



**Chronic Disease
Academy**
Connect • Engage • Innovate



September 15-17, 2026

Call for Abstracts

NACDD invites public health professionals to [submit an abstract](#) for the [2026 Virtual Chronic Disease Academy](#). The 2026 Academy will take place on September 15-17, 2026 via Zoom. The Academy will share advances in public health practice and provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and leadership development in disease prevention and health promotion. This year's event will focus on the three themes: **Connect, Engage, Innovate**.

The Academy attracts hundreds of public health professionals from around the U.S. each year. It provides an opportunity for people working in chronic disease prevention and control programs to share information with peers across the nation about best practices and evidence-based public health approaches.

Abstracts are being accepted for concurrent sessions across all three days of programming. Review guidelines and submit your abstract by **Friday May 15, 2026**.

We look forward to engaging with you and your team to make this a memorable and educational virtual experience that advances public health practice and strengthens our community of chronic disease prevention professionals.

Questions? email cphl@chronicdisease.org.

Abstract Submission Form

Priority Topic Areas

Data Modernization and Artificial Intelligence

How chronic disease programs are applying advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and modern data tools to enhance surveillance, streamline workflows, improve decision-making, and accelerate innovative solutions for chronic disease challenges.

Connect

- Building data-sharing partnerships across agencies, sectors, and community organizations
- Creating integrated data ecosystems that support collaborative chronic disease monitoring
- Strengthening cross-program alignment through shared dashboards and analytic tools

Engage

- Using data visualization to communicate insights to communities and stakeholders
- Co-designing data tools with end users to ensure accessibility and relevance
- Empowering local partners with actionable data for community-driven prevention strategies

Innovate

- Applying AI and machine learning to identify trends, predict risk, and inform interventions
- Automating routine data processes to free staff capacity for strategic work
- Using advanced analytics to evaluate program impact and guide real-time decision-making

Health Communication and Storytelling

How chronic disease programs use strategic communication, narrative approaches, and culturally responsive storytelling to build trust, strengthen public understanding, and motivate action in chronic disease prevention and control.

Connect

- Building communication partnerships across public health, healthcare, and community organizations
- Co-developing narratives with community leaders to strengthen cross-sector messaging
- Creating shared communication frameworks for chronic disease prevention networks

Engage

- Using storytelling to elevate lived experience and community voice in prevention initiatives
- Designing culturally grounded communication strategies that resonate with priority populations
- Leveraging digital platforms to foster two-way communication and sustained engagement

Innovate

- Applying human-centered design to craft compelling public health narratives
- Using multimedia storytelling (video, animation, interactive formats) to enhance message impact
- Integrating behavioral science insights into communication strategies for chronic disease

Partnerships

How chronic disease programs are cultivating cross-sector partnerships—with healthcare, community organizations, education, business, and government—to expand capacity, align resources, and drive collaborative approaches to chronic disease prevention.

Connect

- Building and sustaining multisector coalitions for chronic disease prevention
- Strengthening partnerships between public health and healthcare systems
- Leveraging regional networks to align chronic disease priorities and resources

Engage

- Co-developing community-led prevention initiatives with trusted local partners
- Engaging nontraditional partners (e.g., housing, transportation, employers) to address social drivers of health
- Using participatory approaches to ensure shared decision-making and accountability

Innovate

- Designing new partnership models that integrate technology, data, and community expertise
- Piloting cross-sector funding or resource-sharing strategies
- Using collaborative innovation labs to test and scale chronic disease solutions

Session Types

Abstracts will be considered for the following virtual session formats.

Workshop Sessions

- **Format:** 60–90 minutes
- **Focus:** Skill-building, collaboration, and shared problem-solving
 - Workshops emphasize active learning and peer exchange. Presenters serve as facilitators, guiding participants through hands-on activities, small-group discussions, or scenario-based exercises. Sessions should include practical tools and real-world applications.
- **Ideal for:** Co-creation, case-based learning, simulations, facilitated dialogue.

Lightning Talks

- **Format:** 10-15 minutes, rapid-fire, image-driven
- **Focus:** Big ideas, emerging innovations, concise storytelling

- Presenters deliver a focused, visually compelling narrative that sparks curiosity and inspires new thinking.
- **Ideal for:** Emerging ideas, pilot projects, community stories, early innovations, lessons learned, or “aha moments.”

