National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

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Presentation Objectives

• Overview of National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (NEPHTN)

• Other resources available for state and local public health professionals and the general public

• The NEPHTN portal demo
  – Climate change module
  – Air quality module
Environmental Public Health Tracking

- Pew Commission recommended a “Nationwide Health Tracking Network” for diseases and exposure

- First surveillance system to provide environmental and health data together in one place

- State and local tracking networks
  - Contribute data to national efforts
  - Address specific local level issues and needs
Tracking Partners

• Other Federal Agencies:
  – ASTHO, CSTE, EPA, NAACCR, NACCHO, NAHDO, NASA, NOAA, US Census Bureau, USGS

• Universities

• State and local health departments
What we do:

- Identify environmental health problem
- Evaluate utility of available data
- Generate information (measures) for public portal

- Completeness
- Complexity
- Confidentiality
- Consistency
- Timeliness

Content
Standards and Network Development
Program Marketing and Outreach
How are the Data Used....

- Track and report environmental hazards and related health problems
- Monitor public health concerns affecting communities across the nation
- Observe where hazards and health problems are occurring and changing over time
- Make more informed policy decisions about communities that may be at risk
- Provide information to the public
Health Effects data:

- Asthma
- Birth Defects
- Cancer
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Developmental Disabilities
- Heart Attacks
- Reproductive and Birth Outcomes
Content on the Tracking Network

- Environmental/Exposure Data
  - Outdoor Air
  - Community Water
  - Housing
  - Climate Change
  - Community Design

- Population Health data
  - Population Characteristics
  - Biomonitoring (Population Exposures)
  - Children’s Environmental Health
  - Health Behaviors (Smoking)
Mentorship

- Peer-to-Peer Fellowship Program
  - Sponsor five unfunded states, counties, or cities to build capacity for environmental public health tracking

- Informatics fellowship
Other Available Resources

• http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/showClimateChangeCommunicationTools.action

• http://www.cdc.gov/extremeheat/index.html

• http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/docs/CDC_ClimateChange_Final.pdf
Climate Change Communication Tools

Copy and paste the code provided below into your Web page to display the following map or button:

- Climate Change Toolkit
- Online Training: Recognizing, Preventing, and Treating Heat-Related Illness
- CDC Extreme Heat Media Toolkit English Spanish
- Extreme Heat Toolkit
- Extreme Heat: A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety

Tracking Climate Change Button

Copy this code to get this button

Top of Page
Climate Change, Extreme Heat, and Health

A Tool Kit

Table of Contents

2 Goals and Guiding Principles
6 Environmental Public Health Before and After Tracking: A Decade of Tracking
7 Environmental Public Health Tracking Network: A Timeline
8 Key Messages and Talking Points
10 The Facts
13 Matte Article
15 Social Media Examples

Key Messages

The following key messages and talking points can help you and your spokespeople convey and emphasize the effect the Tracking Network can have.

How to Use

The following key messages and talking points can help you and your spokespeople convey and emphasize the impact that the Tracking Network can have on addressing the connections between climate change, extreme heat, and health. These messages and points may be used as they have been written, or they can be customized for your own purposes. We encourage you to use local, regional, or state-specific information whenever possible because it will further underscore the importance of this resource for your constituents. Each of the three key messages presented are supported by three to four additional talking points.

Key Messages

- The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network is the best Internet resource connecting environmental and health information. This resource can give [INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME] the power to help save lives and better protect the people we serve.
  - The Tracking Network is unique because it brings together data that would usually be collected and kept by many separate agencies and then standardizes it. This process allows us to see how our health and the environment are related.
  - The Tracking Network also offers tools to help make sense of these data—such as maps that show how environmental and health problems are happening—and then makes that valuable information available to people who need it, from scientists to decision-makers.
  - The Tracking Network is used by states, cities, universities, and professional organizations to help make critical decisions about where to target environmental public health resources that will protect people and save lives.
  - The Tracking Network is helping us better understand how the environment is connected to climate change, extreme heat, and public health. Improving our understanding of these connections will help us better prepare to respond and save lives.
  - On average, extreme heat events are the most common cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S. Climate change is causing these events to occur more intensely with a longer duration. The Tracking Network hosts records of extreme temperatures, records of deaths that are related to heat, and social and environmental conditions that make people vulnerable to extreme heat.
  - The Tracking network data are useful for providing information about who is most at risk during heat waves. Because of this information, we can make informed decisions and plan how and where to best focus adaptation efforts to protect people from extreme heat.

next page
Extreme Heat and Your Health

Heat-related deaths and illness are preventable, yet annually many people succumb to extreme heat. An important goal of this web site is to provide easily accessible resources for members of the public, local health departments and other organizations, assisting ongoing outreach efforts to those most vulnerable to extreme heat events.

Keep your body temperature cool to avoid heat-related illness.

• Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as possible.
• Find an air-conditioned shelter.
• Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device.
• Avoid direct sunlight.
• Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
• Take cool showers or baths.
• Check on those most at-risk twice a day.

Stay hydrated.

Because your body loses fluids through sweat, you can become dehydrated during times of extreme heat.

• Drink more water than usual.
• Don’t wait until you’re thirsty to drink more fluids.
• Drink from two to four cups of water every hour while working or exercising outside.
• Avoid alcohol or liquids containing high amounts of sugar.
• Remind others to drink enough water.

Stay informed.

Stay updated on local weather forecasts so you can plan activities safely when it’s hot outside.

• Check local news for extreme heat alerts and safety tips.
• Learn the symptoms of heat illness.
• For more information, please click here.

Extreme Heat Resources

• Climate Change and Extreme Heat Events Guidebook [3.33 MB]
• Excessive Heat Guidebook [710 KB]
• BAM! Body and Mind (Safety Guidance for Kids)
• Tracking Network/Extreme Heat
• Extreme Heat Infographic
• PSAs and Podcast
  • Keep Your Cool in Hot Weather
  • Keeping Cool in a Heat Wave
Portal Demo

http://ephtracking.cdc.gov
For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333
Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)/TTY: 1-888-232-6348
Visit: www.cdc.gov | Contact CDC at: 1-800-CDC-INFO or www.cdc.gov/info

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.