

DATA FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE

Data to Policy (D2P) Training Program

As part of the Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the CDC Foundation and Vital Strategies have partnered to develop and implement the Data to Policy (D2P) program. Its goal is to strengthen the use of data for public health policymaking.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND TIMELINE

D2P trains government health staff and public health professionals in using data to advance policy agendas and support government priorities through the development of data-driven policy briefs. The program format runs three to four months and includes phases of intensive training, mentorship and close stakeholder engagements.

Training Session 1

This session introduces the skills—such as analyzing data and understanding causes of public health issues—needed to develop a policy brief. This session combines didactic learning with case studies and exercises, covering introduction to policy briefs, descriptive epidemiology, data visualization, literature review, health impact modeling, economic analysis, and stakeholder analysis. Participants are able to present their policy topics and begin applying training skills to their own topics. Each participant is paired with a D2P mentor who will work with the participant teams to develop an in-depth work plan to help apply the skills from the training to their own projects. This 10-day session includes two in-country training units:

- The first unit focuses on problem analysis, stakeholder identification and development of policy options.
- The second unit covers the economic evaluation skills needed to conduct a cost benefit analysis for policy options.

Mentoring Phase

Between training sessions 1 and 2, participants work with assigned mentors over an eight-to-10-week period. Meetings occur at least every two weeks, either remotely or in person. Mentors help guide research, analysis and development of the participants' policy briefs.

Training Session 2

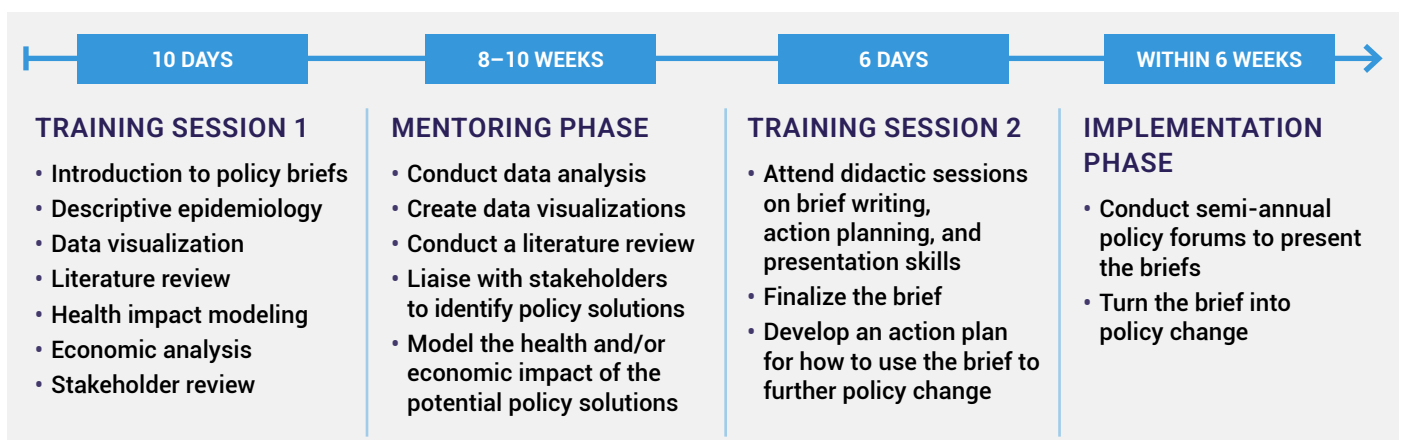
A six-day in-country training, the session includes creating visualizations, refining a call to action and developing a policy advancement plan. Participants leave with a completed brief and an action plan for how to use the brief to further policy change.

Policy Forum

This one-day event brings together key stakeholders identified earlier in the program. Participant teams present their policy briefs, encouraging dialogue from decision-makers.

Implementation Phase

In this final phase, mentors support participants as they present their brief and its findings to government officials and other relevant stakeholders during semi-annual policy forums. While the process of policy adoption depends on the local context, mentors help participants maintain momentum and identify the next steps.



What is health policy?



Health-related laws

- Enforced by government agencies other than public health (e.g., cigarette taxes, mandatory seat belt use)
- That apply to the health system (e.g., universal health coverage)



Government regulations

set by public health or other agencies

- Health regulations (e.g., changes in training of health workers, treatment guidelines)
- Regulations set by other ministries that impact health (e.g., environmental regulations, eligibility for school nutrition programs)



Strategic decision making

for health programs

- Resource allocation (e.g., increasing the funding allocation for disease prevention activities, for a specific high-burden disease, or a high-burden geographic area)
- Requests to external funders, government finance departments, etc.
- Program planning (e.g., developing new interventions, adapting existing ones)

PARTICIPANT SELECTION AND SPONSORSHIP

Governments can nominate up to eight teams with three to four members. Each team should include at least one member with policy expertise, one with epidemiologic or database management skills and one who is knowledgeable about the specific public health issue and operational setting.

Each team must provide a sponsor, ideally a senior official committed to ensuring that the policy proposal is successful. Sponsors guide and support participants during the policy brief development process—identifying stakeholders, advising on potential policy options and championing the briefs upon completion. Sponsors are expected to meet regularly with teams during the training and after brief completion.

PARTICIPANT CRITERIA

Potential participants must provide a written commitment to complete all stages of the training and apply their knowledge upon return to their roles. Ideal candidates are professionals who analyze health data, and participate in health policy development, health program planning or field epidemiology program at the local or national level.

Additional criteria include:

- Training in public health, epidemiology, health policy, public policy or a related field
- Basic data analysis skills (required for analysts)
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- Experience with statistical software (preferred)

POLICY TOPIC GUIDELINES

Participants must enter the training with a policy topic that:

- Reflects immediate government priorities
- Addresses an important public health problem and potential solutions
- Uses existing data sources (e.g., civil registration and vital statistics, cancer registries, noncommunicable disease data, demographic and health surveys, HMIS data)
- Can be completed within the three-to-four month program timeline

CONTACT INFORMATION

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