Digital Poster Presentations

- **Format:** Digital poster and live Q&A
- **Focus:** A concise, visually engaging way to share program highlights, evaluation findings, innovative approaches, or emerging ideas in chronic disease prevention and control.
 - Presenters create a digital poster (PDF or slide-based) that participants can view on demand, with a brief live or chat-based Q&A during the Academy.
- **Ideal for:** Program summaries, evaluation snapshots, pilot projects, data visualizations, community stories, early innovations, or work that benefits from a visual, concise format.

Spotlight Session

- **Eligibility:** This session type is open to State and Territorial Health Departments only.
- **Format:** 20–30 minutes, plus Q&A
- **Focus:** Promising practices, program models, evaluation findings from State and Territorial Health Departments
 - Presentations should tell a compelling story, highlight evidence-informed strategies, and offer actionable insights. Presenters are encouraged to incorporate interactive elements such as polls, chat prompts, or reflection questions.
- **Ideal for:** Program spotlights, evaluation results, partnership models, data-driven approaches.

Academy Learning Objectives

All selected presentations must include clear learning objectives that enable participants to:

- Establish meaningful partnerships and networks across multidisciplinary teams and sectors to strengthen collaborative approaches to chronic disease prevention and control.
- Develop strategies to meaningfully engage communities, stakeholders, and populations in prevention initiatives that promote health for everyone and drive sustainable behavior change.
- Identify emerging technologies, data solutions, and creative approaches to address chronic disease challenges and enhance public health program effectiveness.

Presenter Eligibility

Presenters can represent any organization that works to improve the health of the public such as, but not limited to, State and Territorial Health Departments, universities, local health departments, tribal organizations, non-profit organizations, clinics, etc. The Spotlight Session type is exclusively reserved for abstracts from State and Territorial Health Departments.

Submission Requirements and Details

Participants may [submit abstracts](#) for more than one session type. Selected abstracts will meet virtual academy learning objectives within the priority topic areas. An abstract may be selected for a different focus area than it was submitted for. **Presenters of selected abstracts are expected to attend all three days of the event.**

If your abstract is selected, **all presenters must register for the event and are responsible for the cost of their registration fee.** Note, chronic disease staff at State and Territorial Health Departments can register for the Academy as a 'General Member.'

NACDD will notify all applicants about the status of their abstract in July 2026.

The Abstract Submission Form will ask for information about the following items. You can review all questions at the end of this document. We suggest drafting your responses in a separate word document and when you are ready, submit your application through our [Abstract Submission Form](#).

- **Primary Contact:** This should be the primary presenter of the abstract. NACDD will communicate with this person about abstract status and event details.
- **Team Participation:** Indicate who will participate in the presentation with you, if selected.
- **Abstract Details:** What your presentation is about and how it reflects the priority areas, theme, and learning objectives for the 2026 Academy.
- **Program and Innovation Details:** What the status of your work is (planning, pilot, lessons learned, etc.) and what's included in its evidence base.
- **Session Format and Technical Details:** Indicate your preferred presentation format. Final format will be determined by the planning committee. Confirm your comfort using the virtual presentation platform (Zoom) with interactive features.
- **Agreements and Acknowledgements:** Recognition that by submitting an abstract, your team is committing to presenter and accessibility statements.

Since 1988, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and its more than 7,000 Members have worked to strengthen state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in all states, territories, and nationally.

chronicdisease.org | 8735 Dunwoody Place #10962 Atlanta, GA 30350 USA

2026 Chronic Disease Academy Abstract Submission

Thank you for your interest in presenting at the 2026 Virtual Chronic Disease Academy!

NACDD invites public health professionals to share best practices, evidence-based approaches, and innovations with peers nationwide. Please complete all required fields marked with an asterisk (*). Abstracts are due by **11:45 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)** on **Friday, May 15, 2026**. If you have questions, contact us at CPHL@chronicdisease.org.

Primary Contact Information

Enter the contact information for the primary presenter of this abstract.

1. First Name *

2. Last Name *

3. Credentials

As they should appear on the program.

4. Email Address *

Please enter an email

5. Phone Number *

The value must be a number

6. Job Title *

7. Organization *

8. State or Territory *

9. Will this presentation have co-presenters? *

Yes

No

Co-Presenter Information

List all presenters who will participate if your abstract is selected. All presenters must be present for all three days of the Academy (September 15-17, 2026). You may list up to four co-presenters.

