Utah Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

National EPHT Workshop Spring 2008
Utah’s Environmental Public Health Tracking team will be attending a national EPHT workshop in Boston, Massachusetts from April 8-10, 2008. This is a gathering of all state, university, professional and national EPHT staff. The purpose of the April 2008 EPHT Grantee Workshop is to provide an opportunity for EPHT grantees to meet with other program partners. The workshop will provide useful information to the grantees on the expectations and direction for the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program.

Some of the topics to be covered include:
- Rapid Inquiry Facility (RIF)
- PMO Outreach
- Earned Value Management
- Evaluation Training
- Descriptive Metadata and the EPHT Metadata Creation Tool
- Portal Demonstrations
- Crosscutting Issues
- Work Group Meetings: air, drinking water quality, cancer, birth defects, hospitalization, vital statistics, lead, carbon monoxide poisoning and standards and network development
New EPHT Website
Utah's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program has implemented a new website. This website contains five basic sections:

- About EPHT
- Access the EPHT Network
- Important Links
- Resources
- Contact Us

The About EPHT section includes program background, basics, vision, mission, goals and additional information.

The Access the EPHT Network portion is where the user can link to the EPHT portal. From here you can learn about our data sharing partners, discover available analytical tools, go through our metadata browser, apply for access to Secure IBIS as well as link to the state and national EPHT portals.

The Important Links page can lead you to the National EPHT Program, Universities of Public Health involved in EPHT, as well as Utah partners and stakeholders.

The Resources page contains information about EPHT. Here you can:

- Access the EPHT Network
- Learn about EPHT 101
- Access the EPHT Web Board
- Request an EPHT Presentation
- Access Current and Past Program Newsletters
- View State and National EPHT Publications
- Link to Related Trainings Such as Risk Communications and Utah AGRC GIS Training

Finally, the Contacts page provides program staff email and phone numbers.

The Utah EPHT Program published its first IBIS-PH Indicator Profile in January 2008. This indicator is titled “Environmental Hazard Site” and has two graph views.

The first view is titled “Percentage of Births Within Varying Distances of a NPL/CERCLA/TRI Environmental Hazard Site, Utah, 1989-2004.”

* NPL and **CERCLA sites are commonly referred to as “superfund” sites and ***TRI sites are places of business or industry that release pollutants into the environment.

This graph reveals that close to 95% of the Utah population was born within five miles of a TRI site. This shows a vast possible human exposure to toxic hazards.

The second graph view is titled “Percentage of Births that are Low Birth Weight Within Varying Distances of a NPL/CERCLA/TRI Environmental Hazard Site, Utah, 1989-2004.”

This graph shows a possible correlation between a higher rate of births that are low birth weight and closer proximity to NPL/CERCLA/TRI sites.

To view this indicator go to:
1. Ibis.health.utah.gov
2. Click on the “Indicator Profiles” tab
3. View alphabetically
4. Find and click “Environmental Hazard Site”

* NPL: National Priorities List
** CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
Other existing related indicators include:

- Blood lead children
- Blood lead adults
- Asthma
- Birth defects
- Infant mortality
- Low birth weight
- Lung cancer deaths
- Poisoning incidents

Proposed IBIS-PH Indicators

- Ozone exceedences
- PM 2.5 exceedences
- Disinfection by-products contaminants in water
- Arsenic contaminants in water (including potential human exposure)
- Lead contaminants in water (including potential human exposure)
- Nitrate contaminants in water (including potential human exposure)
- Prematurity
- Growth retardation
- Cancer counts and incidence rates
- Myocardial infarction hospitalizations
- Carbon monoxide:
  - Hospital discharges
  - Emergency department visits
  - Poisoning deaths
  - Poison control center calls
  - CO detectors in homes

EPHT Activities

Utah’s Environmental Public Health Tracking Program will be visible at two upcoming state conferences.

- The Utah Environmental Health Association is having a conference April 10-11 in Moab, Utah. EPHT will have information available as well as a poster presentation.

- The Utah Public Health Association is holding a conference in Midway, Utah from May 19-21. One of the breakout sessions will cover EPHT and its progress.

An important part of the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program is getting out to Utah’s local health departments and explaining to them was EPHT is and how it can be a valuable resource for them. So far, the EPHT program has visited 10 of the 12 local health departments in Utah this year. The response from these health professionals has been very positive and many await access to this network.

If you are interested in scheduling an EPHT presentation, contact Alison Cox at amcox@utah.gov.
EPHT Mission: 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.

Contact Alison Cox at amcox@utah.gov if you have an article or news you would like to include in the next EPHT newsletter.