

2026 Culture of Data Call for Abstracts

Opening Poster and Network Session Wednesday, April 15, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Virtual Conference Thursday, April 16, 8:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m and Friday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Submission Period: November 10, 2025- January 9, 2026, 11:59pm MST.

The Colorado Public Health Association invites you to submit an abstract for our annual Culture of Data Conference to be held virtually on April 16-17, 2026

The Culture of Data (CoD) conference brings together community members, academia, state/local government, and nonprofit organizations that share a goal of achieving health Equity.

Conference objectives:

The Culture of Data conference is designed to strengthen the use of data to support the CPHA vision of creating the healthiest Colorado for everyone by:

- Promoting innovative data practices that foster community partnerships and collaboration, and improve data accessibility through real-world examples and skill sessions.
- Advancing health equity through community-centered data sharing: presenting practical models, demonstrating improved health outcomes, and fostering local application.
- Equipping participants with additional knowledge and tools to identify community assets and measure health equity using diverse data, analytic tools, and participatory approaches that can be integrated into their work.

This year's theme is the *People's Data - Democratizing Access, Understanding, and Use*

The People's Data: Democratizing Access, Understanding and Use is a dynamic conference dedicated to transforming how we connect people with public health data, making it more accessible, understandable, and useful for everyone. We'll explore the art of data storytelling and visualization, sharing best practices for creating compelling, accessible dashboards and narratives that build trust and combat misinformation. Develop strategies for launching and maintaining effective open data portals and dashboards while upholding data quality and ethics. The conference will dive into data literacy, focusing on equipping diverse communities with the skills to understand and utilize data equitably. Finally, we'll explore participatory methods for co-creating data initiatives with communities to ensure that data is actively shaped and used by them to drive advocacy and reduce health disparities.

Submissions that connect to the objectives and theme are highly encouraged; please refer to the suggestions below:

- Data Storytelling and Visualization:
 - How to effectively communicate complex public health data to diverse audiences, including the public, policymakers, and communities.
 - Best practices in designing compelling and accessible data visualizations and interactive dashboards.
 - The power of storytelling to build trust, address misinformation, and engage communities in public health initiatives.
 - Using data visualization to identify trends, patterns, and insights from public health data.
- Open Data Portals and Dashboards:
 - Strategies for building and maintaining user-friendly public health data portals and dashboards.
 - Ensuring data quality, integrity, and ethical considerations in open data initiatives.
 - Exploring real-world examples of successful open data initiatives and their impact on public health.
- Data Literacy Initiatives:
 - Developing and implementing effective data literacy programs for various audiences.
 - Equipping individuals and communities with the skills to understand, interpret, and use public health data.
 - Addressing digital health equity and ensuring equitable access to data literacy resources.
- Co-creation with Communities:
 - Engaging communities as central participants in the research, dissemination, and utilization of public health data.
 - Building trust and fostering collaboration through participatory approaches to data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
 - Empowering communities to leverage data for advocating for change and addressing health disparities

You may submit an abstract for one of the following formats below. We welcome anyone who

works within the broad field of public health and/or involved in community activism to apply.

- Lecture
 - A structured presentation led by one or more speakers, designed to share
 - in-depth information on a specific topic
 - 20-minute presentation with ~20 minutes for questions afterward
 - This is a typical conference presentation, usually presented with slides (audience interaction is welcomed)
- Poster
 - A visually-focused presentation where participants showcase their research, projects, or ideas through virtual posters
 - 1-hour duration for attendees to drop in and out to explore your live poster session breakout room
 - This presentation should include no more than 1 slide, presented live with audience Q&A throughout the session

Abstracts will be assessed on:

- Relevance to conference objectives and theme
- Whether they address equity
- Originality of the work
- Fit for the proposed format (lecture, poster, or lightning round)
- Preference will be given to abstracts that pertain to Colorado or surrounding states in the region

If you have any questions, please contact CPHA at info@coloradpublichealth.org