



# Environmental Public Health Tracking

## PEER-TO-PEER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

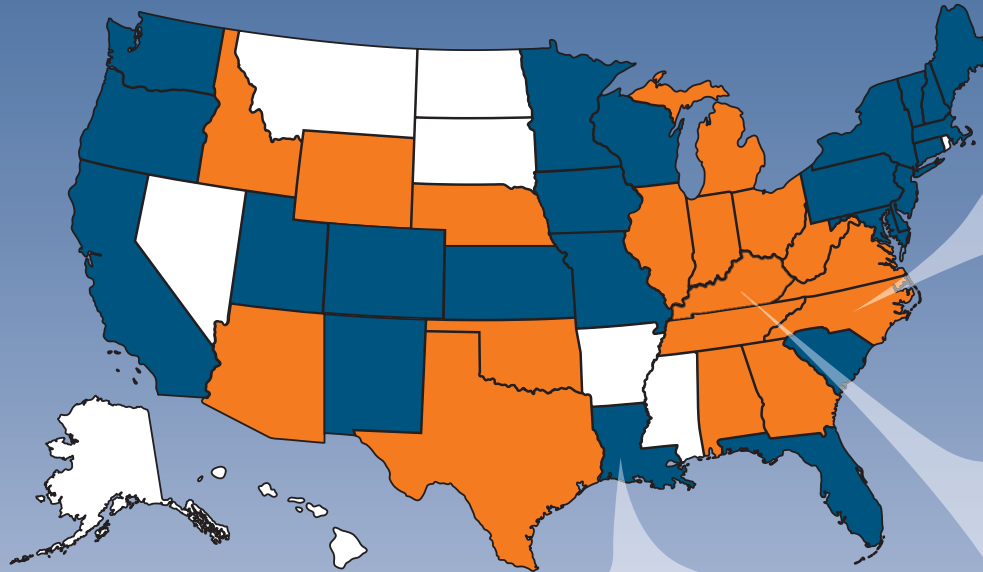
### A STEPPING STONE FOR NON-FUNDED HEALTH AGENCIES TO IMPROVE THEIR READINESS FOR TRACKING

In 2009, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), in collaboration with CDC, launched its Environmental Public Health Tracking: Peer-to-Peer Fellowship Program to build capacity of non-funded health agencies by providing opportunities to:

- Develop a pilot project that would advance tracking in their jurisdictions
- Gain first-hand tracking experience from CDC grantee mentors
- Improve communication and collaboration between funded and non-funded states

To date, ASTHO has supported 23 non-funded sites through its program. State "readiness" to engage in tracking is vital to creating a well-integrated, nationwide Tracking Network. Fellows receive resources, mentorship, and lasting support to aid in their pioneering efforts and can better prepare themselves for the opportunity to become part of CDC's National Tracking Network.

[www.astho.org](http://www.astho.org)



#### CDC State Grantees

- New York City

#### ASTHO Tracking Fellows

- Cincinnati
- Washington DC
- Fairfax County, Virginia
- Dayton & Montgomery County, Ohio

#### North Carolina

##### "Climate Indicators for Harmful Algal Bloom Events in North Carolina"

North Carolina piloted the project, "Climate Indicators for Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Events" to focus on the predictive nature of climate indicators for cyanobacterial (a.k.a blue-green algae) blooms in North Carolina. Results could inform strategies for protecting vulnerable populations, public water supplies, and recreational sites, such as lakes. NC has begun work towards establishing a server to support and initiate tracking activities of well water data.

#### Kentucky

##### "Criteria Air Pollutants and Chronic Respiratory Disease in Kentucky"

The Kentucky Department of Public Health (KY DPH) conducted a pilot project to examine the relation of criteria air pollutant levels with the prevalence rates of chronic respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer seen in KY. KY DPH has established an internal Tracking Workgroup to assist with formalizing the data collection process. The Workgroup intends to use results to demonstrate the benefits of tracking to legislators, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

#### Louisiana

##### "Establishing a Surveillance System to Track and Link Louisiana's Blood Mercury and Fish-Tissue Mercury Levels"

As part of the 2009 Fellowship Program, Louisiana conducted a demonstration project that tracked blood mercury and fish-tissue mercury levels to evaluate the feasibility, limitations and potential applications of a GIS-based surveillance system. Louisiana successfully competed for the CDC Tracking Network Implementation Grant and in 2009 became part of CDC's National Tracking Network.



#### ABOUT TRACKING

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network is a web-based surveillance system that involves the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, and interpretation of environmental hazards and exposure data with data on health illnesses possibly linked to the environment. Since its launch, the Tracking Network has allowed state, local, and federal agencies to rapidly detect emerging public health threats, implement and evaluate the efficacy of control strategies, and develop actions that improve public health. To learn more about CDC's Tracking Network, please visit [www.cdc.gov/ephttracking](http://www.cdc.gov/ephttracking).

#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BIRTH OUTCOMES



#### ASTHMA & HEART ATTACK HOSPITALIZATIONS



#### AIR QUALITY



#### WATER



#### CANCER COMMUNITY DESIGN

