MN APCD and Health Data

What happened?
Governor Dayton and the Legislature provided $1.6 million in Fiscal Years 2016-2017 and $1.2 million in future biennia to enhance Minnesota’s ability to understand and respond to rising health care costs and persistent health disparities.

The Legislature directed MDH to:
- Develop data files on health care use and costs from the Minnesota All Payer Claims Database (MN APCD), and make them available for public use. The files will not identify individual patients, providers, or health plans, but can be used to analyze health care use and disease prevalence.
- Publish information on the quality of care provided to Minnesota patients, based on race, ethnicity, language, country of origin, and other socio-demographic factors through the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System (SQRMS).
- Use the MN APCD to study how much money Minnesota spends on treating certain chronic diseases—and whether the state is starting to turn the curve on those costs due to the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) and other prevention efforts and health care reforms.

Why is this helpful for Minnesotans?
Health care spending is a large and growing part of the budget both for the State and for individuals. As costs rise, Minnesota struggles with dramatic disparities in health experiences and outcomes across populations. This new funding and direction will allow MDH to provide key information to health care providers and payers, policy makers, individuals and communities to better promote health and reduce health care costs.

Background
MDH assesses trends in the delivery, costs and use of health care and projects future spending. MDH also tracks health care quality in the state and oversees many components of Minnesota’s 2008 health reform law. These new health data initiatives build on earlier reforms and move them forward.