The Environmental Public Health Tracking Network:

The Concept Becomes Reality

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Plan for Today

- What is Environmental Public Health Tracking?
- What is the Tracking Network?
- What has been Missouri’s Involvement?
- Demonstration of Missouri’s EPHTN Tracking Portal.
What is Environmental Public Health Tracking?

- Developed as a result of a 2000 report from the Pew Environmental Health Commission.
- In 2001 Congress approved funding for the Environmental Public Health Tracking initiative.
What is the goal of Environmental Public Health Tracking?

• EPHT is the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of data on environmental hazards, exposures to those hazards, and health effects that may be related to the exposures.

• The goal of tracking is to provide information that can be used to plan, apply, and evaluate actions to prevent and control environmentally related diseases.
How is Environmental Public Tracking Meeting this Goal?

- Working with data stewards to identify and make available relevant data sources in usable formats.
- Creating a secure Network for transporting data between CDC, grantees, partners, and other agencies. Network based on accepted industry standards.
- Development of a national Tracking Portal and grantee specific portals for the discover and dissemination of data and environmental public health information. Portals follow industry accepted standards.
  - Include dynamic queries, mapping, data downloads, and metadata (descriptive information about data available).
  - Consists of a public portion that contains aggregated and suppressed data.
  - Secure portion that allows those with access clearance to view unsuppressed data resources.
Missouri’s Involvement with Environmental Public Health Tracking

• Missouri received one of the first grants awarded in 2002
• First four years (2002-2006) involved the development of pilot projects. Missouri projects included:
  – A study with Tulane University and St. Louis City Department of Health and Hospitals on the impact of building demolitions on elevated blood lead levels in children.
  – A study of the use of lead mine tailings as agricultural lime and its effect on elevated blood lead levels in children.
  – A pilot project with Tulane University and several grantee states to collect, transport, and analyze fish sampling data for mercury.
Missouri’s Involvement with Environmental Public Health Tracking (Cont.)

– A study of the impact of smelter releases into the air on blood lead levels in Herculaneum

– Development of a relative pocket of need formula for determining high risk areas for childhood blood lead poisoning.

– Collaborative effort with the Environmental Protection Agency, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and several local public health agencies to identify former lead mining and smelter operations and begin cleaning them up.
Missouri’s Involvement with Environmental Public Health Tracking

• Since 2007 Missouri has been involved in the effort to build the National Tracking Network and Missouri EPHTN Portal.
Demonstrations

- National Tracking Portal
- Missouri EPHTN Portal
Web Links

- National Tracking Network Portal: http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/

- Missouri EPHTN Portal: http://www.dhss.mo.gov/EPHT
Contact Information

- Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking Program
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