

Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services (CSELS)
Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance (DHIS)

The primary mission for the Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services (CSELS) is to provide scientific service, expertise, skills, and tools in support of CDC's national efforts to promote health; prevent disease, injury and disability; and prepare for emerging health threats. CSELS has four divisions which represent the tactical arm of CSELS, executing upon CSELS strategic objectives. They are critical to CSELS ability to deliver public health value to CDC in areas such as science, public health practice, education, and data. The four Divisions are:

Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance

Division of Laboratory Systems

Division of Public Health Information Dissemination

Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development

Applied Public Health Advanced Laboratory Surveillance

The **Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance (DHIS)** provides leadership and support to oversee and improve public health information and surveillance systems and provision high-quality health data required to monitor, control, and prevent the occurrence and spread of diseases and other adverse health conditions. To do this DHIS:

 serves as a focal point at CDC for addressing common issues and advancing best practices in the fields of public health informatics and surveillance and

 manages public health surveillance systems with cross-cutting utility for multiple CDC programs and state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) jurisdictions.

DHIS manages two public health surveillance systems that have cross-cutting utility for multiple CDC programs and STLT jurisdictions.

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System - The National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) is a nationwide collaboration that enables all levels of public health (local, state, territorial, federal, and international) to share health information to monitor, control, and prevent the occurrence and spread of state-reportable and nationally notifiable infectious and some noninfectious diseases and conditions.

NNDSS is a multifaceted program that includes the surveillance system for collection, analysis, and sharing of health data and also policies, laws, electronic messaging standards, people, partners, information systems, processes, and resources at the local, state, and national levels.

Numerous state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) health departments; CDC; and partner organizations, such as the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, use facets of NNDSS to:

collect, manage, share, analyze, interpret, and disseminate health-related data for state-reportable and nationally notifiable diseases and conditions;

develop and maintain national standards—such as consistent case definitions and electronic messaging standards;

monitor regional and national trends in diseases and health conditions;

work with other jurisdictions and partners to implement and assess prevention and control programs;

designate certain diseases and conditions as nationally notifiable;

submit data on nationally notifiable diseases to CDC; and

maintain and publish the official national notifiable diseases statistics from 57 state, territorial, and local reporting jurisdictions in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

For more information, please access the [NNDSS Web site](http://www.cdc.gov/nndss/) at <http://www.cdc.gov/nndss/>.

National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) - Syndromic surveillance is public health surveillance that emphasizes the use of near “real-time” pre-diagnostic data, primarily from emergency departments, and statistical tools to detect and characterize unusual activity for further public health investigation or response. Syndromic surveillance has now become a routine component of the larger public health surveillance umbrella and is used for disease or hazardous event detection, situation awareness for mass gatherings and public health emergencies, and ad hoc and population health trend analyses.

For more than a decade, [BioSense](#) has been a driver of syndromic surveillance nationwide. CDC is now evolving BioSense into a National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) that will build upon lessons learned and harness syndromic surveillance expertise at all levels of the public health enterprise. The vision of NSSP is a collaboration among local, state, and national public health programs that supports timely exchange of syndromic data and information for nation-wide situational awareness and enhanced response to hazardous events and disease outbreaks.

NSSP includes a

collaborative National Syndromic Surveillance Community of Practice;

governance system that recognizes state, federal, and other participants' roles and responsibilities; and

cloud-based Syndromic Surveillance Platform that hosts the BioSense application and other analytic tools and services.

Through the National Syndromic Surveillance Community of Practice and access to shared analytic tools and services on the Syndromic Surveillance Platform, public health programs and practitioners will be able to analyze their data, access aggregated analyses of disease patterns, and share more detailed data to identify, investigate, and address public health threats that cross jurisdictions. NSSP will also help state and local health departments meet [Meaningful Use \(MU\)](#) requirements by increasing their capacity to support MU programs intended to expand the use of electronic health records (EHRs).

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