

The Impact of wichealth.org : Comments from the Field

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MINNESOTA

Joined 2002

Fun Fact: Help Your Child Make Good Eating Choices was one of the lessons most visited by Minnesota clients.

"This is my first time visiting the website and I loved it. It was easy to read and understand and the face expression on the lady fit the question that was being asked."

"I like it. The videos are a very nice touch to the website."

"It is really easy, and nice to navigate. I loved the lady talking to you at the beginning."

"I think this is AWESOME!! We can refer back to this information and take it in at our pace as oppose to sitting in the office and running through topics at a faster pace because other clients are waiting."

"I like how you have a profile now and how you can save the links that you enjoyed."

"The web site is very helpful because the webpage is divided into sections according to the babies age and a section for parents only."

"Very impressive. I liked the fact that it was easy to use!"

HAWAII

Joined 2010

Fun Fact: Hawaii was one of the first states to participate in a virtual training for wichealth.

"This is a great idea! Especially for us working parents that also have a 8-5 or 9-5 jobs. It is hard to take a personal or sick day. We like to use those for our sick children not for appointments."

WASHINGTON

Joined 2003

Clients living in college communities find wichealth works with their busy class schedules. Staff like being able to allow moms with a full work schedule to have the opportunity to complete secondary education contact at a time that works best for the client. Clients access the site most often after their children have gone to bed. It is nice to have options for people to learn in a way that best accommodates their busy lives.

Fun Fact: Washington was the first state outside the Midwest Region to become a wichealth partner.

NEVADA

Joined 2010

wichealth is currently being pilot tested in Nevada. At the end of a certification appointment, participants are informed of their eligibility to use wichealth and are offered the option of using it for their secondary nutrition education contact.

Fun Fact: Nevada clinics have one of the highest usage rates of the Spanish version of wichealth.

CALIFORNIA

Joined 2010

Riverside County is the first county to pilot wichealth. Each WIC site in the agency has a bulletin board that provides an overview for using online education. Participants either email their certificates to a central address or print out a copy to bring to their respective sites.

Fun Fact: Riverside County is the largest agency to ever pilot wichealth.

ALASKA

Joined 2010

State and local agency coordinators received a 3-hour virtual training on how to use wichealth and began implementation in 2010. A unique use of wichealth is it being offered as initial or secondary nutrition education contact for participants living in rural communities without road access.

Fun Fact: 66% of Alaska participants access wichealth from home.

UTAH

Joined 2008

Initially a pilot in Salt Lake County, Utah implemented statewide in 2009 and funded the development of two additional modules during 2009. Clients are highly supportive of Internet education, as the state consistently ranks as one of the highest nationwide for technology use.

Fun Fact: Utah is spearheading the development of virtual peer counselors for clients who complete the wichealth breastfeeding module.

WISCONSIN

Joined 2002

Wisconsin initially implemented wichealth in a few pilot projects and it is now being used in all regions of the state. Clients are reportedly using wichealth at various times of the day and night. Staff and clients enjoy having the wichealth option for nutrition education.

Fun Fact: Wisconsin developed a webcast to assist clinics implement wichealth.

MICHIGAN

Joined 2002

Most local agencies promote use of wichealth to clients who are not high risk. During March 2010, 10% of Michigan's 258,400 WIC Clients used wichealth. Client documentation is entered directly into the state computer system client record, recording the module visited and the stage of change achieved.

Fun Fact: Michigan WIC and Western Michigan University co-founded wichealth in 2002, and Michigan has served as the lead state since initial implementation.

INDIANA

Joined 2002

Fun Fact: 25% of Indiana clients saved a link as "favorite" since October 2009.

OHIO

Joined 2002

wichealth is a statewide option for mid-certification nutrition education. Participant fliers and reminder stickers are used to increase participation. Nutrition kiosk stations are being piloted in several clinics across the state.

Fun Fact: Ohio clients saved over 910 links as "favorite" since the new design was launched.

"You are doing a great job, and up to date with technology."

"Very convenient, even if someone is not very computer literate."

"I love it, this site is easy to navigate through, and easy to get back on track if you find something else you want to explore. And need I say convenience? Thank you!"

"I think the website is GREAT! It is easy to follow along and definitely convenient because you can pull the information up whenever you need to."

"It is user friendly and the design is so cool."

"I think this is great!!! I am glad to know I can visit this website anytime for new suggestions and ideas."

"I really liked the new design. Carter and I had a great time with all the matching games that we played. He really liked the veggi and fruit matching game."

NORTH CAROLINA

Joined 2009

Implemented in 10 pilot agencies in 2009 and expanding statewide in 2010. Clients in pilot agencies email completed certificates to the clinics. Webinars are provided to introduce the availability of wichealth for low-risk nutrition education contacts. Currently exploring using kiosks with access to wichealth.

Fun Fact: North Carolina was the first state to pre-populate the email certificate field with agency email addresses.

ILLINOIS

Joined 2002

wichealth is utilized statewide to assist secondary nutrition education efforts for WIC clinics and participants. Clinics are utilizing wichealth for relief with secondary education scheduling. It allows time for higher priority clients to be seen in group sessions or individually.

Fun Fact: Illinois was the first state to use kiosks for client access to wichealth education.

OKLAHOMA

Joined 2010

Fun Fact: Oklahoma is the newest state to join wichealth.

DELAWARE

Joined 2009

Fun Fact: Delaware developed additional client materials to assist with implementing wichealth.

