




MAY 31, 2024

# About Public Health Data Interoperability

AT A GLANCE

- Interoperability means that data systems at every level are required “to speak the same or similar language.”
- When we make clinical data and public health data work together better, it will be easier for information to move between them.



## Challenge

Sharing of public health data is currently challenging for many reasons. Many public health data systems rely on outdated technologies that don’t work well with other systems. Additionally, they rely on data that is not organized in a standard way and use data sharing policies and agreements that aren’t flexible. This has greatly hindered healthcare and public health professionals’ ability to respond to health threats that require rapid collection and sharing of essential data to inform public health action.

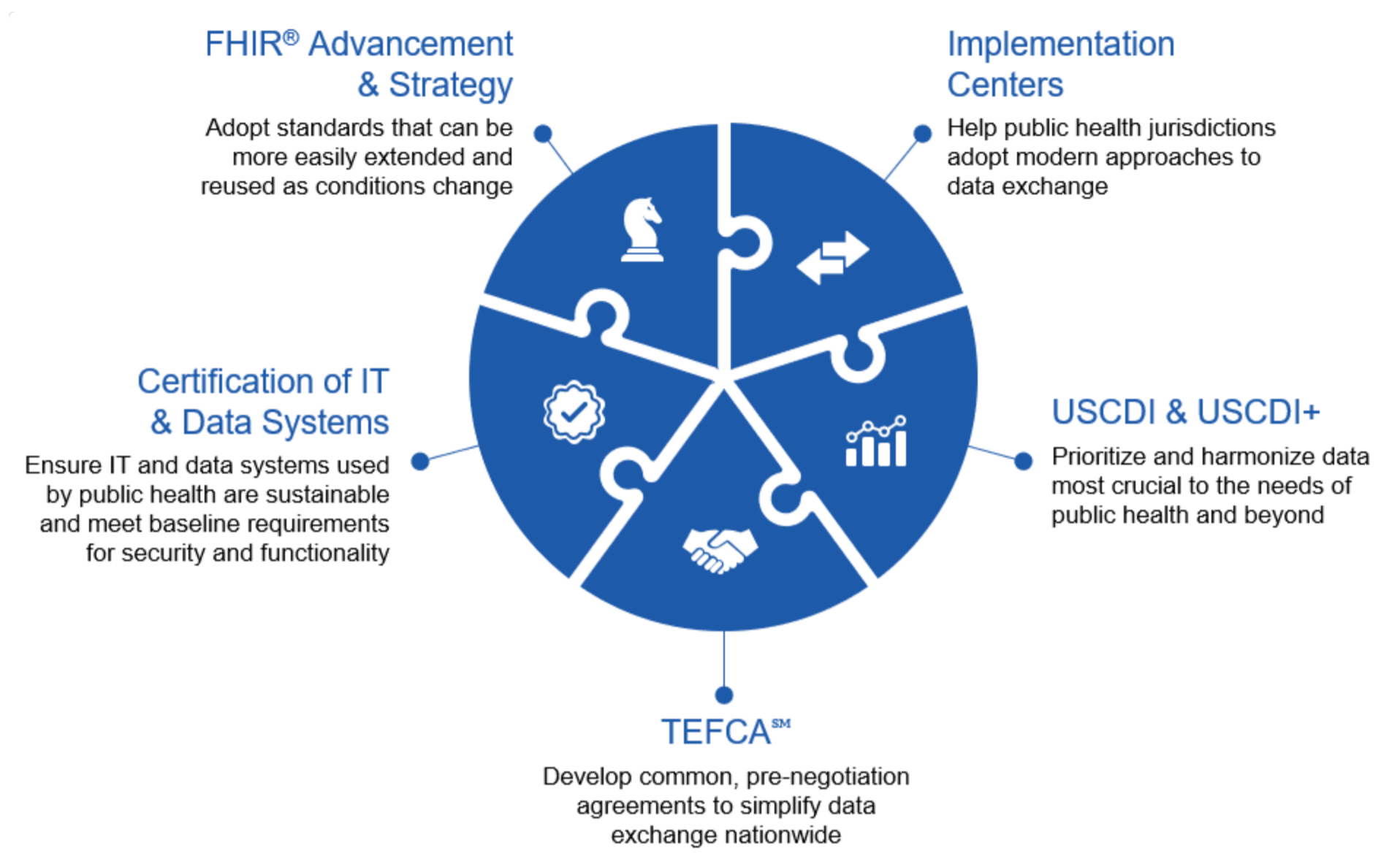
## Public Health Need

Essential data must be able to flow seamlessly across the public health ecosystem to better inform communities, provide faster outbreak detection, respond to public health threats, and reduce burden on healthcare and public health professionals.

## Collaboration

To accomplish these goals, the CDC and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) jointly lead the federal public health interoperability strategy. Together, we provide the tools, support, and resources to ensure timely and secure sharing of data that is usable for public health action without unnecessary effort and complexity.

