IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE:
Expanded Access to Evidence-Based Resources

OSDH DIGITAL LIBRARY

The National Library of Medicine developed a Public Health Information Access Project in 2010 to provide digital libraries on health department intranet sites. The goal of the pilot project was to improve public health practice at the state and local levels by providing low-cost access to high-value, evidence-based resources.

Through Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) funding, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) will work with the National Library of Medicine and the University of Massachusetts Medical School to establish a digital library on the OSDH intranet site. A contract is being established for digital library subscriptions, training, and support.

The digital library will provide electronic access to full-text articles from more than 200 journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, and Pediatrics. Journals that will be available on the digital library will cover virtually all medical topics of interest to OSDH employees as well as information specific to many professional positions (e.g., health educators, epidemiologists). Other resources that will be provided in the digital library include electronic reference books, Cochrane Library systematic reviews, conference proceedings, grey literature, and EndNote citation management for manuscripts.

The digital library will be available to all OSDH central

> ONLY 12% OF CENTRAL OFFICE PROFESSIONAL STAFF HAVE ELECTRONIC ACCESS PROVIDED BY OSDH TO OBTAIN SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES AND RESOURCES FROM THEIR DESK. NO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL STAFF HAVE THIS ACCESS.

According to the United Health Foundation, Oklahoma ranked 45th in America's Health Rankings for 2015.

Employees at OSDH need efficient access to additional resources and tools to:

1) **stay abreast of current research in their areas of concern;**
2) **prepare federal grant proposals;**
3) **obtain information, including Cochrane reviews, on evidence-based strategies for state and community projects;**
4) **share scientific information and best practices with partners/community coalitions; and**
5) **prepare and submit manuscripts for publication.**

office and county health department employees, although the primary audience will be professional staff. Currently, only 74 of 632 (12%) professional central office employees have electronic access provided by the OSDH to obtain scientific articles and resources from their desk. None of the 871 (0%) county health department professional employees currently have this access.

Employees will be able to access specific full journal articles on their computer and will also be able to browse the table of contents of each journal. Use of the digital library will be promoted and training will be provided.

The digital library project will be managed by the Director of the Office of Scientific and Research Integrity. A Digital Library Team will be established to assist with oversight of the project, including the layout of the digital library intranet site, training, promotion of the site, and evaluation. At least one person from each of the Deputy Commissioner areas of the OSDH and a county health department representative will serve on the Team.

The Office of Scientific and Research Integrity will work with the Digital Library Team and the National Library of Medicine to develop a SurveyMonkey questionnaire or focus group/interview sessions to measure the perceived value and use of the digital library. Use will be further evaluated by assessing the number of times each journal is accessed and which service areas are using the digital library. Evaluation results will be used to increase use of the digital library.