

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS COLLABORATIVE (SEHIC)
CLIMATE AND HEALTH INDICATORS**

Category: Adaptation Indicators

Indicator: Number of Health Surveillance Systems Related to Climate Change

MEASURE DESCRIPTION

Last updated:	April 24, 2010
Measurement units:	Yes (with access to the state's survey response)
Geographic scale:	Statewide
Time scale:	One-time survey administered in 2008-2009
Significance/background:	A number of health surveillance systems already exist at the local, state, and/or federal level that are relevant to the health effects of climate change. These systems provide a valuable, evidence-based tool to help public health prioritize adaptation and mitigation policies to ensure that interventions benefit the most vulnerable populations.
Rationale:	Currently, the majority of health surveillance systems related to climate change have not been identified as connected both to a specific health concern and to the larger topic of global climate change. This indicator allows states to start coordinating surveillance efforts across disciplines to spark research into potential climate-related correlations across relevant surveillance trends.
Limitations:	Because climate-related health surveillance systems have not been grouped, their data sources and the location where they are housed may slow access to multiple systems. The data collection methodologies may differ across systems, further complicating comparisons.
Data resources:	
Data limitations:	The ASTHO survey was not made public other than through a PowerPoint presentation. Researchers must therefore request access to the survey responses provided by the state in question either from ASTHO or directly from the state department of health services.
Related data:	
Related SEHIC measures:	CC 2.1: Excess Mortality due to Extreme Heat CC 2.2: Excess Morbidity due to Extreme Heat CC 2.3: Number of Injuries/Mortality from Extreme Weather Events CC 2.4: Human Cases of Infectious Disease/Positive Test Results in Sentinels and Reservoirs CC 2.5: Respiratory/Allergic Disease and Mortality Related to Increased Air Pollution and Pollens CC 3.1: Population Vulnerability or General Social Vulnerability CC 3.2: Heat Vulnerability CC 3.3: Flood Vulnerability

	CC 3.4: Sea Level Rise Vulnerability CC 5.1: Development of State Adaptation Plan CC 5.2: Access to Cooling Centers CC 5.3: Number of Heat Alerts, Heat Health Watch/Warning Systems CC 5.4: Number of Municipal Heat Island Mitigation Projects and Plans CC 5.6: Number of Public Health Workforce Trained in Climate Change CC 6.1. Number, Percent, and Percent of Population of Local Governments Participating in ICLEI CC 6.2 Number, Percent, and Percent of Population Living in Cities Participating in the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement CC 6.3: Creation of a State Climate Change Advisory Board CC 6.4 Completion of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory CC 6.5 Completion of a State/Local Climate Change Action Plan
Related indicators (from other projects):	
Recommendations:	

HOW-TO GUIDE: Number of Health Surveillance Systems Related to Climate Change

1. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) 2008-2009 survey of state and territorial Chief Health Officers includes a section on the current level of climate and health surveillance in the state. A PowerPoint presentation summarizing the survey is located at: <http://www.astho.org/Programs/Environmental-Health/Natural-Environment/PowerPoint--SHO-survey/>
2. Contact the Chief Health Officer in your state department of health to request a copy of their completed survey.

Summary of responses to the 2008-2009 ASTHO survey

Available at: <http://www.astho.org/Programs/Environmental-Health/Natural-Environment/PowerPoint--SHO-survey/>

Surveillance System	Number of States with Capacity
Water-borne disease morbidity and mortality	32
Food-borne disease morbidity and mortality	35
Quality of air, including air pollution, in	20

jurisdiction	
Anxiety, depression, or other mental health conditions	11
Extreme weather events morbidity and mortality	18
Health effects from ozone/particulate matter	11
Asthma/Respiratory illness morbidity and mortality	26
Heat/cold morbidity and mortality	21
Vector-borne diseases (Lyme disease, West Nile virus, etc.)	33