



Environmental Public Health Tracking

USING EPHT DATA AND RESOURCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Missouri EPHT Builds Emergency Planning Capacity and Gains Information about Vulnerable Populations

What was the problem/situation?

The Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) staff worked hard to examine and address the information gap about health disparities and vulnerable populations in Missouri. At the same time, local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) have been attempting to expand emergency planning capacity. EPHT staff determined that by working together both emergency planning and vulnerable population information could be gathered at the same time.

How was Tracking involved?

In an effort to expand health disparity information and assist in emergency planning, the Missouri EPHT team reached out to local PHAs. In the summer of 2012, EPHT staff drafted a letter to local PHAs offering to build maps of their service areas to assist in emergency planning operations. In exchange, the program requested information about housing assistance provided by each public housing authority. By the fall of 2012, data started pouring in from PHAs across the state. During the fall of 2012, Missouri EPHT staff began building and disseminating the emergency planning maps to local PHAs. The response received was overwhelmingly positive.

What action was taken to resolve the problem?

The public housing project has increased awareness about the Missouri EPHT program and highlighted what EPHT can do to help other agencies throughout the state. This project has also increased emergency planning capacity of PHAs, who would not otherwise currently have access to service area maps. In addition, Missouri EPHT has gained valuable information about a vulnerable population that can be used with other information to determine health disparities for which they may be at risk.



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.

