

poster ABSTRACT



TITLE

A Tool for the Normalization of Environmental Hazard Data

THEME

Build a Sustainable National EPHT Network

KEYWORDS

data normalization, reusability, environmental data, relational database

BACKGROUND

The successful development of the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (EPHTN) will rely on the utilization of existing environmental data resources, incorporating data collected for other purposes into the tracking framework. The formats in which these data are stored, and the manner in which they are arranged, often do not support tracking efforts. While the format may serve the regulatory purposes for which the data was originally collected, significant adjustments may be required to prepare the data for analysis in tracking applications.

OBJECTIVE(S)

To address the issue of adapting routinely collected environmental data into the tracking framework, modular tools have been developed to normalize environmental data from certain sources, based on the identification of patterns in the way the data generally exist.

METHOD(S)

A series of processes built into a MS Excel spreadsheet transforms regulatory compliance data from such sources as the Toxic Releases Inventory (TRI) into a normalized database in which redundancy is eliminated.

RESULT(S)

A relational database, constructed of routinely collected environmental hazard data, created through the application of automated processes, eliminates the duplication of effort in preparing this data for use in surveillance systems and for tracking. The process is based upon the principles of normalization. These principles, along with a description of the tool, will be presented.

DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION(S)

Organizing environmental data so that it can be reused for multiple projects and purposes will expand both the use and reuse of the data.



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