce/phl_1013.shtml

Webinar: Addressing Healthcare Disparities through Better Data Collection *October 22, 2013; 1:00-2:00 PM*

Please view the webinar archive at:
<http://www.hanys.org/r/recordings/>

Upcoming Disparity Webinar Training Sessions

Webinar: Lessons From the Field: Closing the Quality Gap in Healthcare Disparities through Better Data Collection
November 12, 2013; 1:00-2:00 PM

Target Audience: Physician leadership, hospital executives, quality improvement advisers, and medical staff. This webinar will discuss NYS' initiative to collect data using a uniform framework and how collecting accurate data helps your organization track progress over time. In addition, it allows for comparisons within organizations, across organizations, as well as at a national level. It will highlight lessons from other facilities in their effort to expand data collection to address healthcare disparities through measurement, reporting, and benchmarking as elements in improving care.

Highlights



Completed Disparity Webinar Training Sessions Now Available Through Archive

Upcoming Disparity Webinar Training Sessions

Survey on Newborn Race and Ethnicity Data Collection

Hospital Race and Ethnicity Concordance Reports

New York State Health Data Code-a-Thon

SPARCS Data Release: Limited and Identifiable

Verification of Contact Information

SPARCS Regulations Update

SPARCS 101 Statewide Training Made Available Through WebEx

SPARCS Project Director Position Announcement

Webinar: The Nuts and Bolts of Collecting Race and Ethnicity Data: Staff Training

December 5, 2013; Time TBA

Target Audience: Directors/supervisors of hospital admission and registration staff. This webinar addresses what standardized race and ethnicity data are and why they are important to collect. It also provides the strategies and tools to help staff successfully collect patient race and ethnicity data and respond to patient questions and concerns.

Survey on Newborn Race and Ethnicity Data Collection

Recently a brief six-question survey regarding the collection and reporting of newborn infant race and ethnicity information was sent to randomly selected inpatient health facilities. The information collected through this survey will help NYSDOH design trainings and educational materials to improve the collection of race and ethnicity data for newborns, and will not be used to penalize hospitals. If your facility received a copy of this survey, please respond by November 22, 2013 to SPARCS@health.state.ny.us. If your facility did not receive a copy of the survey and you would like to participate in the survey, please email SPARCS@health.state.ny.us and a copy will be sent to you.

Hospital Race and Ethnicity Concordance Reports

Department staff presented the concordance and Kappa statistical methods during the October 22nd Webinar, "Addressing Healthcare Disparities through Better Data Collection." The reports are currently being finalized for release to facilities to assist them in making data improvements. It's anticipated that the reports will be finalized and approved for release this month.

New York State Health Data Code-a-Thon

The New York State Health Data Code-a-Thon will be a two-day live event (December 19 and 20) at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute EMPAC Center that will bring together developers, public health policy experts, and other public health stakeholders, in order to collaborate on using open health data and technology to prevent obesity and diabetes in children and adults. The theme of the code-a-thon is "Healthy Connections = Healthy Communities," which promotes the idea that data can be used to identify or link resources within communities to help New Yorkers make healthier decisions.

For more information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.health2con.com/devchallenge/new-york-state-health-data-code-a-thon/>

SPARCS Data Release: Limited and Identifiable

The following organizations received SPARCS data files within the last 3 months (August, September, and October 2013):

Organization	Data File Type	Years
1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East	Limited	2011-2012
Aspen Healthcare Metrics (MedAssets, Inc.)	Limited	2011
Bon Secours Health System	Limited	2011-2013

Organization	Data File Type	Years
Columbia University	Identifiable	2006-2009
Committee of Interns and Residents	Limited	2011-2012
Cornell University	Limited	1982-2012
HANYS Services Inc.	Identifiable	2012-2013
Health Quest	Identifiable	2008-2012
IMS Health	Limited	2012
Intellimed International Corporation	Limited	2012
IPRO	Limited	2011-2012
iVantage Health Analytics	Limited	2012
Milliman Inc.	Limited	2011
National Bureau of Economic Research	Identifiable	1998-2003
New York Presbyterian Hospital	Identifiable	2008-2011
New York University School of Medicine	Identifiable	2000-2011
NY University Stern School of Business	Limited	2005-2011
NYS Office of Mental Health	Limited	2012
O'Conco Healthcare Consultants	Limited	2012
Stony Brook University Medical Center	Identifiable	1995-2010
Strategic Medical Alliances, Inc.	Limited	2012
SUNY Albany	Limited	1982-2012
SUNY Stony Brook	Limited	1995-2012
SUNY Stony Brook	Identifiable	2011
The Buonopane Group	Limited	2005-2012
The Chartis Group, LLC	Limited	2010-2012
Truven Health Analytics	Limited	2012
Truven Health Analytics	Identifiable	2012
University of California-Berkeley	Identifiable	2005-2011
University of Pennsylvania	Limited	1992-2012
University of Pennsylvania	Identifiable	1997-2010
University of Pittsburgh	Identifiable	2000-2009
Verite Healthcare Consulting	Limited	2012

A complete list of approved data requests is maintained on the DOH webpage at the following direct link:
http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dprb/approved_data_req.htm

Verification of Contact Information

SPARCS Operations continues to verify e-mail addresses and phone numbers for SPARCS Coordinators and Backup Coordinators.

To expedite this effort, and if you have not done so already, please e-mail SPARCS@health.state.ny.us with the name, e-mail, and phone number of your facility's Coordinators.

SPARCS Regulations Update

The proposed changes to the SPARCS regulations were discussed at the DPRB meeting held in Albany on September 18, 2013. Questions and comments on the proposed regulations from this meeting are currently being prepared for formal response to the proposed changes.

SPARCS 101 Statewide Training Made Available Through WebEx

We are pleased to announce that SPARCS 101 training sessions will now be made available on a series of dates through WebEx, coupled with a training manual. More information on scheduled training sessions will be coming soon in the December 2013 SPARCS Update.

SPARCS Project Director Position Announcement

The Office of Quality and Patient Safety, Bureau of Health Informatics is currently hiring for the SPARCS Project Director position. The SPARCS Project Director will be the lead to conceptualize, develop, and implement a comprehensive SPARCS research agenda of considerable interest to researchers, stakeholders, and other interested parties. Full details are posted on the public website: <http://www.health.ny.gov/employment/87407.htm>

We welcome comments and feedback. Please contact us at:

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SPARCS Update newsletters are distributed electronically to individuals who have Health Commerce System (HCS) data upload access, subscribers to SPARCS-L, and other interested parties upon request. Updates are also available online at: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/info.htm>