

The Environmental Health Specialists Network Information System (EHSNIS)

Overview

The Environmental Health Specialists Network Information System (EHSNIS) is an Internet application developed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This Web-based application is accessible anywhere there is internet connectivity. EHSNIS currently supports the data collection activities of the Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) in the area of foodborne and waterborne illness outbreak prevention. For more information about EHS-Net, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EHSNet>.

EHSNIS is also available for use by government agencies and nonprofit organizations to support their data collection needs relating to environmental health. We anticipate expanding use of EHSNIS to support improved environmental public health studies in a number of areas, namely air, food, land, waste, and water.

EHSNIS users may independently design data collection instruments to achieve their data collection and analysis. CDC staff will then review and clear each data collection instrument before its use in EHSNIS to ensure continuing compliance with security, data privacy, and other federal mandates. Organizations such as the National Environmental Health Association, East Oklahoma State University, and the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association have used the system.

EHSNIS Use

EHS-Net participants and EHSNIS users load CDC-approved data collection instruments into EHSNIS. Data collection responses are submitted to CDC via the Internet. EHS-Net participants and EHSNIS users can download the data into a comma-separated value file for analysis using analytic software packages (e.g., SAS, SPSS, Microsoft Excel).

EHSNIS supports two methods of data collection:

- Interview or observation—collecting data in the field;
- Internet survey—sending survey invitations by e-mail to a target audience, with a URL and code for EHSNIS access; EHSNIS supports anonymous and non-anonymous survey designs.

Contact Information

If you would like to use EHSNIS for your data collection activities, contact us by e-mail (ehsnis@cdc.gov) or phone (770-488-7476).

