poster ABSTRACT

VISION to REALITY 2005

TITLE

The JHU Center for Excellence in Environmental Public Health

THEME

- Build a Sustainable National EPHT Network
- Enhance Environmental Public Health Tracking Workforce and Infrastructure
- Disseminate Credible Information to Guide Policy, Practice and Other Actions to Improve the Nation's Health
- Advance Environmental Public Health Science and Research

KEYWORDS

tracking applications, methods development, training, education

BACKGROUND

The Pew Environmental Health Commission at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health recommended a nationwide environmental public health tracking network and increased state and local public health agency environmental public health capacity. Consequently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received funding for an environmental public health tracking program.

OBJECTIVE(S)

Report on JHU Tracking Center activities

METHOD(S)

Training, education, applications, and methods development

RESULT(S)

The JHU Tracking Center's multi-disciplinary team of faculty, students and staff accomplishments include:

Education and Training

Courses are developed and conducted in collaboration with tracking partners. Topics include: tracking primers, geographic information systems, time series and case crossover analysis, and data analysis and presentation.

Fellowships

- Doctoral students (6): to strengthen the environmental health workforce pipeline through training opportunities;
- Faculty (4): to provide technical assistance for the tracking network; and conduct methodological research to expand the EPHT "toolbox".

Tracking Applications
Assessments of tracking policies and legislation; state capacity to respond to non-communicable disease clusters; available national datasets for tracking; and trends and implications for key hazards, exposures, and health endpoints have been conducted. Building on these assessments, three environmental public health indicators were identified and piloted tested for their tracking utility.

Methods Development Research
The first national study of PM2.5 and health was conducted. Methods for estimating dose-response relationships in spatio-temporal data will be examined in a national case-study. An algorithm for evaluating apparent local excesses applying statistical methods within an epidemiologic framework will be tested for selected cancers in Maryland.

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