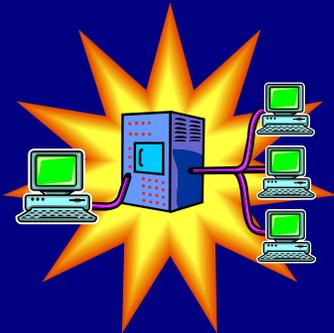


## DATA STEWARDS

The EPHT Project relies on owners of environmental and health data to share their information. Allowing the EPHT Project to access and analyze health and environmental data will help improve the quality of public health interventions. In addition, the EPHTN will be equipped with high-level data analysis and visualization and reporting tools that may be useful for data owners and others who access the network. For more information about sharing your data, please contact the Utah Department of Health Environmental Public Health Tracking Project at (801) 538-6191.



### Utah Department of Health

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## National EPHT Network Basics



The National  
Environmental Public  
Health Tracking Network

## The National EPHTN

The Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (EPHTN) will be a nationwide network for bringing together information on environmental hazards, human exposures to hazards and health outcomes. This network will be the first of its kind and will contain local, state and national data.

The network will include Web-based tools to support the exchange of data between partners. For security, users will have access to various levels of data, depending on their needs and clearances, while sensitive data and critical systems will be protected.

The EPHTN will collect environmental and health data from a variety of sources and standardize the data to enhance national consistency. This information will allow communities to make informed environmental and health decisions.



The data from the network will also help researchers identify public health concerns to investigate and aid public health officials in decision-making.

### The Environment and Our Health



The environment plays an important role in our health. Our air, water, soil, food, and surroundings may contain environmental hazards that can cause illness or injury. Initial efforts of this project are focused on environmental health issues such as cancer, asthma and birth defects. Hazards of interest include pesticides, solvents, heavy metals and air pollution. Some relationships between environmental hazards and diseases are well known, such as asbestos and lung cancer; however, many more links are only suspected.

Both the Institute of Medicine and the Pew Charitable Trust have reported that there is too little attention given to the health consequences of environmental hazards. Environmental and health data are often collected separately, in different places, and in different formats. Lack of coordination in the data makes it difficult to monitor and study relationships. A comprehensive tracking network will be able to more ef-

fectively link environmental hazards to disease outcomes.

### Who is Building the Network?

CDC began the effort of building the network in 2002. CDC is funding 16 state health departments, including the Utah Department of Health, to develop



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model systems. CDC also funds four universities of public health.

Funded partners are working with communities and other organizations to identify and evaluate sources of information. CDC is working with federal agencies such as the EPA and NASA as well as many smaller organizations and advocacy groups.