



# Environmental Public Health Tracking

USING EPHT DATA AND RESOURCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Missouri EPHT Fills Information Gap on Workers' Health

### What was the problem/situation?

The Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program determined there was a gap in the occupational health information available to Missouri workers and public health staff. Until this project, little to no information was available to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) that tied work hazards to related health outcomes.

### How was Tracking involved?

To fill this information gap, the Missouri EPHT program partnered with new and existing data stewards to collect work-related data. Data partners included the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the Bureau of Health Care Analysis and Data Dissemination, the Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology Surveillance Program; and Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Workers' Compensation Program. With the assistance of data partners, the EPHT team was able to collect and analyze data in order to complete 80 Occupational Health Indicators.

By completing the occupational health indicators, the EPHT program was able to compare Missouri worker health outcomes to the average of national health outcomes. The team determined that for some health outcomes, such as work-related Mesothelioma, Missouri has an incident rate below the national average. However, for other health outcomes, such as adult lead poisoning, Missouri workers are above the national average for all measures: number of elevated cases, rates, and the count of new elevation cases per year. The team discovered specific trends in the health indicator data. For the majority of indicators, a decline occurred around 2008 and 2009 during the national and Missouri recessions. However, other indicators saw a noticeable increase during the same period. While the number of adult blood lead tests remained relatively unchanged from 2008 – 2010, the number of elevated cases increased. This increase was particularly pronounced for construction workers; their number of elevated cases increased from 85 in 2009, to 114 in 2010, up to 132 in 2011. This type of increase was also seen in other industries including manufacturing.



**The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program**  
*Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) is a program within the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. EPHT is part of a larger initiative to establish Environmental Public Health Tracking systems at the national and state levels.*



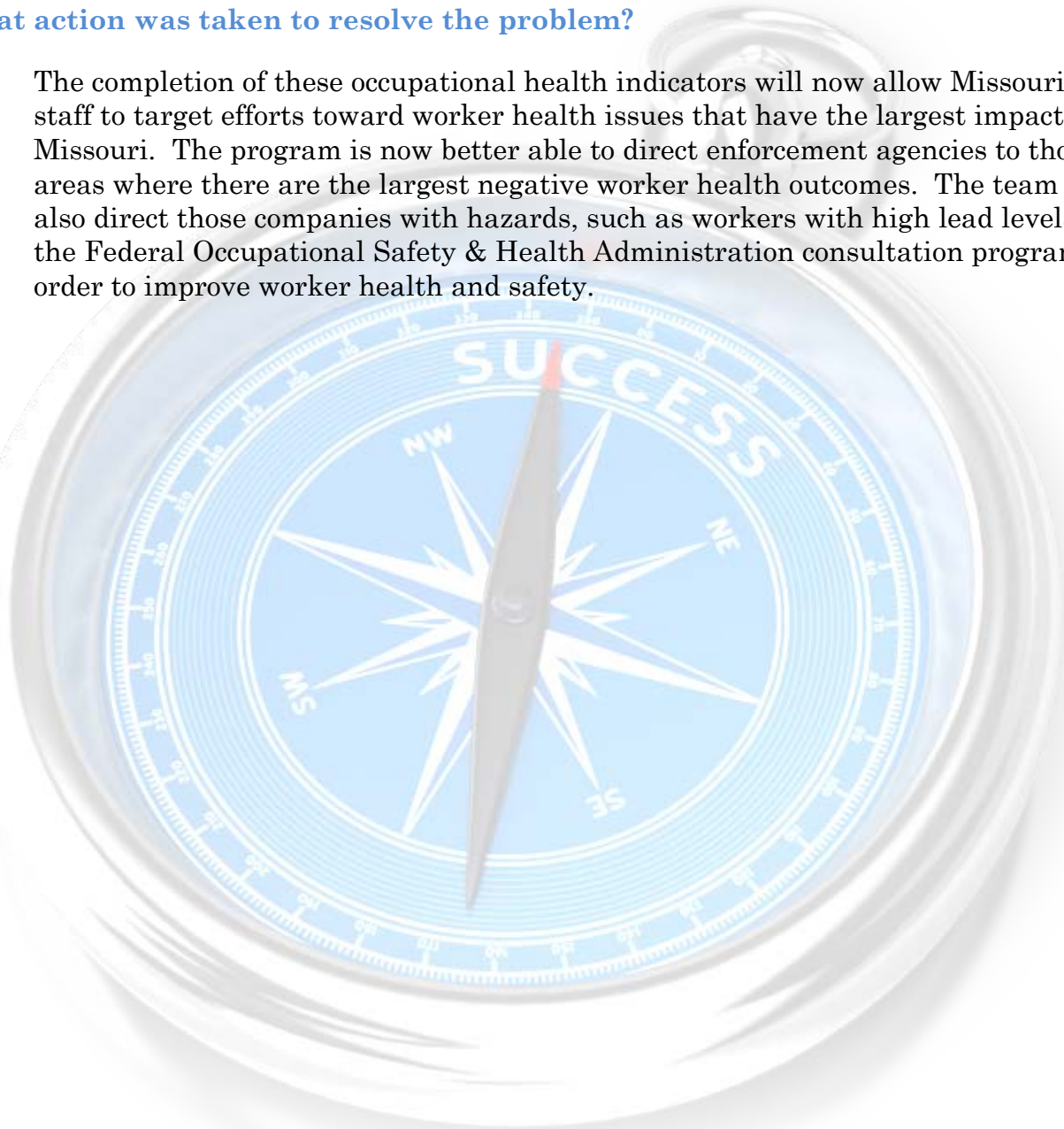


# Environmental Public Health Tracking

USING EPHT DATA AND RESOURCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## What action was taken to resolve the problem?

The completion of these occupational health indicators will now allow Missouri EPHT staff to target efforts toward worker health issues that have the largest impact in Missouri. The program is now better able to direct enforcement agencies to those areas where there are the largest negative worker health outcomes. The team can also direct those companies with hazards, such as workers with high lead levels, to the Federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration consultation program in order to improve worker health and safety.



**The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program**  
*Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) is a program within the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. EPHT is part of a larger initiative to establish Environmental Public Health Tracking systems at the national and state levels.*

