

### **Status:**

- Act 1035 of 2003, established the **Arkansas Health Data Initiative** (HDI) and gives authority to the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) to access information collected by state agencies and departments upon permission of the director of that agency or department.
- ACHI has historically served as a catalyst to bring together data from various state agencies and resources to inform public health policy. Examples include:
  - Arkansas County Fact Sheets, compiled in 2000, about health status that supported statewide education related to the Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act
  - Linkage between the ACHI BMI database and Medicaid data to determine the cost, use, and diagnoses associated with childhood obesity
  - 2007 analyses facilitated by ACHI and conducted by ADH Center for Health Statistics staff, which linked Arkansas Hospital Discharge data with Arkansas State Police crash data to inform the policy debate related to safety belt use and development of the statewide trauma system.

### **Program:**

The vision of the Arkansas HDI is that the HDI warehouse will be the foundation for the ACHI Data Center. Collected data will be brought into the data warehouse for transformation and integration. This will be performed by several automated processes and scripted procedures primarily coupled with stringent quality assurance mechanisms. Funding for the Arkansas HDI will continue to support these activities.

### **Impact:**

- Once the data are integrated into the data warehouse, managers, analysts and/or researchers will have secure and restricted access to the data and be able to manipulate the data through analytic files and views. From this point, results from data analyses can be made accessible: (1) to support health policy efforts; (2) for internal and external health policy researchers; and/or (3) for other appropriate and relevant research efforts.

### **How it Works:**

- ACHI is now developing the processes and infrastructure to migrate from a file-based data storage system to a data warehouse solution. The warehouse will provide a robust and scalable data center to host data used to inform health policy in the state, enabling ACHI to collect, integrate, maintain, store, manage and permit limited and secure access to a large multi-year database of aggregated data.
- As envisioned, the HDI warehouse will be an infrastructure well suited to handling, integrating and linking the various external datasets ACHI now works with, as well as those anticipated being brought on-line from other state and external agencies in the future. The data warehouse solution will ensure consistency and accuracy with minimal manual processes, and will house the data in such a way that allows for extracts that combine data from multiple data sources and multiple time periods, providing insight and knowledge about datasets not previously available.

**Administration/Oversight:** Operating per authority of Arkansas Act 1035 of 2003, the Arkansas HDI is overseen by the Director of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement.