Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

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ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING NETWORK
ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Secure IBIS-PH Launches 1
National Tracking Network Launch 2
PHOM Report 2
New IBIS-PH Indicators 3
Upcoming Events 3
New Faces 4
Contacts 5

Secure IBIS-PH Launches

The Utah Indicator-based Information System for Public Health (IBIS-PH) serves as the Utah Environmental Public Health Network (Tracking Network) public and secure portal. IBIS-PH now includes a secure web-enabled query module for third party access such as environmental and public health practitioners, researchers, and academic partners. Secure IBIS-PH is different from the public IBIS-PH portal as it includes aggregated data at a smaller geographic area such as zip codes and census tracts. Data at this level is not allowable for public distribution on IBIS-PH. Secure IBIS-PH will include the following data: asthma, carbon monoxide, myocardial infarctions, lead, birth and death, birth defects, and cancer. Access to Secure IBIS-PH will require approval from the Tracking Network Scientific Review Board specific to the type of information requested.

Secure IBIS-PH is launching in January 2009. The implementation of Secure IBIS-PH will provide access for approved environmental and public health practitioners to access various types of data to perform functions associated with tracking such as quantifying the magnitude of a problem; generating hypotheses; seeking unusual trends and occurrences; documenting the distribution and spread of environmental hazards or health events; identifying populations at risk; and planning and evaluating prevention and control measures. In addition, access to metadata will allow environmental and public health practitioners to quickly identify existing data to help perform public health functions. Data may then be accessed based on need and rights determined by data owners and stewards.

The Tracking Network will also work with the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System project (NEDSS). This partnership shares resources to develop a number of security policies and standards to describe UDOH and local health department user roles, responsibilities, access, and authentication policies and procedures.

The Tracking Network staff is looking forward to working with environmental and public health practitioners to provide secure technologies to enhance their respective public health goals and objectives.

National Tracking Network Launch

The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network has once again pushed back the launch data of their National Tracking Network. The launch date was expected to be December 1, 2008. One of the reasons the launch date was pushed back was because of complex IT components that have not yet been able to be integrated into the Tracking Network system. Also, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) requires the Tracking Network go through a certification and accreditation process that is taking much longer than expected.

The delay of the launch of the National Tracking Network is affecting many people in different ways, however, Utah's Tracking Network is still on schedule. Utah has recently populated our public portal (IBIS-PH) with new indicator reports and datasets. Also, Utah's secure Tracking Network portal (Secure IBIS-PH) has been populated with Tracking Network data and will soon be available for use. The CDC has not given another launch date, but hopes that the Network will be available sometime in January or February. The URL for the National Tracking Network will be www.cdc.gov/ephtracking.

"This year's PHOM report contains a special section highlighting the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network"

Public Health Outcome Measures Report

The Utah Department of Health Public Health Outcome Measure Report (PHOM) is intended to provide easy access to information about Utah's priority public health objectives. This report is available at anytime by visiting the PHOM report Web site on IBIS-PH. Every November this report is updated with new data and information about the health of Utah's population. Anyone can view this report, however, the primary audience for this report is state legislators. A goal of the PHOM report is to allow legislators to get educated and up-to-date about Utah's health and therefore make informed decisions during legislative sessions. The PHOM report can be viewed by linking on the various portions via the table of contents, or can be paged through as if reading a paper report.

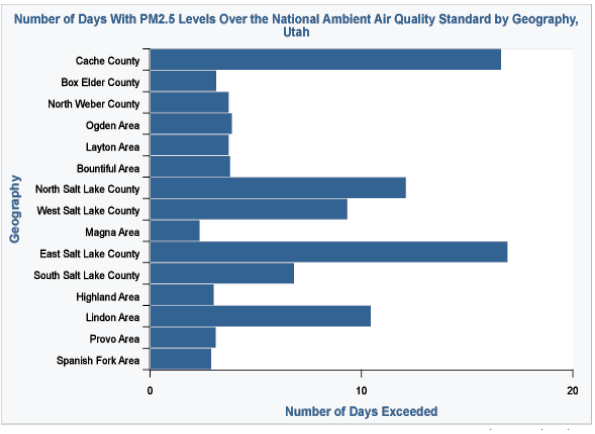
This year's PHOM report contains a special section highlighting the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network). Included in this special section is an executive summary explaining the Tracking Network's background, purpose, and involvement in building up IBIS-PH as a data resource. Following the executive summary is a categorical list of Tracking Network-related indicators. Many of these indicators have been created by the Tracking Program and contain environmentally related information. Other indicators are about health outcomes that can be influenced by environmental hazards. We hope this special section of the PHOM report is informative and will help spread awareness about environmentally-related health issues while working toward preventing them.

New IBIS-PH Indicators

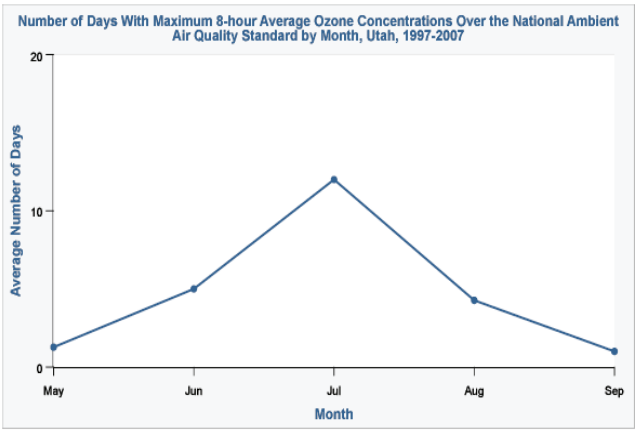
Utah's Tracking Program has recently created a variety of new indicator reports for IBIS-PH. These indicators are:

- Air Quality: Ozone by geography, month, and year
- Air Quality: PM2.5 by geography, month, and year
- Carbon Monoxide Deaths by year, age, cause and sex

Other Tracking Network-related indicators that have recently been updated are Birth Defects: Down Syndrome, Birth Defects: Neural Tube Defects, and Birth Defects: Orofacial Clefts.



PM2.5 by Geography



Ozone by Month

Upcoming Events

- *Tracking Network Advisory Committee Meeting:*

The Tracking Program has dissolved the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and is making a fresh start with a new organization called the Tracking Network Advisory Committee (TNAC). Our first meeting will be held on January 14, 2009 from 2:00-4:00 in room 125.

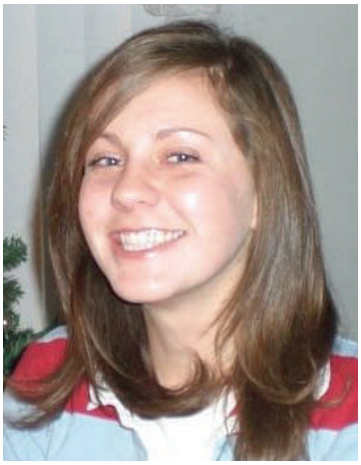
- *Executive Committee Meeting:*

An upcoming Executive Committee meeting will be held on January 12, 2009 from 2:00-4:00 in room 125.

- *Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Conference:*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is hosting the 2009 National Environmental Public Health Tracking Conference February 24-26 in Washington D.C.. The Conference theme is Tracks2009: The Future of Environmental Public Health. For more information about this conference, visit the conference Web site.

New Faces in the Tracking Program



Julia Shumway:

Julia Shumway is a new health program specialist for the tracking team. She is currently working on metadata and mapping. She graduated from BYU in December 2008 with bachelors degrees in Public Health Education and International Relations. Julia grew up in Centerville, Utah, with four brothers and a sister. For fun, she likes to read (anything and everything), bike, cook, and play the guitar.

Janice Panichello:

Janice Panichello grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and has lived in Ohio, Illionois, Alabama, Washington, Oregon, and now Utah. She is currently a PhD candidate in Public Health at the University of Utah working on her dissertation looking at arsenic in drinking water and adverse reproductive outcomes. Janice has worked as a program coordinator in Environmental Epidemiology for the Oregon Department of Health and is now working in the Tracking Program as well as the Health Hazard Assessment Program. She has three wonderful grown sons who live in Oregon and an amazing 5-year old grandson.

Greg Williams:

Greg has recently moved from Communicable Disease Control down to Environmental Epidemiology to work with the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. He is an epidemiologist and will be primarily managing data for the Tracking Program. Greg graduated from the University of Utah with a master's degree in public health. He is married and has two kids. He currently lives in Cedar Hills, Utah.

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The Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network) is the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of data on environmental hazards, exposures to those hazards, and the health effects that may be related to the exposures. Our mission is to develop a state-wide, standards-based, Web-enabled tracking network information system in Utah to enable information and knowledge dissemination and improve public health in the realm of chronic diseases related to environmental factors.