

AI for PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

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The ASPPH Task Force for the Responsible and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has released draft recommendations. Grounded in four pillars – teaching & learning, education, practice & research, and policy & infrastructure – these recommendations are designed to support responsible AI adoption by promoting safety, accountability, equity, and innovation while preparing the next generation for a tech-enabled public health workforce.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning - How technology can enhance student engagement and interaction in the classroom.

1. Promote Ethical AI Adoption

Promote ethical AI adoption by prioritizing safety, transparency, accountability, and equity in the selection and evaluation of all AI tools.

2. Invest in Innovative Learning Technologies

Invest in AI-powered simulations, gamified tools, and adaptive learning platforms to provide immersive and personalized instruction.

2. Strengthen Faculty Preparedness

Develop updated education for faculty through dedicated workshops and courses focusing on AI literacy, ethics, and applied teaching methods.

3. Integrate AI Literacy into Curricula

Integrate formal training on AI use into existing curricula, with a specific focus on prompt engineering alongside traditional analytics.

5. Ensure Student Preparedness

Foster technical literacy and ethical awareness by providing students with exposure to AI tools, followed by critical reflection on their use and limitations.

EDUCATION

Skills & Curriculum Development - Preparing students with the skills they need in a tech-enabled field.

1. Advocate for AI-Related Competencies

Accreditation agencies, such as Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), should embed AI-related competencies into public health curriculum – including data literacy, machine learning, digital ethics, and AI communication – into the foundational MPH knowledge requirements.

2. Modernize Certification Standards

Recommend that relevant professional certifications, such as the Certified in Public Health (CEPH) exam, begin requiring AI-related content to ensure graduates meet a verified level of competency for the technology-enabled workforce.

3. Close the Classroom-to-Practice Gap

Establish formal channels to share emerging AI use cases between public health academic programs and practice settings.

4. Expand Continuing Education

Develop specialized continuing education offerings and training modules in AI for graduates and alumni to help the existing workforce align with rapid technology shifts.

5. Incentivize Applied AI Skills

Encourage students to use their Integrated Learning Experiences (e.g., capstones or theses) to highlight relevant AI skills by applying them to solve tangible public health problems.

PRACTICE & RESEARCH

Real-World Applications - Responsibly applying technology in the field.

1. Formalize “The Bridge Professional”

Develop a new role and corresponding curriculum for the strategic thinker with sufficient technical understanding and implementation skills to communicate effectively across technical, C-suite, and community realms.

2. Prioritize Human-Centered AI

Ensure that AI remains a tool for human decision-makers rather than a replacement for human judgment, particularly in high-stakes areas like relationship building and final decision-making.

3. Commit to Open Scientific Principles

Public health research must lead in defining “what good looks like” by sharing code, datasets, and evaluation metrics.

4. Address Inequality through “Missing Voices Analysis”

Mandate the use of missing voices analysis to identify underrepresented groups in public health datasets, ensuring demographics and social-determinant diversity are centered in model validation.

5. Innovation in Health Promotion

Contribute to the collaborative development of tools and applications that utilize AI to promote health and optimize service delivery for frontline public health workers.

POLICY, REGULATORY & ARCHITECTURAL FRAMEWORKS

Technology Infrastructure - Delivering scalable, resilient, and secure technology services.

1. Develop ASPPH-Wide AI Policy

Establish an association-wide AI policy template that promotes the responsible, ethical, and innovative use of AI across education, research, and administration, with a strong emphasis on privacy and community engagement frameworks.

2. Ensure Community Trust

Implement plain-language communication strategies to inform community partners about the purposes and limitations of AI, ensuring they are partners rather than afterthoughts in the adoption process.

3. Adopt Global Standards

Align institutional guidelines with proven, effective frameworks and standards set by NIST, WHO, and OECD.

4. Implement Rigorous Oversight

Develop policies for consistent bias tracking, incident reporting, and the identification of misinformation and disinformation generated by AI systems.

5. Establish Clear Disciplinary and Approval Processes

Create centralized academic misconduct and software procurement processes to ensure that AI use and acquisition undergo appropriate departmental and ITS review.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Please provide feedback to help ensure this effort reflects the needs and insights of the academic, student, and public health practice communities.



<https://tiph.co/457LfCL>