

## Status Report

The first phase of CHIN development focused on a needs assessment, initial development of key infrastructure components, and demonstration of feasibility. Milestones achieved include:

- Completion of a comprehensive needs assessment that identified functional specifications for the CHIN pilot;
- Demonstration of the ability to acquire data from disparate, heterogeneous sources across a network using standardized components
- Demonstration of the ability to assemble and integrate records on a subject-by-subject basis, using actual data from state agencies and from the UCONN Health Center

The second phase of CHIN development, the creation of a Model Network prototype, is currently underway. The prototype will incorporate the following key features:

- Full automation of data integration and subject matching using a trusted-broker architecture
- Implementation of a scalable, enterprise-quality Distributed Security & Privacy Architecture
- Centralization of the description of data sources & data elements in a machine-interpretable manner using ISO11179 metadata structure standards (Data Elements and Data Sources Registries)

Following prototype development, the Model Network will be installed and tested in several state agencies.

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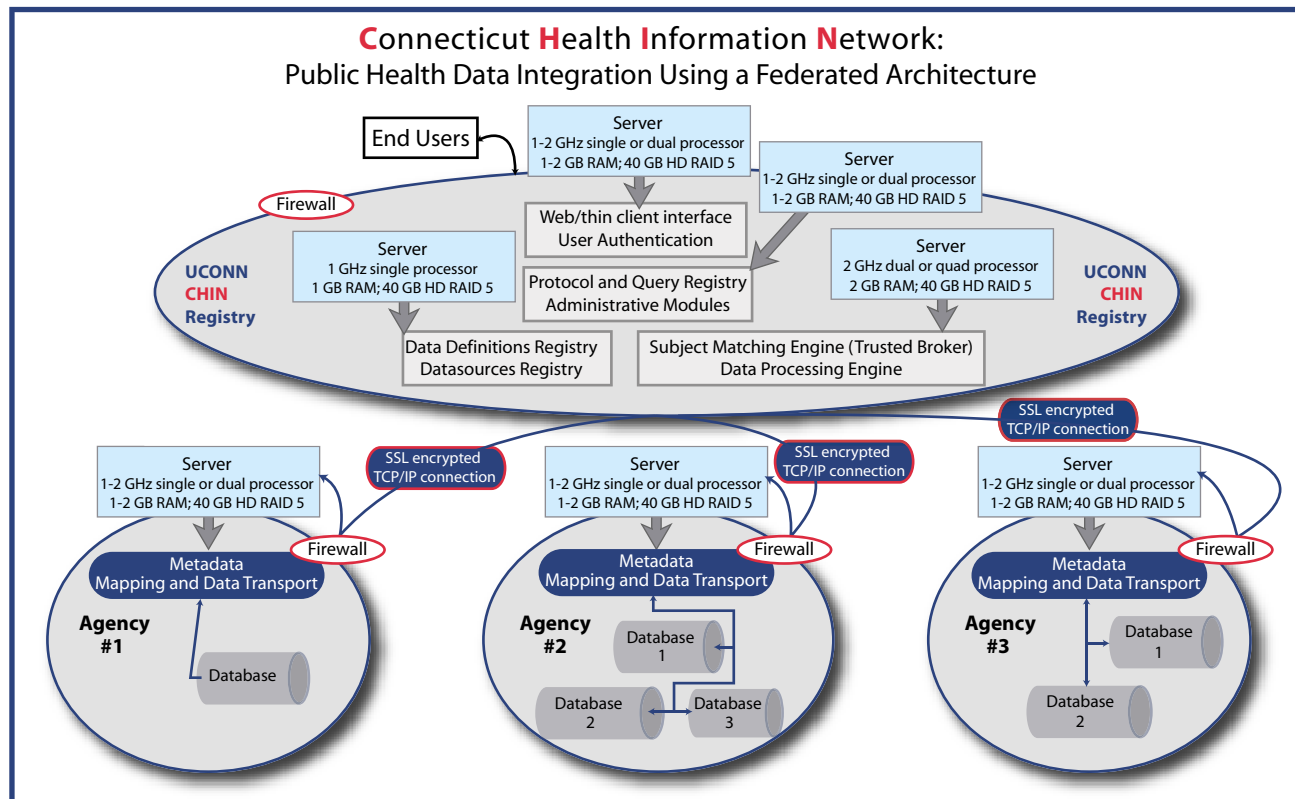
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Connecticut has invested vast resources over the past few decades collecting and maintaining information relevant to the health and well being of citizens in the state. This information is kept in separate state agencies, each having independent missions, governance, and technological infrastructure, all of which pose significant barriers for data sharing and integrated statistical analysis. Consequently, as a recent report by one state agency concluded,

**“Connecticut is data rich, but information poor.”**

A wide range of factors, from threats of bioterrorism and health epidemics, the growing burden of chronic disease, to the possibilities envisioned in emerging informatics technologies, have created demand for public health information systems that share and aggregate data across disparate sources.



**CHIN** is a partnership between the University of Connecticut, Akaza Research, Inc., and Connecticut’s state agencies to develop a federated computer network linking diverse databases across agencies. This innovative network complies with stringent security and privacy standards, and offers unprecedented opportunities to integrate and analyze public health data to inform program development and policy decisions.

CHIN benefits include:

- The ability to assess target populations and track their interactions with various state agencies over extended periods of time.
- Advancement of evidence-based practices by linking programs and health outcomes over time.
- Enhanced ability for program and agency self-evaluation.
- A vehicle for state agencies to articulate their needs and agenda to government.
- The development of data standards resulting in greater consistency in the structure and content of databases across state agencies.