

Health topics

Public health surveillance



Public health surveillance is the continuous, systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of health-related data needed for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice. Such surveillance can:

- serve as an early warning system for impending public health emergencies;
- document the impact of an intervention, or track progress towards specified goals; and
- monitor and clarify the epidemiology of health problems, to allow priorities to be set and to inform public health policy and strategies.

Related sites

[Global Foodborne Infections Network \(GFN\)](#)
[Integrated disease surveillance \(African Region\)](#)
[CARMEN Initiative \(Region of the Americas - PAHO\)](#)
[WHO Global InfoBase: health statistics on chronic disease](#)

Related links

[Global school-based student health survey \(GSHS\)](#)
[HIV surveillance, estimations and monitoring and evaluation](#)
[Immunization surveillance, assessment and monitoring](#)
[STEPwise approach to surveillance \(STEPS\)](#)

Fact sheets

[Surveillance of noncommunicable disease risk factors](#)