ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A ROBUST STATE HEALTH ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND:
The Vermont Department of Health is conducting its second State Health Assessment (SHA) in 2017 as part of its continual performance improvement process. The SHA is a tool for tracking morbidity and mortality, communicating trends and needs, and helping determine where to devote resources to improve population health. The SHA informs the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), which addresses long-term health outcomes and prevention goals, while providing evidence-based strategies and guidelines to achieve identified outcomes. This project focused on the creation of an infectious disease burden document and updating the injury burden document for Vermont as part of the larger SHA process.

KEY OBJECTIVES:
Share experiences and lessons learned from Vermont’s Infectious Disease and Injury Prevention Programs in developing burden documents to inform the State Health Assessment, while fostering discussions with other local, state, and federal stakeholders.

CONSIDERATIONS:
Continuous evaluation for process improvement
Ensure stakeholders are engaged appropriately and well represented while balancing needs
Prioritize interventions based upon assessments, with a focus on health equity
Identify potential challenges and ways to overcome them:
- Cross-division collaboration
- State vs. federal guidelines
- Effectively communicating data