

Background

Data standardization is essential to public health planning, practice, and policy. Technical assistance (TA) can be used to increase utilization of data collection standards, which can improve the reporting of disaggregated data for populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and other health inequities.

Methods

Between the spring of 2022 and 2023, MDPH piloted TA with six of the department's bureaus, programs, and surveillance systems to increase understanding and application of the following three data collection standards:

- Race, Ethnicity, and Language (REL)
- Rural-Urban Definitions
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

Various TA approaches were offered upon request.

Results

- A multi-pronged TA approach to data standards collections provided tailored strategies to address implementation challenges, close knowledge gaps, and increase administrative capacity.

Practice Implications

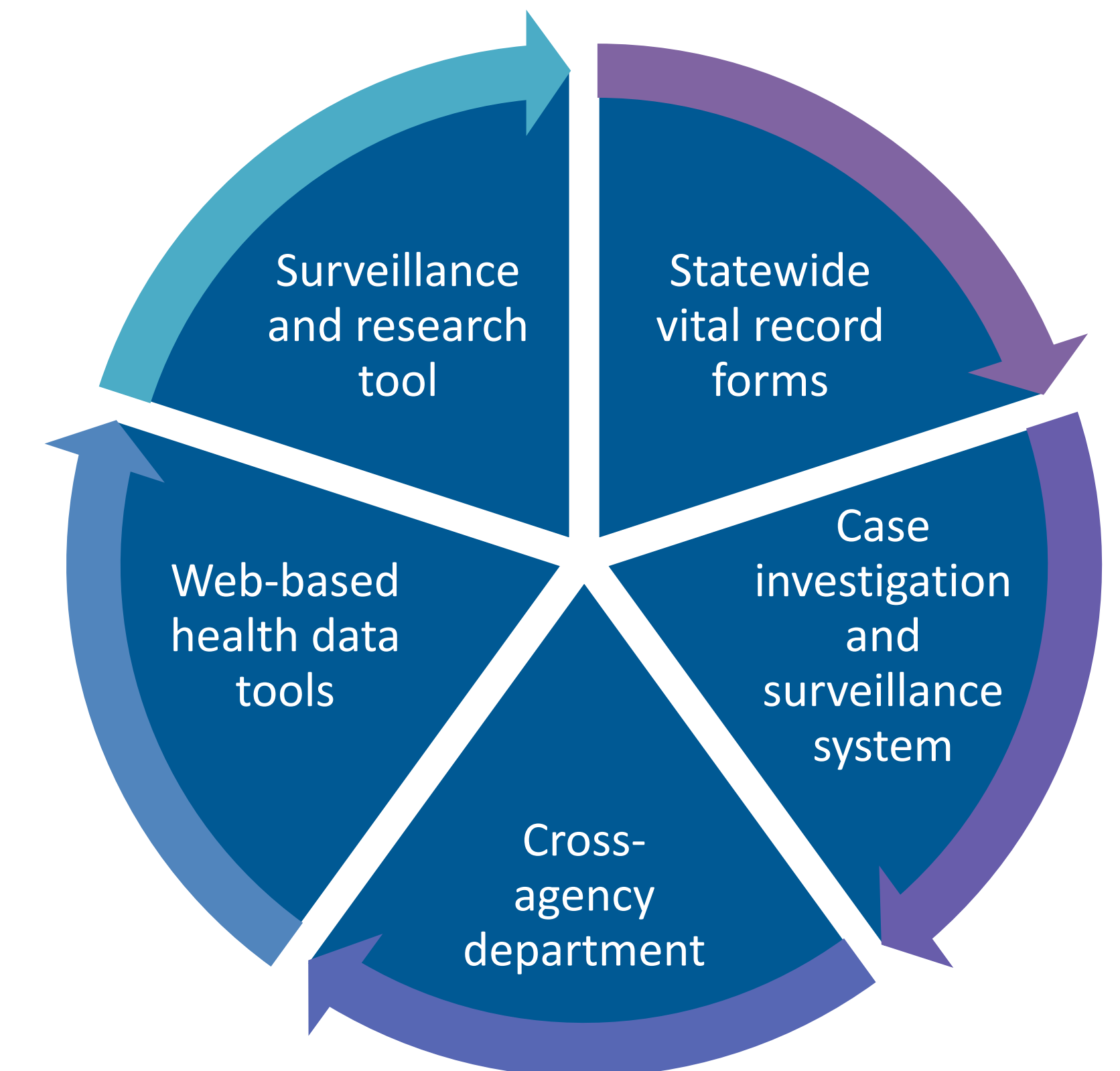
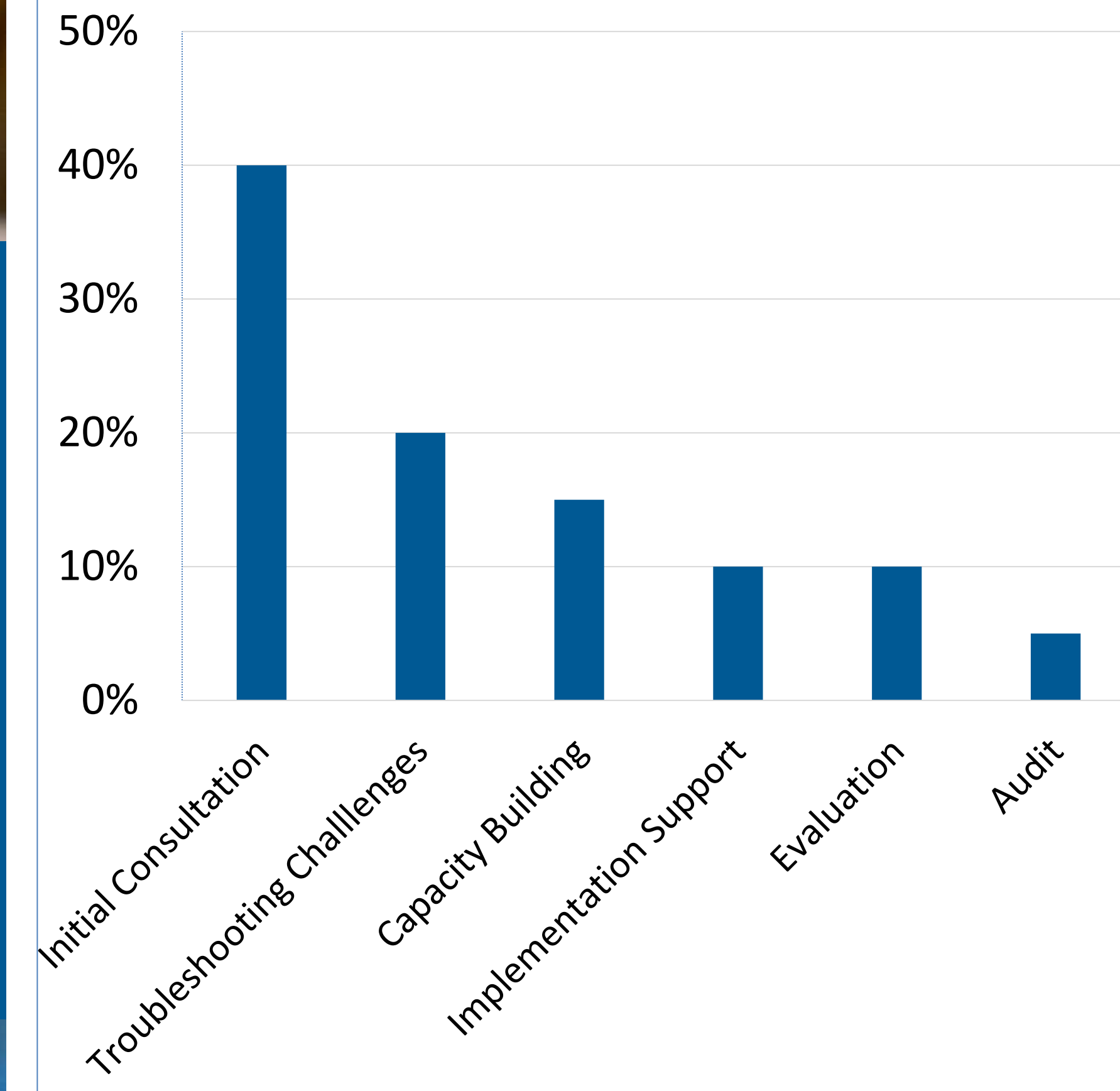
- State health departments can improve the collection of granular-level data for populations facing the most significant health inequities.
- A TA approach can strengthen collaborations, break silos, and provide tailored strategies for expanding health equity.



Empowering Health Equity Through Tailored Technical Assistance: Massachusetts' Blueprint for Data-Driven Public Health Innovation



TA Sessions Provided by Type (n=20)



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