

Epidemic Intelligence Service

A History of Success: Investigating and Responding to Public Health Threats Since 1951

Milestone Investigations

EIS has a 73-year history of success in training disease detectives. EIS officers step up at a moment's notice to investigate public health threats in the United States and around the world. From the Smallpox Eradication Program in the 1960's to the COVID-19 pandemic, EIS officers are called on to protect people and save lives.



1978 Aspirin use and Reye's syndrome
1981 HIV/AIDS first reported
1988 Global Polio Eradication Initiative
1993 E.coli Jack in the Box
2001 Anthrax U.S. Postal Service
2003 SARS
2009 Influenza (H1N1) pandemic
2014 Ebola West Africa
2015 HIV/Hepatitis Opiod-related outbreak
2016 Zika

2018

Ebola

Democratic Republic of the Congo

2019

EVALI outbreak

e-cigarete/vaping-associated lung injury

2019

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Details by the decade



A Snapshot of Public Health Achievements [2 MB, 10 Pages, 508] highlights milestone investigations that improved health, made a difference in thousands of lives, and effected change in communities and entire countries.

Did You Know?



Worn out shoe leather with a prominent hole worn through has been a recurring visual theme of EIS through the decades, a reference to the practice of EIS officers personally investigating disease outbreaks at the local population level, in all parts of the world.

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