

Public Health Surveillance: What does it mean to be nationally notifiable?

Janet Hamilton, MPH

Director of Science and Policy



Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists



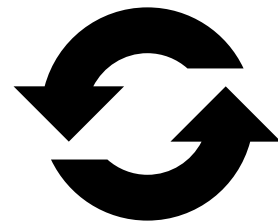
“The ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data essential to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice, closely integrated with the timely dissemination of these data to those who need to know.”

~Ehrenkranz, NJ Am J Med 1981

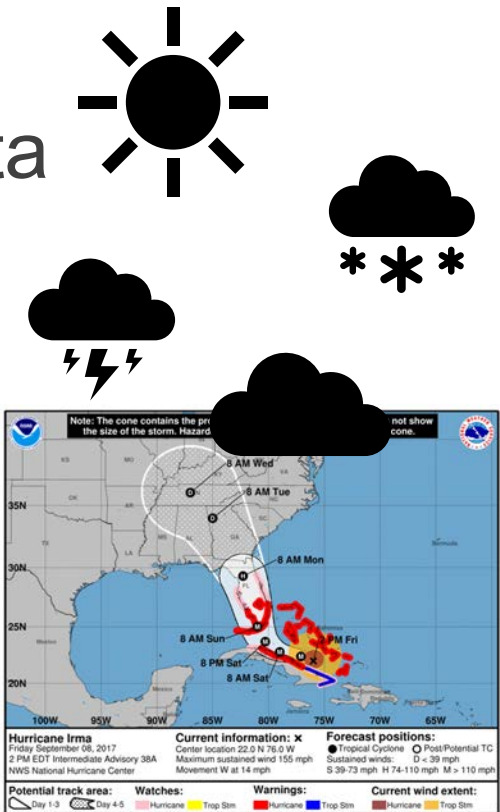
Public Health Surveillance Components



5 Components – *A continuous process*



- Ongoing, systematic collection of data
- Data analysis
- Interpretation of data
- Dissemination of the information
- Linking data to public health practice and care



Surveillance Functions



- *Use information to bring about change*

1. Assess the magnitude of a health problem
2. Understand the natural history of a health condition and inform clinical practice
3. Determine distribution and spread of illness
4. Identify populations at risk
5. Detect epidemics and outbreaks
6. Generate hypotheses and stimulate research
7. Identify public health interventions
8. Facilitate planning
9. Evaluate prevention and control measures

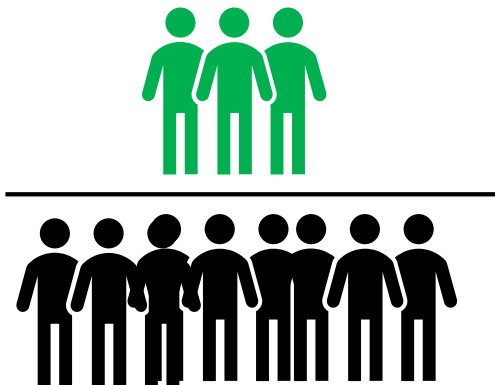


- Surveillance strategies are best based on the characteristics of the disease(s)
 - Clinical presentation
 - Incubation/latency
 - Laboratory and diagnostic tests
 - Extent of morbidity/mortality
 - Care seeking tendencies, availability and access to care
 - Potential for prevention
- **KEY:** get the system to collect the right data in order to answer needed questions.

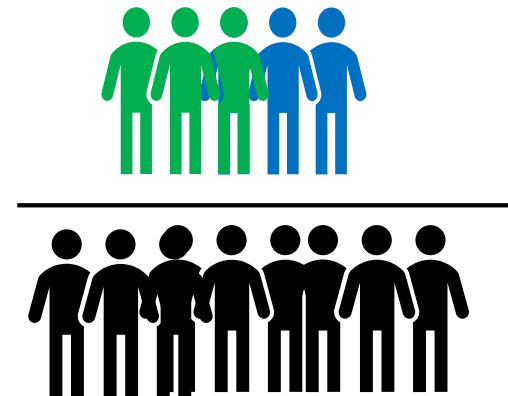
Quantifying



- Incidence: Number of *new* cases in a given period of time



- Prevalence: Total number of cases (*new* and *previously diagnosed, still living*) in a given period of time



Nationally Notifiable



- Designation
 - Does:
 - Codifies voluntary notification of case data from states to CDC
 - Recommends (does not require) states make changes to state laws
 - Provides guidance to CDC about how state provided data should be shared.
 - Does not:
 - Come with funding
 - Directly support the level of effort for which cases are identified or investigated
 - Change clinician education about the disease

Nationally Notifiable



- Process
 - State consensus with CDC collaboration
 - Member driven proposal: Position Statement
 - Goals of surveillance
 - Methods of surveillance
 - Methods for case ascertainment/identification
 - Data sharing
 - Approved by the Council
 - First vote: Standardized surveillance case definition
 - Second vote: Nationally notifiable status



CSTE National Office

2635 Century Parkway NE, Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

T 770.458.3811

F 770.458.8516

jhamilton@cste.org