

Part B
LEAD AGENCY/BUREAU AND/OR SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP
REPORT (Agencies with Lead Responsibilities)

1. Program/Activity Name:

Public Health: Department of Health and Human Services. Public health themes relate to the protection, improvement and promotion of the health and safety of all people.

2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports?

This data supports the following:

- **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR): geographic information systems;**
- **Centers for Disease Control (CDC): Immunization Registries; National Electronic Disease Surveillance System; Health Alert Network; the Environmental Health Tracking Network**
- **All other DHHS entities that support the collection and/or dissemination of geo-spatial information.**

3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions?

Data use promotes the further development of the geographic component of government (E-Gov) and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

4. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update).

The Department does not have a special charter for the collection of geospatial data.

5. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node?

The Task Order discussed previously will result in a new HHS portal.

6. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?

This is not applicable.

7. Progress: List FY 2002/2003 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).

The Steering Committee and the HHS Data Council agreed to issue a Task Order to develop a geospatial Meta Directory in a format that conforms to

the FGDC Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM), version 2.0, 1998, accessible as XML and HTML documents in a Web accessible directory.

8. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access?

HHS has a long tradition and policy of providing and promoting access to the research and statistical data that it funds. This policy is most recently described in the HHS Information Quality Guidelines published on the HHS website. In general, the development of data within HHS is undertaken within the context of two overarching goals:

- < attention to information quality as a total and continuing process in data development, and**
- < commitment to making data supported with HHS funds available to the public consistent with confidentiality requirements and resource availability.**

As a general policy, HHS views data quality assurance as a continuing process that begins at the inception of the data development process with project conceptualization and carries through all phases of data planning, design and execution, including information dissemination activities. Similarly, HHS agencies that support or sponsor research and statistical activities are encouraged not only to describe the methods and data sources used in a clear and transparent manner in the reports that they release, but also to make the data available to the public through public use data files, restricted access research files, research data assistance centers, data archives and other mechanisms, consistent with confidentiality protections, legal and proprietary restrictions and available resources. Accordingly, many HHS agencies have extensive data dissemination and access programs. HHS also collaborates with other statistical and research agencies and other organizations in the research community in supporting public access to research and statistical data.

9. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others?

No.