

CSTE Environmental Health in Schools Workgroup Overview **June 1, 2017 at 2pm ET**

Environmental Health at School: Ignored Too Long, November 2015

The First National Facilitated Workshop on environmental health at school convened a variety of subject matter experts and parents of affected children to develop research and policy recommendations for addressing environmental health hazards (including, but not limited to, indoor air pollution, PCBs, molds, and chemical mismanagement and spills) commonly found in the nation's 130,000 Pre-K-12 schools and child care facilities. These risks place more than 55 million children who occupy these facilities across the country at risk every day. Workshop attendees discussed data needs and gaps and proposed recommendations for improved surveillance of environmental health at school.

Most importantly for state and local epidemiologists is the need to develop a standardized set of indicators that would allow for the assessment and monitoring of environmental health exposures and hazards in schools and child care facilities.

Other proposed data and surveillance recommendations include:

1. Develop a robust surveillance system for identifying and tracking environmental health risks in schools, including the need to build consensus around which health outcomes to track.
2. Review and determine the kind of data that should be collected regarding environmental health risks in schools and how these data can be collected efficiently, including coordination between the public health and education communities.
3. Develop institutional tools or mechanisms for identifying at-risk or vulnerable children, including those that are medically fragile, to ensure that they receive appropriate assistance.
4. Conduct pilots of the proposed prevention, intervention, and tracking programs including pilots for tracking and surveillance programs that could be conducted by CSTE and other entities.

Potential CSTE Workgroup Activities

- Document existing children's environmental health surveillance programs
- Explore tools and mechanisms for identifying children who are at-risk or vulnerable to environmental hazards such as those with underlying health conditions
- Draft suite of environmental health at school indicators
- Pilot test at state and local levels
- Publish guidance on calculating and tracking a national suite of indicators

Completed Activities

- June 2016: Roundtable presentation at the CSTE Annual Conference “Environmental Health at School: Call to Action for Coordinated Surveillance of Environmental Hazards and Exposures in Schools and Child Care Facilities”
- August 2016: Created formal CSTE Environmental Health in Schools Workgroup and invited state and county epidemiologists to participate
- September 2016: Workgroup kick-off call, 17 jurisdictions
- November 2016 – January 2017: Discussed data sources and potential activities for the workgroup
- February – March 2017: Data sources survey implementation
- April 2017: Review survey results and discuss subcommittee activities

Assessment Overview

- States/counties represented: California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, and Multnomah County
- “Not Collected/Available” – most frequently (5+ respondents) reported for:
 - Asthma grant (program data)
 - Individual health plans
 - School health nurse database
- “Access to Data Source” – most frequently (7+ respondents) reported for:
 - Emergency room and hospitalization data
 - Syndromic surveillance
 - EMS data
- “Experience Working with this Data Source” – most frequently (5+ respondents) reported for:
 - Emergency room and hospitalization data
 - Syndromic Surveillance
 - Poison Control
 - Economic Wellness/SES
- “No Access or Experience with this Data” – most frequently (5+ respondents) reported for:
 - Sanitation inspections
 - Fire safety inspection
 - CDC School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) data
 - Personnel health complaints (occupational health, NIOSH or OSHA databases)
 - Parent/child environmental health complaints regarding school risk
 - 1305 grant (program data)
 - Individual health plans
 - School attendance

- Data Sources:
 - EMS Data
 - Ambulatory Care Data
 - Poison Control
 - Syndromic Surveillance
 - Emergency room and hospitalization data
 - 1305 grant (program data)
 - Asthma grant (program data)
 - Individual health plans
 - School health nurse database
 - Federal subsidized meal programs (food service inspections 2x year)
 - Sanitation inspections
 - Fire safety inspection
 - CDC School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) data
 - Personnel health complaints (occupational health, NIOSH or OSHA databases)
 - Parent/child environmental health complaints regarding school risk
 - Community water systems surveillance
 - Private drinking water surveillance
 - Drinking water surveillance at tap
 - Building structure data - year built, building conditions, construction permits
 - Radon screening
 - Pesticide applications
 - School attendance
 - Economic Wellness/SES
 - Other