## How Do the Pieces of Interoperability Fit Together



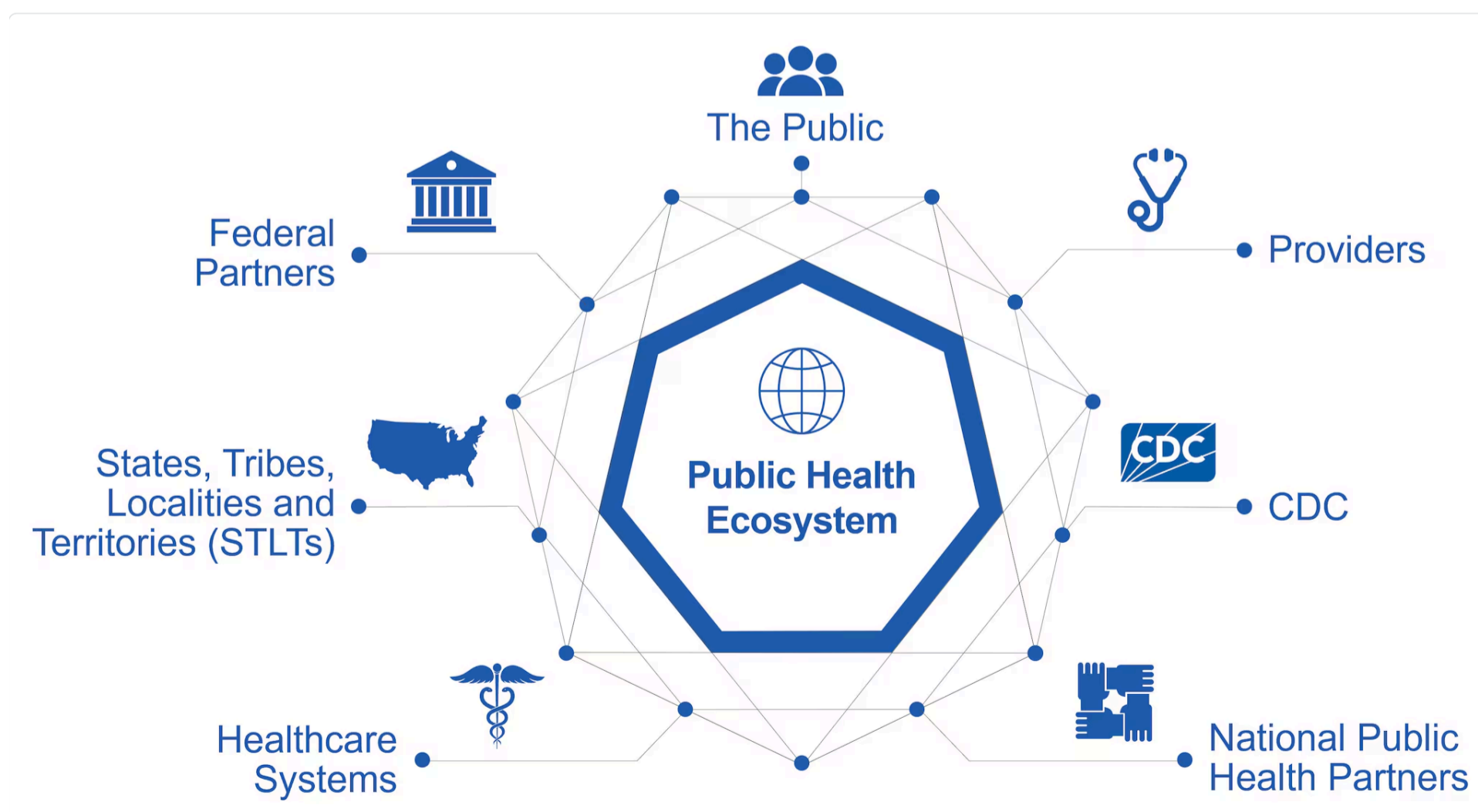
This figure depicts how the pieces of the federal public health interoperability strategy fit together.

This figure depicts how the pieces of the federal public health interoperability strategy fit together. In clockwise order, these include:

- Fast Healthcare Interoperability (FHIR®) Advancement & Strategy to adopt standards that can be more easily extended and reused as conditions change.
- Implementation Centers to help public health jurisdictions adopt modern approaches to data exchange.
- United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) & USCDI+ to prioritize and harmonize data most crucial to the needs of public health and beyond.
- Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA™) to develop common, pre-negotiation agreements to simplify data exchange nationwide
- Certification of IT & Data Systems to ensure IT and data systems used by public health are sustainable and meet baseline requirements for security and functionality.

CDC and ONC are collaborating on a multipronged approach that will:

**Establish consistent system requirements across the public health ecosystem**



The public health ecosystem includes federal partners among others.

The public health ecosystem includes federal partners, the public, providers, CDC, national public health partners, healthcare systems, and states, tribes, localities and territories (STLTs).

- CDC is collaborating with partners to prioritize and harmonize public health data capture and reporting across the public health ecosystem, by establishing national uniform healthcare and public health data elements under [USCDI](#) and [USCDI+](#) (the United States Core Data for Interoperability).
- CDC is collaborating with ONC to ensure IT and data systems used by public health are sustainable and meet baseline requirements for security and functionality.
- CDC is supporting healthcare and public health baseline health information (IT) capabilities to share electronic health data through adoption of industry-leading interoperability standards.
- Through the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement<sup>SM</sup> (TEFCA<sup>SM</sup>), CDC and ONC are partnering to establish a universal governance, policy, and technical floor for nationwide interoperability.

**Accelerate progress in modernizing data infrastructure through technical support, standards, and agreements**

- CDC is supporting health departments through funding three national partners to establish public health-facing Implementation Centers (IC). These ICs will support state, territorial, local, and tribal (STLTs) public health departments in adopting FHIR® and USCDI/USCDI+ as well as modernizing through established HIT standards.
- Through ONC-adopted data standards, such as FHIR®, we will ensure data can be understood and reused as conditions change.
- CDC has started to establish advanced Data Use Agreements (DUAs) to promote a data-sharing trust network that focuses on maintaining data sharing flexibility while meeting public health surveillance systems where they are today and into the future.
- CDC is committed to participation in the TEFCA<sup>SM</sup> to simplify and improve the timeliness and efficiency of public health interoperability across the country.

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SOURCES

**CONTENT SOURCE:**

[Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology \(OPHDST\)](#)