



Environmental Public Health Tracking

USING EPHT DATA AND RESOURCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Promoting Health Benefits of Using Non-Lead Fishing Tackle

What was the problem/situation?

For most of its history, Missouri has been the top lead producer in the country. Lead can be harmful to individuals, especially children, when ingested or inhaled. Items like sinkers, weights, shots, jig heads, and weighted hook are often made of lead and found in a typical tackle box. Improper use and handling of these items may result in lead entering your body.

How was Tracking involved?

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program recognized the link between the mishandling of lead fishing tackle and the potential of lead entering your body, particularly in children. In 2015, the MDHSS EPHT program developed a 'Get Hooked on Healthy Fishing' packet which contains various items on taking the lead out of fishing. These packets contain a brochure with highlighted information on which fish to eat and which to avoid and information on taking the lead out of fishing, an 8" ruler sticker, a tin sinker, and a Missouri Fish Advisory bobber.

What action was taken to resolve the problem?

A special advisory was added into the annual Fish Advisory Summary booklet to encourage parents to replace lead fishing tackle with non-lead alternatives such as tin, bismuth, tungsten, or ceramic. The 'Get Hooked on Healthy Fishing' packets are being distributed to children and parents around the state at various events such as the Earth Day Exhibit at the Missouri State Capital, Ralls County Summer School Educational Field Trips to Mark Twain Lake (K-8), Kids Fishing Day at Kellogg Lake, Shoal Creek Water Festival, Missouri State Fair, and various fishing exhibits hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking is committed to encouraging the public to get outdoors and active while protecting their health.



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.

