

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

History

Overview: 60 Years of Disease Surveillance

Notifiable diseases are conditions public health authorities voluntarily share with CDC. National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) including components like the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) support surveillance efforts in CDC Programs as well as state, territorial, and local health departments. Prior to 1985, notifiable disease data was sent by the states to CDC by mail and by phone. Since then, CDC has worked closely partners to support state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments by helping them develop integrated and interoperable public health surveillance systems.

- 1951** • The National Office of Vital Statistics begins receiving summary data from states by phone and by mail.
- 1961** • Responsibility for collecting and publishing data on nationally notifiable diseases transfers from the National Office of Vital Statistics to CDC.
 - CDC begins publishing the MMWR with notifiable diseases data.
- 1985** • Electronic era of public health surveillance begins with the Electronic Surveillance Project (ESP) at CDC, a national 5-year pilot project for electronically collecting notifiable disease data. ESP pilot states each develop their own version of an electronic health reporting system. In response, CDC develops standards and systems to translate data sent from states.
- 1990** • NETSS (National Electronic Telecommunications System for Surveillance) launches after positive ESP pilot program assessment. NETSS provided an intuitive, easy to use and understand, and stable system developed to better reconcile national and state records.
- 1993** • Program for Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) expands and a version of NETSS tailored to the VPD program is first deployed. After 2 years, 100% of states use the system, and CDC provides no additional funding to states.
- 1994** • CDC program participation begins. STD program initiates move to NETSS, followed by meningitis, lyme disease, hepatitis, and VPD programs.
- 1995** • The Epidemiology Program Office (EPO) proposes updating NETSS from a DOS-based to a Windows-based system.
- 1998** • Integration project begins among 11 CDC systems to update NETSS by creating data elements CDC programs needed.
- 1999** • Integration project is suspended. CDC OD's Information Resources Management Office (IRMO) creates NEDSS to promote use of data and information system standards to 1) advance the development of efficient, integrated, and interoperable surveillance systems at federal, state, and local levels and 2) facilitate the electronic transfer of public health surveillance data. At this time, surveillance activities remain in EPO.
- 2000** • States begin receiving federal funding from CDC through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) cooperative agreement to plan and implement integrated electronic systems for disease surveillance.
 - CDC develops the NEDSS Base System (NBS), a platform for disease-specific modules, which it supports and provides to states for use in electronic surveillance.
- 2004** • CDC creates the Public Health Information Network (PHIN) as an outgrowth of NEDSS to embrace broader public health surveillance. EPO moves to CDC's newly established Division of Public Health Informatics.
- 2005** • 27 state health departments and 2 jurisdictions enter at least some notifiable disease data by using a secure, Internet-based system, and 26 jurisdictions receive lab results through electronic laboratory reporting (ELR).
- 2008** • CDC and NNDSS receive first HL7 messages for TB and varicella case notifications.
- 2009** • CDC establishes Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services as part of CDC reorganization.
- 2011** • Every state uses a NEDSS-compliant disease reporting system, and one third of states use the CDC-created NBS.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nndss>

Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services

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