APHA/CDC INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION DATA SCIENCE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION 2026

APHA

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.



Overview

Data science is a multidisciplinary approach that blends techniques from computer science, statistics, epidemiology, and other domains. It often focuses on large or novel data sources and the application of artificial intelligence domains such as machine learning or natural language processing. This particular focus on large and complex data sources has the intention to improve the measurement and prevention of a host of public health issues including injury and violence.

With a dedicated focus on this emerging field, we can continue to uncover ways to improve public health assessments, interventions, and other mechanisms to improve health, safety, and well-being for our communities.

Opportunity

To elevate the utility of data science in advancing public health practice, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, in partnership with the American Public Health Association, has developed the Injury and Violence Prevention Data Science Demonstration Project. The overarching aim of this initiative is to enhance public health capacity and provide support to organizations engaged in data science work.

For this iteration of the program, we invite responses from organizations with existing data science projects seeking to expand their efforts. Eligible participants are state, county, and local public health agencies and their associated medical examiner/coroner offices, as well as organizations with strong partnerships in these areas.

Projects may focus on:

- Improving the timeliness of health information,
- Enhancing the efficiency of responses to public health threats,
- Increasing the effectiveness of prevention programs and campaigns, or
- Addressing other critical public health priorities.

We encourage innovative initiatives that demonstrate the impactful role of data science in advancing public health outcomes.

Goals

- Enhance the data science workforce and capacity
- Strengthen data science partnerships

- Increase awareness of the public health benefits from data science

Program Components

Access to Data Science Subject Matter Experts

Each site will be assigned a CDC subject matter liaison and meet monthly to address support needed or other issues related to the implementation of the project.

Funding

Each site will be awarded up to $200,000 to assist with project implementation. Final award amount will be determined by an internal team and in some instances may be less than the amount requested.

Community of Practice

There will be opportunities for sites to engage with one another to share any lessons learned and best practices throughout the duration of the data science demonstration project program period.

Learning Labs

Sites will be able to participate in professional development opportunities related to data science.

Eligibility Criteria

This opportunity is open to organizations or institutions currently working on data science projects focused on injury and violence prevention. If various groups representing multiple organizations are partnering on a collective effort, they are also eligible to apply. There are four main areas of focus for this RFP:

1) Using natural language processing or machine learning to improve the timeliness, efficiency, and automation of injury or violence surveillance systems or programs. For example, major injury mortality data systems, such as the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) and the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), experience significant delays because information must be manually abstracted, entered, or curated. Furthermore, often the information needed to complete these surveillance systems comes from multiple data sources (health, law enforcement, laboratory, etc.) which are not linked or even sometimes available in standard electronic formats.

Opportunities exist to use machine learning, natural language processing, or other data science approaches to automate and streamline processes. For example, natural language process (NLP) approaches may help to identify and abstract certain variables in a semi-automated or automated way. Applicants could propose a data science focused approach to improve injury or violence mortality data surveillance systems (such as NVDRS, SUDORS) and the state and local systems and processes which compile and abstract information for them.

2) Lags in official data sources hinder public health efforts to respond in a timely way. Novel machine learning and prediction modeling approaches to nowcast (I.e., prediction of the present state absent gold standard data) and forecast (i.e., prediction of future trends) injury trends can improve timely situational awareness, surveillance, planning, and public health decision-making. Applicants are encouraged to propose a data science-focused approach to harness real-time novel data available at the state and local level to do nowcasting and/or forecasting work. Modeling targets are not limited to death

certificate data; applicants may propose other injury or violence outcomes and data sources (e.g., emergency department visits, EMS encounters, hospitalizations). All nowcasting and forecasting models should be validated against objective data.

3) Additionally, applicants could also focus on leveraging NLP or exploring large language models (LLM) to speed up the analyses of qualitative data.

4) Electronic health record (EHR)-based data remain an underused resource for injury surveillance. Syndromic surveillance systems such as the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP)/ESSENCE are widely used in public health, including for injury, but contain limited text data for understanding health conditions and circumstances. Applicants could propose data science approaches, including NLP and public health informatics advancements, that enable health departments to access and use richer EHR data to strengthen injury and violence surveillance and prevention.

Other potential areas of focus include:

- Use of predictive modeling or machine learning to improve service delivery
- Technology based interventions to address injury or violence
- Data linkage for injury or violence prevention

It is recommended that all proposed projects include collaboration with state or local health departments or a relevant local public health entity. Content areas of the proposed work should focus on **violence, adverse childhood experiences, suicide, and/or drug overdose.**

Scope of Work/Program Requirements

At the conclusion of this program, it is expected that participants will demonstrate enhanced capacity in data science and disseminate project findings.

Program participants are committing to the following:

- Participate in monthly meetings with the CDC/APHA project team
- Submit Interim Report
- Respond to Pre and Post Survey
- Participate in Community of Practice
- Produce a final deliverable (e.g. report, case study, training, etc.) that incorporates plain and clear communication of complex data science concepts and methods
- Submit final report

Timeline

Program Component	Date
Application opens	**Friday, November 13, 2026**

Submission deadline	**Friday, December 18, 2026**
Application decisions announced	**Friday, January 8, 2026**
Signed participating site contracts due	**Friday, February 5, 2027 (please notify contract team while applying)**
Virtual kickoff and first all-site meeting	**Tuesday, February 9, 2027**
Program period and ongoing Community of Practice	**February 12–December 3, 2027**
Learning Lab 1	**Thursday, February 25, 2027***
Data Science Collaborative Meeting in person, including site presentations	**Wednesday–Friday, March 24–26, 2027***
Written interim report due	**Friday, May 21, 2027***
Learning Lab 2	**Thursday, June 10, 2027***
All-site progress meeting virtual	**Thursday, July 29, 2027***
Learning Lab 3	**Thursday, August 26, 2027***
Learning Lab 4	**Thursday, October 7, 2027***
Dissemination of the work at the APHA Annual Meeting in person	**November 7-10 2027**
Final presentation	**December 2–3, 2027**
Final report, final product, and post-program survey due	**December 9–10, 2027**
Program closeout	**December 2027**

** Proposed dates, subject to confirmation. Additional meeting details will be provided to participating sites.*

Incurred Expenses

APHA will not be responsible for any costs incurred by any Offeror in preparing and submitting a proposal or in performing any other activities relative to this solicitation.

Proposal Submission

Application Contact Information

Lead Organization	
Primary Point Contact (Include CV/Resume as an attachment)	
Name	
Title	
Email	
Phone	

Proposal Response

Applicants must provide clear and concise responses to the following prompts and questions:

Current Data Science Project Overview (2000 words)

Include the following components in your response.

- Project start date
- Data source(s) being used
- Project Goals
- Project Objectives
- The injury or violence prevention issue being addressed
- Collaboration (if applicable)
- Key Activities
- Techniques
- Expected results
- Proposed plan for showcasing the findings
- Evaluation Plan or Strategy
- Any successes/challenge

Innovation (300 words)

What is the potential scientific contribution of this work?

Organization Capacity (300 words)

Describe the lead organization's capacity to facilitate this project?

Technical Assistance Needs (300 words)

What are some potential capacity building assistance needs?

Demonstration Project Participation (300 words)

How will your team benefit from participating in this initiative?

Proposed Budget

Indirect rate cannot exceed 15% The Budget include the indirect should not exceed (200,000).

Fiscal Agent information:

Name	
Title	
Organization	
Email	
Phone	

Activity	Brief Description/Justification	Cost/Rate

Proposal Overview

- Current Data Science Project Overview (2000 words)
- Innovation (300 words)
- Organization Capacity (300 words)
- Technical Assistance Needs (300 words)
- Technical Assistance Needs (300 words)
- Demonstration Project Participation (300 words)

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and objectively evaluated based on how the respondent's current data science project aligns with the overall goals and purpose of this initiative.

Proposal Submissions

Applications must be submitted by logging in to the application portal

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Questions

Questions from prospective respondents can be sent to practice@apha.org and should be submitted by Friday, Nov. 20, 2026.