



Quality Improvement Success Story

Vitals Project



NEVADA COUNTY
Public Health

Death records are initiated and finalized in the Electronic Death Record System (EDRS). The State, typically within 30 days, downloads the data from EDRS to the AVSS system. Vitals staff runs reports monthly out of AVSS to provide to various other County departments and entities within the County. In order to make sure the information was up to date in AVSS, vitals staff manually entered death records into AVSS to ensure timeliness of reports. Vitals staff calculated 8 minutes per record to enter, representing 154 hours entering data for the 1,155 deaths reported in 2017.

- 1) Redirection of time. Before: approximately 154 hours per year spent re-entering data into AVSS that already exists in EDRS. After: 0.
- 2) Improved job satisfaction due to streamlining and simplifying tasks.
- 3) Improved skill set including increased proficiency with Excel.
- 4) Improved efficiencies with no change in service delivery to consumers.
- 5) Preparation for eventual phase-out of the AVSS system.

The Problem



The Action

Found the EDRS manual online and downloaded the raw data to both ACCESS and EXCEL; built report templates and numerous pivot tables to provide customers reports in the accustomed format; reviewed as a group the canned reports available in EDRS; determined the EDRS canned reports as sufficient in detailing the necessary information included in the AVSS reports, and to be completely acceptable. Vitals staff receiving training to improve Excel skills for the purpose of running ad hoc reports requested by staff. Vitals staff notified customers that beginning with the January 2018 monthly reports, the new reports will look slightly different, but all the same data elements are present.

The Result

The Connection

Nevada County Public Health works to improve resource efficiencies by:

- ⇒ Eliminating redundancies
- ⇒ Leveraging existing technology
- ⇒ Reducing time waste

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