CDC collects data about harmful algal bloom (HAB) events and associated human or animal illnesses in the United States through the One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System (OHHABS).

HAB-Associated Human Illnesses

1 out of 4 ill people were under the age of 18 years.

77% sought medical care. One death was reported.

Most (64%) of the HAB-associated human illnesses were classified as suspected cases.

HAB-Associated Animal Illnesses

Fish 90%
Wildlife other than fish 7%
Dogs 3%

94% of ill animals died.

Most (97%) of the HAB-associated animal illnesses were classified as probable cases.

13 states reported data for 2020

227 Harmful Algal Bloom Events
95 Human Illnesses
1,170 Animal Illnesses

Harmful Algal Bloom Events

3 out of 4 HAB events were in fresh water.

HAB events peaked in July.

Most (79%) were classified as confirmed events.

Environmental Testing

82% of HAB events were tested for toxins, algal species, or both.

Toxins were detected in half (51%) of HAB events.

Read the full summary: www.cdc.gov/habs/data/2020-ohhabs-data-summary.html