Issues, challenges, and lessons learned from HHS national reporting and monitoring efforts
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Abstract
The Federal government produces and supports a number of health monitoring and reporting efforts. National reports use data from multiple data systems to describe the health or health risk factors of a national population over time; examine differences between groups, or health disparities; assess progress on a set of health-related goals or objectives; or to develop tools and resources that provide access to data for benchmarking, dissemination, or other purposes. The results of these efforts take a variety of forms including printed reports, “dash boards”, web-based query systems, data warehouses or hubs, and other products. Each type of report effort involves strategic decisions about focus and content, as well as approaches for evaluating, managing and integrating data from multiple data sources, both government and non-government. Decisions centre on developing criteria to use as the basis for selecting data sources and measures; developing data quality standards for how measures are displayed in the report; and establishing procedures for adding or retiring current report measures. In this session we discuss the challenges of evaluating, managing and integrating multiple data sources in reporting initiatives including the National Center for Health Statistics’ Health, United States; the Health Indicators Warehouse; Healthy People 2020, as well as other Department of Health and Human Services reporting and monitoring efforts such as the National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports (NHQR and NHDR).