

*Monday, February 23, 1:30PM-3:00PM
Concurrent Breakout Session A*

Update on Environmental Public Health Tracking and Birth Defects

Moderator: Leslie O'Leary, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Birth Defects Information on the National Tracking Portal

Heather Strosnider, Environmental Health Tracking Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Conducting Birth Defects Surveillance Activities for Environmental Public Health Tracking in Florida

Jane Correia, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, FL

Jason L. Salemi, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Diana Sampat, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

In 2002, Congress provided the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with funding to develop a Nationwide Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Network to facilitate access to information on environmentally related diseases, human exposures, and environmental hazards that can be used to respond to and eventually reduce the burden of environmental diseases. In addition to developing a National Tracking Network, the funds are to be used to develop capacity in environmental health surveillance and risk communications within state and local health departments. Currently, CDC funds 17 state and local health departments to establish tracking networks that feed into a national network. At the CDC National Tracking Conference, which is being held February 24 – 26, 2009 in Washington, DC, the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network will be officially launched.

In this session the presenters will describe 1) the implementation of the Birth Defects Content Workgroup recommendations by the National Tracking Program, 2) the data procedures used, including methods for calculating the indicators and data privacy rules, and 3) the framework for display of birth defects information and indicators on the National Tracking Portal. In addition, presenters from the Florida Birth Defects Surveillance Program will 1) describe the process for implementing active surveillance for selected birth defects in Florida, and 2) provide insights into the development, management, and use of the data to meet specific objectives and indicators for the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program.