WHAT IS SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE?
Syndromic surveillance provides public health officials with a timely system for detecting, understanding, and monitoring health events. By tracking symptoms of patients in emergency departments—before a diagnosis is confirmed—public health can detect unusual levels of illness to determine whether a response is warranted.

Syndromic data can serve as an early warning system for public health concerns such as flu outbreaks and have been used in responses for opioid overdoses, e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung disease, Zika virus infection, and natural disasters.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM
NSSP is a collaboration among CDC, federal partners, local and state health departments, and academic and private sector partners who have formed a community of practice. They collect, analyze, and share electronic patient encounter data received from emergency departments, urgent and ambulatory care centers, inpatient healthcare settings, and laboratories.

The electronic health data are integrated through a shared platform—the BioSense Platform. The public health community uses analytic tools on the platform to analyze data received as early as 24 hours after a patient’s visit to a participating facility. Public health officials use these timely and actionable data to detect, characterize, monitor, and respond to events of public health concern.

BY THE NUMBERS
- >6,500 health care facilities covering 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam contribute data to NSSP daily.
- Within 24 hours of a patient’s ED visit, data are available in NSSP for analysis.
- 78% of our nation’s emergency departments contribute data to NSSP.
- More than 8 million electronic health messages are received by NSSP every day.

Access the NSSP website at https://www.cdc.gov/nssp/ for more information about this program.