

# NYHSEES Data Support Emergency Preparedness and Response



*“Preventing injuries and deaths  
from hazardous substances  
emergency events”*

**Wanda Lizak Welles, PhD**  
**Center for Environmental Health**  
**New York State Department of Health**  
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# Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES)

- Introduction
- Partnerships
  - Incident notification and data collection
  - Alerting
- New York HSEES data: 2000 -2007
- Partnerships in data uses
- Summary and Impacts



**GOAL: prevent death and injury associated with releases of non-petroleum hazardous substances (chemical, biological and radiological).**

# HSEES Functions

- Created in 1990 by ATSDR
- Collects data about acute, non-petroleum hazardous substance(s) spills/releases
- Determines public health impacts
- Designs and implements activities to raise awareness and to help prevent future incidents and injuries

# HSEES Surveillance Definition

## Criteria:

- Sudden, uncontrolled or illegal spill/release
- Reasonably expected to adversely affect human health
- Included as threatened event if a public health action results
- Excluded if only petroleum products

# Partners Who Provide Incident Notification and Data

- NYSDOH offices statewide
- NYSDEC
- NYCDEP
- NYS Police
- 1st Responder  
Wireless News
- SPARCS
- OFPC
- NRC
- HMIRS
- US EPA  
FIFRA 6(a)2

# Partners in Alerting

- NYSDOH
  - Central, regional and district offices
- County and city health departments
- NYSDEC Spills Program and Emergency Response Unit
- NYCDEP Hazmat

# HSEES Summary

## Information 2000-2007

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Events	8,810
Fixed facility	6,541
Transportation	2,269
Chemicals released	12,190
Events with injuries	1,042
Injured people	4,163
Employees	1,381
Responders	499
General public	1,576
Students	707
Events with ordered evacuations	1,277
People evacuated	>84,470
People decontaminated	>4,378

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# Primary Topics in Recent NYHSEES Partnerships

- Mercury
- Clandestine drug labs
- Responder injuries, particularly firefighter injuries
- Preparedness planning

# NYHSEES Activities to Raise Awareness and Decrease Hg Spills

- “Partnership to Reduce Mercury in Schools” with 18 other organizations
- Nine targeted brochures
- Distribution:
  - >110,000 to NYS schools
  - Statewide, hands-on workshops
- Mercury Booklet

# NYHSEES Activities in Response to Clandestine Drug Labs

- Odor Response Guide
- Training and education for responder and others
- Partnered in Task Force that developed a multi-agency response
- Partnered in multi-agency group that evaluated potential additives to anhydrous ammonia
- Partners included law enforcement, child protective services, fire departments, environmental conservation staff, emergency medical services, mental health professionals.

# NYHSEES Activities to Reduce Responder/Firefighter Injuries

- One-page flyer
- Poster to all NYS firehouses
- Presentations at Hazmat training weekend at NYS Fire Academy
- Presentations at NYSAFC annual conferences
- Articles in “SIZE UP” in 2008 and 2009
- Partners included Office of Fire Prevention and Control, NYS Association of Fire Chiefs, individual fire companies

# Partnerships in Using HSEES Data for Preparedness and Response

- NYSDEC: fire data for evaluating equipment needs
- NYCDEP: NYC-specific data
- OFPC: events with fire hazmat response
- LEPCs: county-specific data for planning

# HSEES Impact in New York State

- Characterizes “typical” activity
- Identifies sentinel events and emerging trends
- Provides alerting
- Disseminates information to target audiences
- Promotes partnering for awareness and prevention
- Supports emergency response and preparedness with data and training

# Summary

- HSEES is a unique, established, secure surveillance system.
- HSEES provides incident information for:
  - Preparedness
  - Training
  - Planning
  - Response
- HSEES data support decision-making to protect public health in New York State.
- HSEES data from 14 states contribute to the protection of public health throughout the nation.