

**To:** Russell Frandsen, Finance Officer, State of Utah  
**From:** Erik Skinner and Kate Bradford, NCSL Health Program  
**Subject:** Identification Systems for Multiple Diseases

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Assembly Speaker  
Wisconsin  
President, NCSL

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Director  
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Georgia  
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**Tim Storey**  
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Dear Mr. Frandsen:

Thank you for reaching out with your question about state systems for identifying multiple diseases among populations. Below you will find brief background information on nationwide disease surveillance systems, some state examples and additional resources.

For many conditions, such as cardiovascular and chronic lung diseases, there is no single nationwide surveillance system, but rather, a number of surveys, registries, cohort studies and vital statistics used to gather information. The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports states in collecting data on chronic diseases through a variety of national surveillance systems which are published in an open data portal.

*Please note that NCSL takes no position on state legislation or laws mentioned in linked material, nor does NCSL endorse any third-party publications; resources are cited for informational purposes only.*

### State Examples

Connecticut Heart Disease and Stroke Surveillance System – This system takes into account hospital discharge data and mortality data to track cardiovascular disease, stroke and related diseases in the state.

Ohio’s Plan to Prevent and Reduce Chronic Disease: 2014 – 2018 – The fourth “core focus area” of this five year plan is “data and surveillance.” Broadly, the plan aims to “Effectively use data and information to assess, plan, deliver and evaluate strategies to improve population health.”

- States can also have more specific aims for specific populations when tracking chronic disease. Ohio’s Medicaid Assessment Survey tracks chronic disease for diagnosis and treatment, but also health insurance status, access to care and other unmet needs.



New York State Department of Health Biosurveillance System – This system was designed for communicable diseases and addresses reporting of lab results, diagnoses, tracking and case management. Provides information on cost and IT considerations. Key issues:

- Difficulty in estimating costs
- Compatibility of existing technology
- Variability in jurisdictions' surveillance processes

Here is the full [report](#).

Santa Cruz County Diabetes Registry – This project operated a community-wide diabetes registry, using grant funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to implement an electronic registry tool. Here is the [final report](#).

Multi-state EHR-based Network for Disease Surveillance (MENDS) Pilot Programs – CDC funded the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors to operate pilot programs in states to improve the collection of data from electronic health records to track different chronic diseases. There are a [variety of partners](#), including the North Dakota and [Washington](#) departments of health.

- We could not find information on this program on North Dakota's website, but would be happy to reach out.

#### **Additional Resources**

- [Data Collection and Reporting, CDC's National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System \(NNDSS\)](#)
- [The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, State-by-state Data Usage](#), CDC
- [List of Registries](#), National Institutes of Health
- Agency for HealthCare Research and Quality – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  - o [Computerized Disease Registries](#)
  - o [Health IT for Improved Chronic Disease Management](#)



We hope this information is useful. If you have follow-up questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

**Erik Skinner and Kate Bradford**

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