

FORMTRAN

Miami Valley Health Improvement Council



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- Private, non-profit health agency servicing nine counties in the Miami Valley in Ohio

Industry

Healthcare

Challenge

- Thousands of surveys to compile

Strategy

- Formtran provides scanning solution

Results

- Value of data is increased
- Time spent on compiling data is drastically reduced
- System paid for itself "many times over"

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Organization Profile

Miami Valley Health Improvement Council (MVHIC) is a private, non-profit health agency servicing nine counties in the Miami Valley in Ohio. Its mission is to work with payers, employers, local and state government officials, and health care providers to promote legitimate access, at a reasonable cost, to available quality health care for the citizens of the area.

Challenge: Thousands of Surveys to Compile

The agency recently received the largest grant on youth behavior and attitudes in the state. The grant, from the *Ohio Tobacco Use, Prevention and Control Foundations* is being used to study tobacco-use behavior among five thousand students ranging in age from elementary-level to high school-level in the valley. Throughout the year, MVHIC compiles over 10 thousand surveys from 200 different schools in an effort to collect tobacco-use data from students, taking in 30 to 50 different surveys from a school at any one time. Previously, the six-person MVHIC would send the extrication to various local services, including a local university's statistics center, but with those services came challenges, according to Jim Brown, MVHIC Data Resource Manager. "They were not familiar with the data and had questions, so it took longer (for processing)," he said.



Strategy: Formtran Provides Scanning Solution

With the grant funding from the Ohio tobacco foundations, MVHIC had an opportunity to look for a technology that would serve them better. After a quick internet search, Mr. Brown found *Formtran*. Based on a discussion on MVHIC's needs, *Formtran* recommended a turnkey solution consisting of scanning software, a scanner, training and technical support. MVHIC was up and running in 10 days.

Mr. Brown and one other data entry specialist from MVHIC use a scanner to scan the surveys, which are assigned with school codes. The scanning software then extracts the data and downloads that data to a Microsoft Excel file that allows the agency to better analyze the incoming surveys. By taking the data capturing service in-house, MVHIC is able to remove errors in data reporting. "The data is so much more representative," said Mr. Brown. "And using the Formtran system gives us a hands-on ability to review the data," he said.

Results: Value of Data is Increased

Mr. Brown said that with the *Formtran* solution, MVHIC is able to maintain a higher degree of integrity to their data because they are able to apply the appropriate results to the appropriate county, a task they were not able to do when the agency outsourced the data compilation process.

"The *Formtran* scanning system has certainly paid for itself and will continue to pay for itself many times over," said Mr. Brown.