### Introduction to EHS-Net

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# Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net)

 Network of environmental health specialists whose mission is to improve environmental health

CDC, FDA, EPA,
 and nine states (CA,
 CT, GA, IA, MN,
 NY, OR, RI, TN)







## Systems Approach: Epi, Lab, Environment

#### Host

Interaction: host & agent

Epidemiology:
(what disease?)

Lab:
(Identify and/or
Confirm agent)

Epidemiology:
(who exposed?, when?, where?, how?)

Environment

Environment

Interaction: agent & environment

#### **Environmental assessment:**

(why was the agent present in the environment in such a way that host could be exposed?)





## The Systems Approach

**Outbreak** 

Prevention Points Within the System

**Process** 

Handling step Cooking temps

**Economics** 

Wages and benefits Equipment costs

**Environmental Antecedents** 

Equipment
Sink conditions
Cooler temps

**People** 

Management policy Personal hygiene

Outbreak







#### **EHS-Net Goals**

- EHS-Net assists state health departments in their efforts to improve the practice of environmental health service programs by
  - identifying environmental antecedents (underlying factors) to illness and disease outbreaks.
  - translating findings into improved prevention efforts using a systems-based approach.





#### **EHS-Net Goals**

- ... And by
  - offering training opportunities to current and future environmental health specialists.
  - strengthening the relations among epidemiology, laboratory, and environmental health programs





### **EHS-Net**







## Environmental Health Specialists Network Information System (EHSNIS)

- Internet application
- Currently supports the data collection activities of EHS-Net in the area of foodborne illness outbreak prevention





# Environmental Health Specialists Network Information System (EHSNIS)

Can be used by government agencies and nonprofit organizations to support their data collection needs relating to environmental health

National Center for Environmental Health
Environmental Health Specialists Network
EHS-Net Information System
The data collection activity you have been invited to participate in is being hosted by the Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) Information System. This system has been made available to Federal, state, local agencies and other groups to improve environmental health practice.
The agency or organization that has sent you an invitation to participate in this data collection activity is solely responsible for its content, collection, analysis, and distribution. If you have any questions, contact the organization that has sent you an invitation.
If you would like information on utilizing this system, please contact the Environmental Health Services Branch at (770) 488-7476.
Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher is required to complete the survey.
To begin, please provide the code you were supplied in your invitation and click 'Submit'.
Code:





### **EHS-Net Completed Projects**

- Beef Study
- Beliefs About Sources of Gastrointestinal Illness (Population Study)
- Egg-Handling Study
- EHS-Net Information System
- Environmental Health Specialists Focus Group Study
- Food-Worker Focus Group Study
- Food Workers and Their Food-Preparation Practices Population Study
- Hand-Hygiene Study



## EHS-Net Projects in Progress: Food

- Chicken-Handling Study
- Complaint System
- Environmental Surface Sampling
- Ground Beef-Handling
- III Food-Handler Study
- Outbreak-Nonoutbreak Study
- Refuser Study
- Tomato-Handling Study
- Value of Inspections





## EHS-Net Projects in Progress: Water

- Small Water Systems Study (New York)
- Water Study (Minnesota)
- Water Study (Tennessee)



