

1 Sep 2015

Upon your request, I'm happy to send a written proposal for a recommendation the Colorado Commission for Affordable Health Care could send to the Legislators of Colorado.

George Swan, MPH (UCLA '73)  
180 Poplar St – Unit i  
Denver CO 80220

### **Recommendation from the Colorado Commission for Affordable Health Care (CCAHC) to the Legislators of Colorado**

*In consideration of the importance of healthcare data transparency for improving the health of Colorado residents, for reducing the cost of healthcare and for improving the delivery of quality healthcare to individual patients and caregivers, it is recommended that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) be directed to create a 'pivot table repository' on their public website..*

The Commission determined that this action is practical and able to be accomplished expeditiously without expenditure of any significant additional resources.

In order for Colorado Legislators to better understand the value of pivot tables, The Commission wishes to share some examples provided by the public:

[CMS HCAHPS Scores pivot table](#)

[NHE National Health Expense History to 2013 projected to 2024](#)

[Colorado Health Institute, County Health Data](#)

[RWJF, Medicaid Enrollment Data](#)

[Univ of Wisconsin, County Health Ranking pivot table](#)

[Colorado Public Health: BRFSS pivot table](#)

The benefits of pivot tables are expected to be as follows:

- a) Pivot tables are simply an additional means for the public and key stakeholders to access data that meet criteria for improving data transparency, namely it is easily accessible, meaningful and actionable. Pivot tables do not impair or limit the existing or alternative means of data collection and reporting.
- b) The value to the public and key stakeholders will be quickly evident and will reinforce the necessity of finding means to improve the timeliness of data, another critical element of data transparency.
- c) The more pivot tables are created from existing relevant data registers, the more a 'science of pivot tables' is likely to improve data transparency beyond anything currently known or available in the health industry.

The potential leadership of CDPHE is relevant for several reasons:

- a) CDPHE oversees the Colorado Health Indicators Warehouse (CoHID), so can directly guide the creation of pivot tables from existing data sets.
- b) CDPHE oversees the Health Care Policy and Funding (HCPF) Division managing the Medicaid program in Colorado, so can directly guide the development of informative and relevant pivot tables.
- c) CDPHE is closely linked to the Colorado intermediary for Medicare, Intelligen, so can directly guide the development of informative and relevant pivot tables. In particular, Intelligen is a doorway to key Medicare data sets including hospital cost reports, Medicare enrollment, beneficiary claims data, patient satisfaction data, and important quality indicators.
- d) CDPHE is a central resource for all public health centers in Colorado. All members of the Colorado Alliance for Public Health Association (CALPHO) are required to coordinate with key stakeholders in local communities, including hospital and physician providers, to use a Community Health Assessment (CHA) for development of effective health improvement strategies. Pivot tables in a pivot table repository, organized by CDPHE, will provide CALPHO members with access to the meaningful, timely and actionable data they need.
- e) CDPHE is a key participant on a multitude of organizations where the potential value of pivot tables is very high, such as the Center for Improvement of Health Care Value (CIVHC, Colorado's All Payer Claims Database) and CORHIO, Colorado's Health Information Exchange.
- f) CDPHE can greatly improve the timeliness of data using data registers from several key sources, to mention a few: birth registration (informing newborn care as well as PRAMS, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Program); death certificates (informing cause of death, mortality and Potential Years of Life Lost); and communicable disease occurrences.
- g) CDPHE is closely affiliated to the rich source of national data at CDC, including the National Center of Vital Statistics and the Healthy People 2020 data. HP2020 is an aggregation of data within CDC and also from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and the US Census Bureau, among others.
- h) CDPHE oversees the licensure of facilities as well as quality indicators of hospitals, physicians and other healthcare facilities and services, so can directly guide the creation of pivot tables from existing data sets.