10. Co-Presenter 1: Full Name, Credentials, Title, Organization

11. Co-Presenter 2: Full Name, Credentials, Title, Organization

12. Co-Presenter 3: Full Name, Credentials, Title, Organization

13. Co-Presenter 4: Full Name, Credentials, Title, Organization

Abstract Details

14. Abstract Title *

15. Priority Topic Area *

Data & Artificial Intelligence- How state health departments and territories are applying advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and modern data tools to enhance surveillance, streamline workflows, improve decision-making, and accelerate innovative solutions for chronic disease challenges.

Health Communication & Storytelling How state and territorial health departments are using strategic communication, narrative approaches, and culturally responsive storytelling to build trust, strengthen public understanding, and motivate action in chronic disease prevention and control.

Partnerships How state and territorial health departments are cultivating cross-sector partnerships—with healthcare, community organizations, education, business, and government—to expand capacity, align resources, and drive collaborative approaches to chronic disease prevention and health equity.

- Data Modernization and Artificial Intelligence
- Health Communication and Storytelling
- Partnerships
- Other

16. Academy Theme Alignment (select all that apply) *

- Connect
- Engage
- Innovate

17. Rank your preferred session format. Final format determination rests with the review committee. *

Workshop Session (60–90 min) — Skill-building, collaboration, hands-on activities

Lightning Talk (10–15 min) — Big ideas, emerging innovations, concise storytelling

Digital Poster Presentation — Visual program highlights + live Q&A

Spotlight Session (20–30 min + Q&A) — Promising practices, evaluation findings [**State and Territorial Health Departments Only**]

18. Abstract Body *

Provide a detailed description of your presentation (maximum 2500 characters). Include: (1) the public health challenge or opportunity addressed, (2) the approach, strategy, or innovation used, (3) outcomes achieved or anticipated, and (4) relevance to chronic disease prevention and control.

Please enter at most 2500 characters

19. Learning Objectives *

List 2–3 specific, measurable learning objectives that begin with action words and describe what participants will be able to do. Objectives must align with at least one Academy overarching objective: (1) Establish meaningful partnerships, (2) Develop strategies to engage communities, (3) Identify emerging technologies and creative approaches.

Program & Innovation Details

20. Stage of Work *

Describe the current status of your program, project, or initiative.

- Planning/ Early Development
- Pilot/ Emerging Innovation
- Fully Implemented Program
- Evaluated/ Scaled Program
- Completed/ Lessons Learned

21. Evidence Base *

Briefly describe the evidence base, frameworks, or data that inform your approach. (max 1200 characters)

Please enter at most 1200 characters

22. Key Outcomes or Results *

What outcomes, results, or impact has your work achieved (or do you anticipate)? Include data where available? (max 1200 characters)

Please enter at most 1200 characters

23. Relevance to Other Health Departments *

How could your approach be adapted or replicated by other state or territorial health departments? (max 1200 characters)

Please enter at most 1200 characters

Session Format and Technical Details

24. What interactive elements do you plan to include?

Select all that apply.

- Live polling
- Small group breakout discussions
- Chat-based Q&A
- Audience reflection activities
- Facilitated dialogue
- Other

25. Technical Readiness with Zoom Events *

Select your comfort level with the virtual presentation platform (Zoom) and its interactive features.

- I am fully comfortable with Zoom including breakout rooms, polling, and screen share
- I am comfortable with Zoom but may need guidance on advanced features
- I would welcome a technical orientation
- I would need technical support prior to the event

Agreements & Acknowledgements

Review and confirm each statement before submitting.

26. Presenter Commitments *

By submitting this abstract, you are confirming your commitment to the following statements:

Please select 5 options.

- I am a member of a state or territorial chronic disease prevention program
- All listed co-presenters are aware of and have agreed to this submission
- If selected, I and all co-presenters will be present for all three days of the Academy (September 15–17, 2026)
- I consent to the recording and sharing of my session with registered Academy participants
- The content presented is original and I have the right to present it

27. Accessibility Commitments *

By submitting this abstract, you are confirming your commitment to the following statements:

Please select 4 options.

- I will ensure all slides meet accessibility standards (color contrast, alt text for images)
- I will provide a slide deck or materials to attendees in advance
- I will use closed captioning during the event
- I acknowledge that session recordings may be shared with Academy participants

28. Comments or Questions

Is there anything else the review committee should know about your submission?

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