



Environmental Public Health Tracking

USING EPHT DATA AND RESOURCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Portal Expansion

What was the problem/situation?

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and can be found all over the United States. It is a radioactive gas that is colorless, odorless, and tasteless that can get into any type of building – homes, offices, and schools – and result in an elevated radon level. Previously no radon surveillance data was available for public use on the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' (DHSS) website.

How was Tracking involved?

The Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program partnered with the Missouri Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) program to achieve three set deliverables: 1) EPHT portal expansion to include radon, 2) addition of indoor air quality indicators to the Health, Environment, and Community Profiles, and 3) the creation of user-friendly interactive maps.

The Missouri EPHT portal was expanded to include radon as a new content area. Radon data was extracted from the IAQ database and formatted into comprehensive public use maps, charts, and tables. The program chose to include static maps that are being used to demonstrate to the public the importance and need for residential radon testing.

The Missouri EPHT Health, Environment, and Community Profiles have been updated to include the IAQ indicators reflecting the percentage of housing units tested for radon; as well as the percentage of tested housing units that are elevated.

Missouri's EPHT program staff met with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Director to determine which types of interactive maps would be most beneficial for the public while also proving useful to the IAQ program for educational outreach and testing. The EPHT and IAQ programs worked closely with the GIS Director to develop and implement both public and secure versions of interactive radon maps. One map displays residential testing and the other displays public and charter school testing.



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.





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What action was taken to resolve the problem?

For the first time in DHSS history, the public may now view radon surveillance data. Hot spots are identified on the public maps and scaled to zip code level to maintain confidentiality. The secure versions of the maps include exact addresses for the IAQ program staff to utilize when determining program priorities.

How would you quantify the impact of the resulting action on the health of the population?

Providing outreach and public education about the necessity of testing for the presence of radon results in a reduction of exposure to a hazardous substance through improved accessibility of reliable educational information via the EPHT portal. The public is now provided information about radon hot spots and testing for residential areas; as well as public and charter schools where their children attend. Publishing radon surveillance information benefits public health outcomes.



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