
Breastfeeding Data System

The Breastfeeding Data System is an online, user-friendly tool for program monitoring and evaluation. It was developed for breastfeeding peer counselors to accurately track and record interactions with new moms in a seamless and timely manner. The Breastfeeding Data System will be launched in January 2011 with community-based breastfeeding peer counselor programs working with HealthConnect One.

The Breastfeeding Data System was designed specifically for use by peer counselors to enter and gather information about their clients after each contact. The data collection system allows counselors to:

- Access individualized health, program and process outcomes
- See statistics within customized date ranges
- Reduce time spent entering data
- View progress of clients over time
- Share progress and results with supervisor and administrator users at their agency

In addition to program evaluation, the Breastfeeding Data System will strengthen and promote the community-based breastfeeding peer counselor model by building the research base behind it. Through this data collection system, HealthConnect One will be able to provide an evidence base for the effectiveness of peer counselor programs, and help to facilitate the sharing of best practices among peer counselors.

HealthConnect One is dedicated to ensuring confidentiality and privacy to all users and participants involved in the data collection system. Guidelines are provided to all participating sites to outline proper protocol for informing participants about the Breastfeeding Data System, and procedures for sharing participant information with HealthConnect One.

HealthConnect One believes that the Breastfeeding Data System will improve both program evaluation and future research about breastfeeding peer counselor programs. Users of the Breastfeeding Data System will receive support from HealthConnect One through agency-tailored trainings, regular follow-up and continuous support from the Maternal and Child Health Data Coordinator.

For more information on the Breastfeeding Data System, please visit www.healthconnectone.org, and click on “Programs and Training,” select “Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program,” and then “Data Collection Tool,” or contact Sarah Kerch at skerch@healthconnectone.org or 312-243-4772 ext. 236.