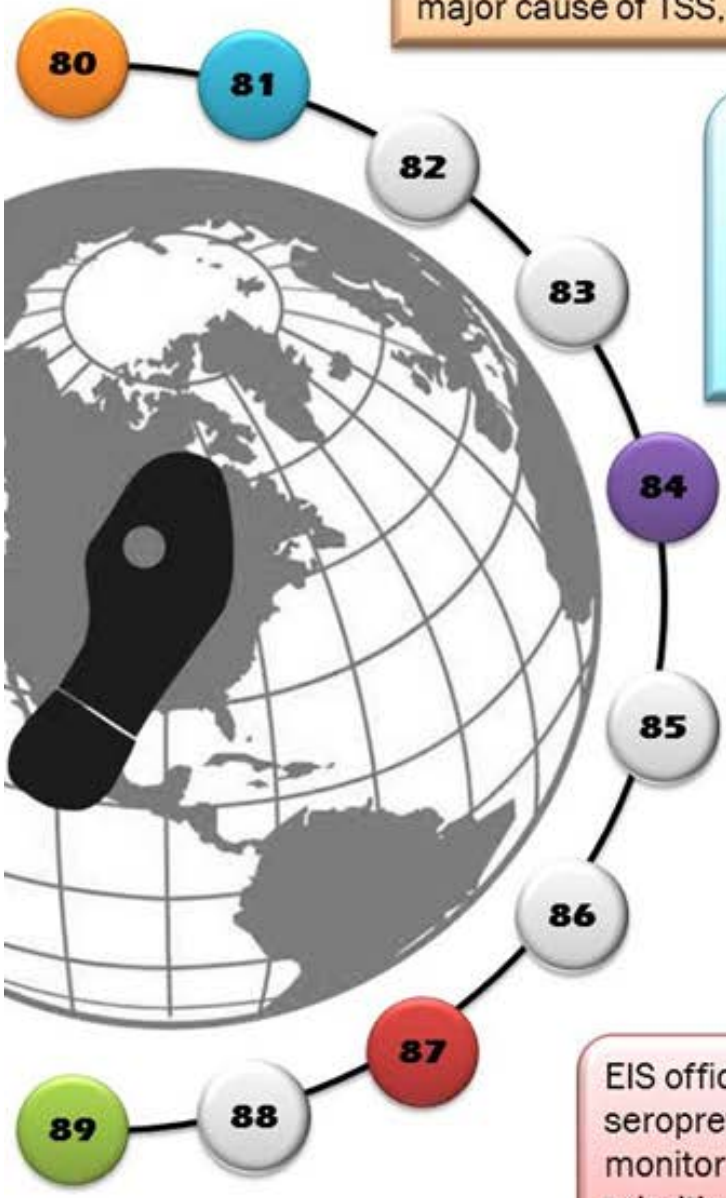
EIS History 1980s

EIS work expands into environmental health during a major heat wave sweeping the U.S. Midwest. The investigation identifies infants, urban dwellers, the elderly, and chronically ill persons as high-risk groups.

EIS investigators quickly find an association between toxic shock syndrome (TSS) and menstruating women. Tampons are revealed as a major cause of TSS, leading to one brand's removal from the market.



An EIS officer and a Los Angeles physician publish an MMWR article describing the occurrence of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia among young, previously healthy homosexual males. It is the first major scientific article on the emerging HIV/AIDS pandemic.

EIS officers aid the Spanish government in investigating an outbreak of severe lung disease. They find a connection to the use of illegally marketed industrial oil sold door-to-door as cooking oil.

EIS officers trace an outbreak of *Salmonella* food poisoning in a small Oregon town to intentional contamination of restaurant salad bars. The incident is the first known bioterrorist event in the United States.

EIS officers assist health departments in conducting HIV seroprevalence surveys. The data help health officials monitor HIV infections in high-risk populations and prioritize, target, and evaluate HIV prevention activities.

EIS officers investigate the association between eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome and use of L-tryptophan, a supplement used for insomnia, depression, and premenstrual syndrome. The investigation leads to one of the first nationwide, noninfectious epidemic surveillance projects.