



A SNAPSHOT OF

EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM



Overview

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Division of Public Health's Epidemiology Program (Epi) improves the health status of Georgians by monitoring the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in the population. This information is used to control health problems and provide the data for evidence-based practice. Health information is used to guide strategic planning at state and local levels and to improve Epi programs and Georgia's health status. Public health agencies, partners within DCH and other partners use the data to determine the health challenges and areas of greatest need across the state. This system helps communities direct efforts to achieve the greatest possible public health benefit.

Significant Activities and Services

- Assess and monitor the health status of Georgians
- Monitor behavioral risks of Georgians
- Respond to and investigate disease outbreaks
- Control communicable diseases
- Produce annual health status report cards
- Maintain registries of priority health problems such as stroke, birth defects and cancer
- Provide vital records and hospital data for health planning through Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

Key Results Achieved in SFY10

- Investigated 120 outbreaks. Investigations of 100% of the reported outbreaks were initiated within the 2-hour Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended time-frame
- 443 individual facilities (hospitals, clinics, private providers) reported 42,843 cases of reportable conditions to the State Electronic Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (SENDSS)

