

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System
Supporting Statement Section B
OMB Control Number 0920-0728

October 9, 2018

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B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

B1. Respondent Universe and Sampling Methods

The respondent universe consists of 60 jurisdictions that voluntarily submit case notifications for nationally notifiable conditions to CDC: health departments in every U.S. state, New York City, Washington DC, 5 U.S. territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and 3 freely associated states (Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau). No statistical sampling methods are used. The anticipated response rate is 100 percent. The previous actual response rate was 100 percent. All participate.

B2. Procedures for the Collection of Information

No statistical sampling methods are used. Public health departments review, process and analyze reportable conditions data and voluntarily submit case notification data on nationally notifiable conditions to CDC. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), local, state, and territorial health departments and CDC work jointly to decide which conditions are nationally notifiable and added to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS).

Approximately 90% of case notifications are sent to CDC by automated electronic Health Level 7 (HL7) or National Electronic Telecommunications System for Surveillance (NETSS) messaging. Some case notification messages are sent to CDC by non-automated mechanisms including fax, email, secure file upload, and data entry to a secure website. These different mechanisms used to send case notifications to CDC vary by the jurisdiction and disease or condition. All 50 states, all cities (New York City and Washington, D.C.) and one territory (Puerto Rico) submit STD case notifications (STD case notifications account for approximately 87% of all case notifications received by CDC) by automated electronic messaging. Most territories and all freely associated states send STD case notifications by non-automated methods including fax (only quarterly aggregate data are sent by fax), email, secure file upload, and data entry to a secure website. States and cities submit arboviral disease case notifications by automated electronic messaging (15), non-automated secure file upload (8) and non-automated data entry to a secure website (29). All states and cities send case notification data by automated electronic messaging for all other diseases and conditions covered by this ICR.

B3. Methods to Maximize Response Rates and Deal with No response

Methods are not necessary to maximize response rates and deal with no response. Jurisdictions voluntarily submit notifications to CDC. The response rate is 100 percent.

B4. Tests of Procedures or Methods to be Undertaken

As stated in Supporting Statement A, a key NNDSS Modernization Initiative (NMI) activity is to implement health information exchange industry standards for case notification message content and format. Part of this process involves pilot testing new message content and format for various nationally notifiable conditions using HL7 electronic messaging. All selected conditions and data elements used in pilot testing are already approved through this ICR, 0920-0728. Pilot testing evaluates whether the message is able to effectively transmit the expected data.

B5. Individuals Consulted on Statistical Aspects and Individuals Collecting and/or Analyzing Data

There are no individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the data collection design as no sampling is used. The CDC's CSELS, OID, and CGH collect and analyze the information.