



POLICY ASPECTS OF TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

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Department of Health Mission

- The Department of Health works with others to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington State.
- Our core values are Equity, Innovation and Engagement.
- Technology plays a critical role in meeting this mission and carrying out our values.

[RCW 43.70.005: Intent](#)

DOH Systems

Underpinning Statutory Requirements

Types of Data Collected & Reported:

- Behavioral Risk Factors.
- Near real-time hospital and clinic patient diagnosis data.
- Comprehensive reporting for admitted hospital patients.
- Community Health Assessment.
- Disease Reporting.
- Healthy Youth Survey.
- Foodborne Illness.
- Vital Records and Statistics. (Birth, death, marriage, and divorce.)

[RCW 43.70.050: Collection, use, and accessibility of health-related data](#)

DOH Technology

Underpinning Statutory Requirements

Complex Data Collection and Reporting Landscape:

- Federal reporting systems. (RHINO, Cancer Registry, WIC)
- Spreadsheet data collection.
 - Includes a lot of environmental data.
 - Manual data collection/management.
 - Data is less accessible for reuse.
- DOH supported systems. (WDRS, FINS)
 - Providers submit to local health jurisdictions through systems.
 - Legacy system struggle to meet needs of tribal partners.
- Systems shared with other state agencies (MPI, HYS)

[RCW 43.70.050: Collection, use, and accessibility of health-related data](#)

DOH Systems

Underpinning Statutory Requirements

Additional DOH Systems:

- Licensing: ILRS/[HELMS](#)
- Public Health Systems:
 - [OneHealthPort](#) – Electronic Lab and Syndromic Surveillance
 - AIMS – Association of Public Health Laboratories APHL Informatics Messaging Services
 - [WEMSYS](#) – Washington Emergency Medical Services Information System
 - LIMS – Laboratory Information Management System

[Chapter 70.41 RCW: HOSPITAL LICENSING AND REGULATION](#)

[RCW 43.70.220: Transfer of powers and duties from the department of licensing.](#)

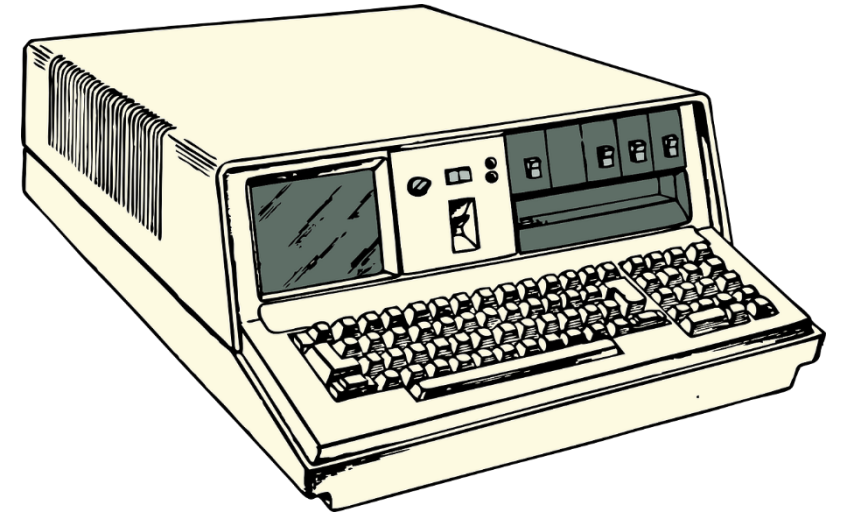
[RCW 43.70.130: Powers and duties of secretary—General.](#)

Key IT Modernization Projects

- **Health Enforcement Licensing Management System:**
 - Salesforce-based system manages licensing and enforcement.
 - Replacing a 20-yr old legacy system.
 - Set to implement the 2nd release in February.
 - Serving 500,000 professionals and 12,000 facility credentials per year.
- **Laboratory Information Management System Replacement Project:**
 - Modernizing Public Health Lab operations.
 - Replacing a 20-yr old legacy system.
- **Public Health Data Systems Feasibility Study :**
 - Modernizing systems for better disease surveillance and data reporting.

Legacy Systems and Limitations

- Many systems are outdated and incompatible with modern applications.
- Legacy systems limit data integration and interoperability.
- Older technology slows responses to public health threats, requiring costly workarounds.
- Limits ability to meet the needs of tribal public health authorities.



Policies Where Technology is the Limiting Factor

- **Data Sharing & Interoperability:**
 - Legacy systems hinder seamless data sharing across agencies.
- **Workforce Management:**
 - Outdated HR and payroll systems slow down staff recruitment and management.
- **Regulatory Compliance:**
 - Old systems hinder timely reporting and tracking for health professionals.

Policies Where Technology is the Limiting Factor

- **Data Privacy Laws:**
 - Legacy systems and technology limitations.
 - Lack of standardized tools and capabilities like data deletion.
 - Consent management and ability to process consumer requests.
- **Licensing and Enforcement Policies:**
 - Require IT system configuration changes.
- **Cybersecurity standards and policies:**
 - Legacy systems.
 - Lack of updated infrastructure.
 - Resource limitations slow down DOH's ability to fully comply with cybersecurity standards, leaving vulnerabilities.

How Technology Helps DOH Meet Statutory Requirements

- **Investment in modernization** is essential for improving regulatory compliance and to support better health outcomes.
- Supportive IT Policies:
 - **Promote continued technology modernization** to protect Washington residents.
 - **Develop centralized technology services** that allow for better interoperability between agencies.
 - Specify **what needs to happen versus how** it needs to happen within technology.



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