

Questions to Guide the Data Use and Network Content Team (DUNC)

To help DUNC conceptualize the issues that face the EPHT program with respect to data and network content, a list of questions were formulated that will help guide the work of the team. These questions are a starting point for discussion and not final. Please review at your convenience for discussion at the DUNC meetings.

Question 1: CDC requires we work with specific types of environmental and environmentally related health data. How could the **Oregon** EPHT program gather these types of data, given the existing methods for data access available to EPHT partner programs?

Examples of possible types of data that have been suggested within National EPHT meetings to date. **These are preliminary; a more accurate measure of types of data will be available by the end of May in 2006.**

- ✚ Air Quality
 - Particulate Matter
 - Ozone
- ✚ Birth Defects
- ✚ Cancer
 - Short Latency Cancers (to be determined)
- ✚ Drinking Water
 - Arsenic in Drinking Water
 - Total Trihalomethanes
- ✚ Hospitalizations
 - Asthma
 - Myocardial Infarction
- ✚ Lead
 - Blood Lead Levels in Children
 - Housing Age
- ✚ Vital Statistics
 - Infant Mortality
 - Birth Rate
 - Very Low Birth Weight

Question 2: What are the **national** environmental public health indicators (if any) related to these data types?

Question 3: What is the indicator work being done at the national EPHT level and are these indicators useful and/or reasonable for Oregon?

Question 4: Can existing environmental and/or health data **available in Oregon** be used to track these indicators ~~in Oregon~~?

Question 5: What additional (if any) **Oregon specific** indicators would be useful to characterize current and emerging environmental public health surveillance needs in Oregon?

Question 6: How **in Oregon** do we present indicators to both environmental and public health professionals, and eventually to the public, in a way that makes them useful?

Question 7: What are the types of epidemiological and environmental questions we would like to be able to answer using the EPHTN **in Oregon**? For example:

- ✚ Is there a threshold level of ambient particulates above which acute cardiovascular events are sufficiently increased to warrant public health warnings when this threshold is reached?
- ✚ Are there measurable contaminants, which have previously unrecognized effects on control of asthma or other conditions?

The list of questions above as well as additional question determined at a later date will help specify additional types of data and related analytical information that will be needed to answer them.

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