

breakout ABSTRACT



TITLE

Data Inventory and Partnerships

THEME

Enhance Environmental Public Health Tracking Workforce and Infrastructure

KEYWORDS

assessment and evaluation - communication, partnerships, networking and collaboration

BACKGROUND

After little less than 20 months of intense planning and activities, and in collaboration with community partners and the Nevada Planning Consortium (NPC) members, EPHTN staff completed extensive and thorough assessment and characterization of more than 221 database systems.

Data systems evaluated were related to health outcomes (chronic and non-infectious diseases and conditions); environmental hazards in air, soil, water, and food; and environmental exposures. Additionally, population demographics, geographic data, ionizing radiation, and public policy databases were evaluated.

The evaluation process of existing ongoing (available) data systems assessed data quality for completeness, validity, reliability, and accessibility, and for linkability with other networks, data systems, and the EPHTN.

OBJECTIVE(S)

- Provide summary description of the state experience
- Highlight the program accomplishments
- Communicate findings and lessons learned
- Foster and promote collaborations among public health and environmental protection programs to advance the EPHTN at the local, state, and national levels
- Provides details on the process and outcome (findings, benefits, and conclusions). After attending this session participants will be able to: 1) Discuss processes and methods used; 2) List intended outcomes (expected results) and, incidental benefits (unintended outcomes)

METHOD(S)

- Round-table discussion process and close collaboration with community partners
- Data owners/administrators are partners and members of the NPC
- EPHTN staff developed a short presentation to educate database owners about the value of partnering with the EPHTN and understanding potential benefits for their agencies and communities
- EPHTN staff collected data using multi-tier Data Inventory Questionnaire and completed a thorough descriptive analysis



- With considerable input from the NPC the program staff identified databases that could provide reliable systems for the tracking network
- Results were reported to CDC and presented to Nevada Planning Consortium

RESULT(S)

- Most of data systems collected data at the state level
- County or community data was lacking
- Except for few data sources (census data, air quality, cancer registry, BRFSS and vital records data), most of the data systems were incomplete or inadequate (hospital discharge and emergency department data)
- Several agencies recently started collecting environmental hazardous and exposure data
- Most the existing data system lacked adequate staffing and funding

CONCLUSION(S)

- Involving community partners in early stages is essential to design and facilitate the process.
- This activity provided accurate evaluation for the community capacity and identified gaps, needs and issues that are relevant and important to our communities.
- This activity influenced all other program components (education, partnerships, surveillance etc.) and helped the program identify and collaborate with nontraditional partners.
- Most of the databases were initially created to serve owner's purposes. However, several databases could be potentially very useful for the EPHTN.
- It is essential to support data owners and provide funding and technical assistance for community partners.
- Additional efforts are required to improve county and community level data.

Nevada EPHTN staff are currently serving as partners, advisors, and technical consultants to the NPC, comprised of state and community stakeholders and representatives from the county environmental health departments, the University, and other key public health agencies.

EPHTN is making headway in methodical and logical manner for progressive coordination and incremental integration of the program tracking activities with other chronic disease prevention programs such as the Comprehensive Cancer Control, Birth Defects Registry and Cancer Registry and other programs at the Division of Environmental Protection and Department of Agriculture.

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