

International Network on Public Health and Environment Tracking (INPHET)

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INPHET

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
ON PUBLIC HEALTH
& ENVIRONMENT TRACKING

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Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) – an International Network – Statement of purpose

Why

Monitoring environmental hazards is critical for the prevention of disease. Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) aims to merge, integrate, analyse and interpret environmental hazards, exposure and health data.^[1] EPHT can provide timely, accurate and systematic environmental data to public health decision makers on how to reduce the environmental health burden. By effectively linking environmental health data and translating it into meaningful information, EPHT can help protect the health of the public. Thus, EPHT represents the essence of proactive public health practice, since the ultimate goal of such a system is to guide public health action.

Main Objectives

The international EPHT network aims to support the development, implementation and evaluation of national EPHT initiatives. The EPHT network provides an international clearinghouse for public health practitioners and researchers on how to monitor environmental hazards, exposure and health data. Moreover, the international EPHT network aims to advance and enhance national EPHT capacity through support of systematic analyses of environmental health data. Specifically, how to:

1. Monitor environmental precursors of disease
2. Merge, integrate, analyse and interpret environmental hazards, exposure and health data
3. Examine relationships between environmental hazards and diseases
4. Identify populations at risk from environmental hazards
5. Implement and evaluate intervention and prevention strategies
6. Inform public health policy makers.

Benefit to public health

Find Us

Email: EPHT@phe.gov.uk

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About This Site

The International Network on Public Health and Environment Tracking (INPHET) was initiated to address common interests and activities in numerous countries to advance environmental public health tracking/surveillance and enhance use of these data to inform public health actions.

- 20 countries – 85 experts
- 500 members on distribution list

INPHET

- **Experts Survey:**

<https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=8l0H9p41#>

- **Current working groups:**

| Workgroup | Lead Organisation |
|---|--|
| Human Biomonitoring | Department of Public Health, Denmark |
| Low and middle income countries cooperation | National Research Council, Italy |
| Tracking Carbon Monoxide | Public Risk Management (PRISM) Institute, Canada |
| Outdoor Air Pollution Task Force | Santé Publique France, France |

- **Next conference:** Tracking experiences in Georgia and neighbouring countries in the Euro Asiatic Region. Tbilisi, Georgia – January 2019

INPHET Expert Profiles

- 85 experts registered (to Sept 2018)
 - 31 working in academia
 - 30 working at national government level
 - 11 regional government
 - 12 local government
 - 3 NGOs

*some experts work in more than one role

*survey live from May 2015

INPHET Expert Profiles

- **Continents:**
 - 80% Europe, 13% North America, 8% Asia, 2% Australasia
- **Topics:**
 - Health surveillance in relation to outdoor air hazards -58%
 - Outdoor air hazard surveillance -56%
 - Biomonitoring of exposure -38%
 - Health surveillance in relation to indoor air hazards -27%
 - Health surveillance in relation to extreme weather events -27%
 - Indoor air hazard surveillance -28%
 - Vector or climate-related hazard surveillance -26%
 - Biomonitoring of health effects -25%
 - Health surveillance in relation to water hazards -24%
 - Water hazard surveillance -24%
 - Food hazard surveillance -20%
 - Dust hazard surveillance -19%

INPHET Expert Profiles

- Other experience documented:
 - Post disaster hazard surveillance
 - Chemical hazard surveillance
 - Risk assessment of hazards and health
 - Noise and health surveillance (3)
 - Epidemiological ecological study design, e.g. cohort studies
 - Mathematical modelling
 - Information management and infrastructure development
 - Waste management
 - Health Impact Assessment

INPHET Expert Profiles

- Why are experts working on these topics?
 - Decision by public health agency/institute employing me -53%
 - Decision by research group -53%
 - Decision by policy makers in government -27%
 - Legal requirement -15%
 - Other, please specify:- training requirements, collaborations, funding, incidents or complaints, personal or shared interests

INPHET Expert Profiles

- Skills offered to the network:
 - Epidemiology -65%
 - Exposure assessment -42%
 - Stakeholder management -42%
 - Health Impact Assessment -33%
 - Analysis or review for policy makers -29%
 - Communications -29%
 - Teaching / training -22%
 - IT -16%
 - GIS -15%
 - Toxicology -7%
 - Public health information system development, operation, or evaluation -4%
 - Other, please specify: designing an active surveillance system, and Extensive experience of use of hazard and disease surveillance

INPHET Expert Profiles

- How do experts feel that they can benefit as an INPHET member?
 - Research- 67%
 - Networking- 49%
 - Teaching- 39%
 - Improve management of hazards- 31%
 - Improve coordination and comparability of EPHT activities- 28%
 - Other, please specify: building collaboration with international partners, learning opportunities, funding opportunities and proposals, 'social transparency, social cohesion, environmental justice', support policy making