

# MiTracking News



Updates from Michigan's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

January 2016

## MiTracking Data Portal



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to join the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network in 2014. The Network is a system of integrated health, exposure, and hazard information and data from national, state, and city sources. Michigan's program, MiTracking, is in the process of developing its online data portal that will provide public access to searchable Michigan-specific data.

MiTracking staff spent much of Year One planning the development of the data portal. For assistance on the technical side, we contracted Altarum Institute to gather information and provide expert advice.

Altarum interviewed multiple key stakeholders and Tracking Network grantees, researched current data portals, and reviewed State of Michigan IT and security standards. All of this information can be found in the [MiTracking Technical Network Implementation Plan](#), available on our website, [www.michigan.gov/mitracking](http://www.michigan.gov/mitracking).

MiTracking will be issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to invite developers to bid on the data portal project. The RFP will be issued in January and a developer will be hired by early March. Once the developer is on board, we will begin the process of building the data portal.

In preparation for the launch of the data portal, the MiTracking team will be adding content to its current website including information about each of the Nationally Consistent Data and Measures (NCDMs) and links to more resources. The enhanced MiTracking pages will be available by late winter.

## Asthma, Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, Heart Attack, and Heat Stress Hospitalization 2001-2012 Data Submitted

Last fall, MiTracking submitted their first NCDM datasets to the National Tracking Program at the CDC. These data include Michigan-specific hospitalizations from 2001-2012 for asthma, carbon monoxide poisoning, heart attack, and heat stress illness.

The data will be available on the National Tracking Network in the spring of 2016. Check the national portal at [www.cdc.gov/ephtracking](http://www.cdc.gov/ephtracking) to see what other Michigan-specific data is available right now!



## Nationally Consistent Data and Measures (NCDMs) - what are they?

The NCDMs are data that grantees are required to provide on their data portals using standardized definitions. Some are also provided to CDC. They fall under three categories:

**Environment:** Air Quality, Pesticides, Drinking Water

**Health Outcomes:** Asthma, Birth Defects, Cancer, Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, Childhood Lead Poisoning, Heart Attacks, Reproductive Health and Birth Outcomes

**Population Health:** Demographics and Socioeconomics

## Stakeholder Survey Report

One of our main goals is to involve key stakeholders early and often. As a part of this process, we administered an online survey using SurveyMonkey® to learn more about the potential users of the MiTracking data portal and identify their data needs and interests. The survey also collected recommendations from stakeholders to guide the construction of our portal. The results of the survey can be found in our [Stakeholder Survey Results Report](#). We are using these results to supplement the information collected from the interviews of key informants conducted in 2015.

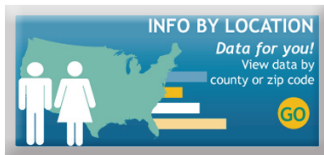
If you did not get the chance to take our original survey, don't worry – there are still ways to provide your feedback.

- Send an [email](#) the MiTracking Program to give your input.
- Take our new [survey](#) available on our MiTracking website. It's short and simple, and won't take much of your time.

We would like to know how our web portal can be built to fit our users needs, so feel free to pass the link to the survey along to your partners!

## CDC's *Info by Location* Tool

The CDC's National Tracking Program has just launched an improved *Info by Location* tool and the ability to view multiple query results at the same time on the National Network.



With this new update to the *Info by Location* tool, you can now customize your results by selecting your specific areas of interest. Also, in order to provide a more complete picture of environmental health in your area, they have added additional data and information to the tool on topics including:

- proximity to highways,
- access to parks,
- extreme heat, and
- heart attacks.

The new advanced multiple measures option provides users the ability to view up to 12 different query results at the same time. The data can be viewed as maps or charts.

Visit the [National Tracking Network website](#) to explore the [Info by Location](#) tool.

## Carbon Monoxide Awareness



The MiTracking team participated in Michigan's Carbon Monoxide Safety and Awareness Week, October 19-24 by reminding residents to have working CO detectors installed in their homes. There were 34 deaths and 789 non-fatal unintentional poisonings attributed to carbon monoxide in Michigan in 2013, the most recent year of [available data](#).

Be sure your CO detectors are working, and remind your family and friends to check their CO detectors too!

## Tracking Webinar Available

Over the summer, MiTracking partnered with the University of Michigan's School of Public Health's Training Center and the CDC to create a [Tracking webinar](#). Learn about how environmental health issues are currently tracked in Michigan and how the National Tracking Network works.

## Comments or concerns? Contact us!

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