ISSUE 13

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Utah Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

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NATIONAL EPHT WORKSHOP UPDATE

Utah's EPHT staff recently participated in the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network's bi-annual workshop in Albuquerque. At this workshop, Utah EPHT staff met with other EPHT staff from across the country to talk about the progress of the tracking network as well as to make key decisions and answer important questions. Some of the topics covered in this workshop were:

- Program marketing and outreach
- Network content and data structures
- EPHT progress and updates
- EPHT portal user testing
- Portal presentations
- Risk communication
- Academic partners updates
- Public health messaging

Utah's former Tracking manager Sam LeFevre presented the progress of Utah's Public and Secure Portals as well as information on smoothing techniques of health data. Utah is proud to be one of the national leaders in the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. Two of Utah's data partners were able to attend the tracking workshop as well. We would like to thank our data-sharing partners from the Utah Cancer Registry as well as the Utah Birth Defects Network for their attendance and contribution. We appreciate you efforts.

GET TO KNOW THE EPHT WEB BOARD

Utah's EPHT Program maintains a web board full of useful information for program stakeholders. This web board is a central repository that allows users to organize and access information, manage documents, and share calendars on a user-friendly interface that is available any time, anywhere. It is designed to enhance collaboration, information sharing, and communications between stakeholders and EPHT staff.

The EPHT Web Board contains information for EPHT's Executive Committee, Scientific Review Board, Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and more. Did you miss a TAG meeting? Meeting agenda, materials and meeting minutes are posted to the web board after each meeting so you can catch up on what you missed. Also, EPHT newsletters, training resources, national materials and Utah's EPHT implementation plan are available to access. Finally, there is a discussion board where you can leave any information or suggestions to the EPHT staff and important links that may be of interest to you. Access the web board at https://ephtp.webexone.com/login.asp?.

This web board is accessed by receiving an invitation to join the web board from an EPHT staff member. If you are not currently a member of the EPHT web board and would like to be one, please contact Alison Cox at amcox@utah.gov.

"This web board is a central repository that allows users to organize and access information"

CONGRATULATIONS SAM!

Utah's EPHT program manager was recently promoted to the position of Principal Investigator of the Environmental Epidemiology Program at the Utah Department of Health. He will still have some involvement in the EPHT program and we look forward to a new EPHT manager. Congratulations Sam!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Utah's EPHT staff is counting down the days until the network launch! The national portals are expected to launch September of 2008 while Utah's portals will launch summer of 2008
- The next EPHT Executive Committee meeting is December 20, 2007 from 2:00-3:00 pm in room 201 at the Cannon Health Building.
- The next EPHT Technical Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for January 24th at 10:00 (location to be announced).

EPHT RESOURCES

- EPHT marketing packets are available to anyone by request. This packet contains both national and state EPHT publications. To request a packet, email Alison Cox at amcox@utah.gov
- Watch for our newly designed Web site coming soon. This Web site contains more EPHT resources, links and information. Also, it will be a portal link for the state and national portals once launched. Health.utah.gov/epi/enviroepi

RELATED TRAININGS

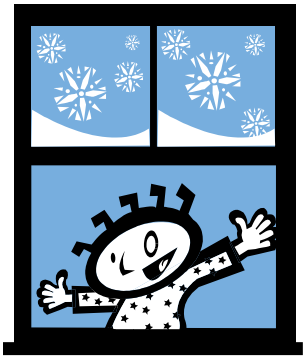
EPHT 101: Gives an overview of the major components of Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT). The course is divided into 12 modules. Each module focuses on a different subject. EPHT 101 users can go in and out of the course saving their progress and complete the course at their convenience. To register:

1. go to www.utah.train.org.
2. Log in or create a new account
3. Search for EPHT 101 or course # 1009900
4. Follow registration information

Risk Communications: Teaches how to relay information about health risks to the public to ensure that the proper messages are sent.

Cluster Investigation: Provides common methods used to detect, characterize and evaluate potential disease clusters.

Disease Mapping: A course on methods used to compute, standardize and smooth disease rates and compare rates as rate ratios.



If you are interested in any of these trainings email amcox@utah.gov

Utah Department of Health

HEALTH.UTAH.GOV/EPI/ENVIROEPI

Environmental Public Health Tracking Project

Office of Epidemiology

288 North 1460 West

P.O. Box 142104

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2104

Phone: 801-538-6191

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM

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 add to the upcoming EPHT newsletter

Utah Department of Health