



## Our History

For over 70 years, CDC has used the best available science and data to make public health decisions. Our commitment to ensuring those core tools are both timely and of the highest quality goes back just as far. Today, the Deputy Director of Science and Surveillance leads this work. The work of the Deputy Director and staff continues – and builds upon – progress made by the Office of Public Health Scientific Services (OPHSS).

## Extending the Possibilities of Science and Surveillance

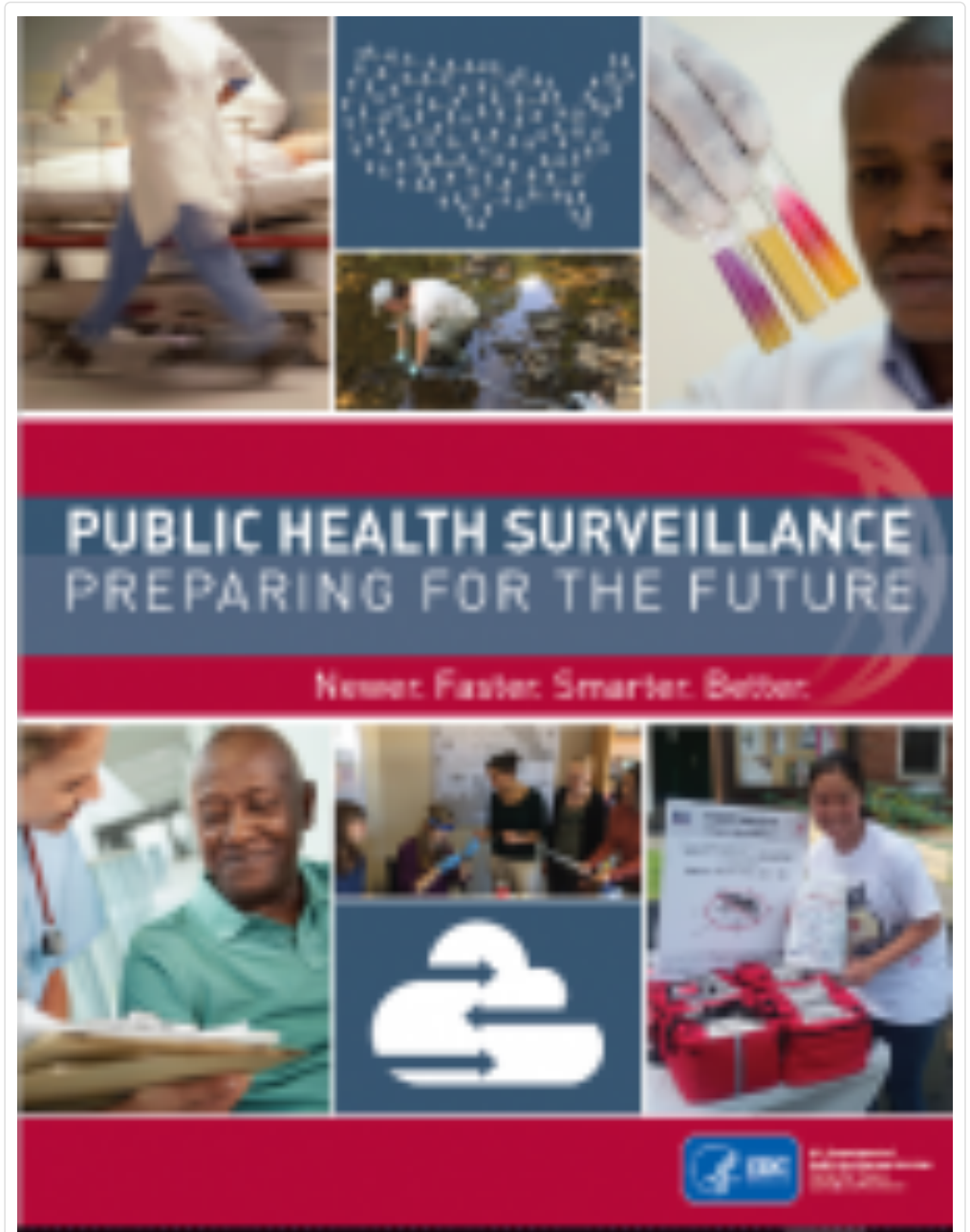
CDC's expertise in science extends beyond one issue and one approach. The factors affecting our health are wide-ranging—from inefficient or underfunded systems, to new and changing health threats, natural disasters, bio-terrorism, access to healthcare, and the growing burden of noncommunicable diseases and drug overdoses. These issues require strategic thinking, new ideas, flexibility, and readiness to connect across disciplines.<sup>[1]</sup> Having strategic CDC leadership charged with those tasks has helped drive practical approaches to address present—and anticipate future—public health challenges. It also helps ignite and incubate new research and projects that are furthered by other parts of CDC and outside partners.

## Why it Matters

Today's landscape requires thinking beyond traditional approaches of collecting and sharing health information and statistics. We need accurate and timely data that direct decisions, technology that keeps pace with our need for speed, and research that reaches across CDC and beyond.

As the nation's health protection agency, it is important to connect across [CDC's Centers, Institutes, and Offices \(CIOs\)](#) to allow the agency to be more responsive and effective when dealing with public health concerns. Connecting and communicating CDC's scientific priorities as a whole has been critical in finding efficiencies, leveraging resources, and tackling tough problems that need wider agency participation.

Work produced through the Office of Public Health Scientific Services has set a strong foundation for our future focus, and has included the following activities and accomplishments:



Learn more about our ongoing work to improve surveillance and data at CDC.

## Improving Surveillance and Data Platforms

<b>Driving CDC's Surveillance Strategy</b>	+
<b>Leading CDC's Surveillance Board</b>	+
<b>Generating and connecting innovation</b>	+
<b>Modernizing data platforms for increased productivity</b>	+
<b>Enhancing understanding of complex information through data visualization</b>	+

## Connecting Public Health and Healthcare

<b>Exchanging healthcare data electronically</b>	+
<b>Improving clinical guideline development, decision support, and quality measures</b>	+


## Putting Data to Work

<b>Understanding CDC's scientific workforce and surveillance systems, and support to partners</b>	+
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## Informing New Research

<b>Advancing new research through the MMWR Rural Health Series</b>	+
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## References

[1] Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Connecting health and care for the nation: a 10-year vision to achieve an interoperable health IT infrastructure. <https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/ONC10yearInteroperabilityConceptPaper.pdf> . Accessed August 9, 2016.

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