

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Board of Health

Regulation Relating to Maternal and Childhood Home Visiting Programs

Approved February 13, 2020

WHEREAS, Section 5-301(b) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter authorizes the Board of Health to issue Department of Public Health regulations for the preservation and promotion of the health of the people of Philadelphia;

WHEREAS, Section 6-202(4) of The Philadelphia Code authorizes reporting to the Department of Public Health such information and reports as may be required by regulations adopted by the Board of Health to ensure the proper control of communicable diseases or to aid in the formulation and review of municipal programs for the promotion of the health of the public;

WHEREAS, there is a strong evidence-base establishing that maternal and child home visiting services can improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health has identified a need to collect information about clients enrolled in maternal and child home visiting programs in order to conduct public health surveillance with the purpose of preventing negative maternal and child health outcomes in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, maternal and childhood home visiting providers maintain records of clients enrolled in their programs, and reporting from maternal and childhood home visiting providers in a standard electronic format imposes only a minimal administrative burden on providers;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Health hereby adopts this Regulation Relating to Maternal and Childhood Home Visiting Programs, as follows:

Section 1. Definitions

Anonymized Data Set. A data set that includes Enrollment Data and has been processed to remove Identifiers so that the probability of identifying an individual is very small.

Department. The Department of Public Health.

Enrollment Data. Client data on enrollment in maternal and childhood home visiting programs related to Philadelphia residents who are pregnant or families of residents five years of age or younger, including program name, caregiver name, caregiver date of birth, caregiver gender, caregiver pregnancy status, child name, child date of birth, child gender, date of enrollment in program, date of exit from program, and other relevant client enrollment data as requested by the Department.

Home Visiting Provider. Any person or entity that provides voluntary maternal or childhood home visiting services for pregnant women or families of young children.

Identifiers. Data elements that (1) directly identify individuals (for example: name, address, birthdate, phone number, license plate, social security number); or (2) may be used to identify individuals, when used in combination with other data elements in a data set or publicly available data sources (for example: specific dates or locations associated with services provided to the individual, gender, race).

Section 2. Voluntary Reporting of Maternal and Childhood Home Visiting Enrollment Data

The Department is hereby authorized to collect Enrollment Data from Home Visiting Providers for the purpose described in this regulation. At the Department's written request, Home Visiting Providers may securely transmit Enrollment Data to the Department in such electronic format as may be specified by the Department. The Department is authorized to use the Enrollment Data solely to create an Anonymized Data Set as provided in Section 3, below.

Section 3. Creation and Use of an Anonymized Data Set

The Enrollment Data received pursuant to this regulation shall be provided to a limited number of Department staff, who shall: (1) compile the Enrollment Data, and, as needed to supply demographic information or other data elements necessary to the public health surveillance project, link such data with other sources of information available to the Department; and (2) remove Identifiers from such compiled data set in order to create an Anonymized Data Set.

The Department is authorized to use the Anonymized Data Set to conduct public health surveillance related to maternal and childhood home visiting services in Philadelphia for the purpose of preventing negative maternal and child health outcomes. For example, the Department may use the Anonymized Data Set to develop an accurate city-wide census of home visiting enrollment, assess barriers to enrollment, evaluate the ability of current home visiting programs to meet the demand for home visiting services, and strategically plan for the implementation of new home visiting programs. Department staff who access the Anonymized

Data Set shall not attempt to re-identify the data set or ascertain the identify of any individual data subject.

Section 4. Confidentiality

The Department shall use appropriate safeguards to prevent unauthorized use or disclosure of Enrollment Data, including limiting access to Enrollment Data to those Department staff who are authorized to compile and prepare the Anonymized Data Set.

The Department shall maintain the confidentiality of all data collected pursuant to this Regulation in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in a manner consistent with the confidentiality standards applicable to the Department's maintenance of case records as set forth at 28 Pa. Code § 27.5a.