



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM

CEHTP

FUTURE ASSESSMENT DIRECTIVE

OVERVIEW

Future assessment of health surveillance and environmental monitoring information systems should include a description of the health department and environmental department information technology (IT) infrastructure and architecture as well as information on personnel, and management practices.

POLICIES & DECISION MAKING

A. Describe relevant policies; the organization and decision-making processes; and decision-making responsibility and authority for surveillance and related IT in the health and environmental departments. Describe how they relate to state policies, procedures, etc. Describe how the loci of decision-making for surveillance and IT relate to one another and how decisions are made regarding IT for surveillance. Also, provide a description of how cross-program decisions are made.

INFRASTRUCTURE

B. Describe current technical infrastructure, including comments on:

1. whether the health department and environmental departments have a local area network that supports TCP/IP;
2. whether the health department and environmental department have firewalls
3. what kind and version of server is used in the health department and environmental department (e.g., NT, Unix, other
4. are local health departments included in state health department intranet? Are local environmental departments included in state environmental intranet? If so, through what kind of connection?

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

C. Describe public health surveillance and environmental monitoring information systems.

1. Describe the purpose, scope, and capabilities of each system.
2. Describe the technical characteristics of each system, including information about the number and kind of platforms and technologies, and tools used (specifically, include information about communications and networking technologies).
3. Describe and enumerate functions of personnel dedicated to each system (e.g., epidemiologists, programmers, data base managers, data entry personnel, support staff).
4. Examine the comparability of data element specifications, data sources, and methods of data collection.

NETWORK

D. Describe the administration and operation of the health department's network, including staff and resources currently in place to support it, functions performed, and relationship to the state government's network administration and support.

SOFTWARE

E. Describe surveillance systems software development capacity, including resources in place to support this capacity, and description of current activities.

FUNDING

F. Identify current sources of support for surveillance and related IT (e.g., Federal funds other than the Environmental Public Health Tracking (surveillance) Network, State funds, etc.).

INTERAGENCY INTERACTION

G. Describe interaction between state public health surveillance and environmental monitoring information systems and local health departments.

Additional guidance may be found through National Electronic Disease Surveillance System ([NEDSS](#)) assessment and planning activities undertaken by the [Division of Communicable Disease Control of the California Department of Health Services](#).