

Service in April 1953. In August of 1960, the National Office of Vital Statistics was reorganized as the Division of Vital Statistics in the newly created National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is now part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

One of the functions of NCHS is to plan and administer a program to provide statistics on births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, and divorces reported in the National Vital Statistics System. This includes promoting the uniform collection of data on these events and providing technical assistance to the registration areas; conducting follow-

back surveys to expand the scope of national vital statistics beyond the data available from vital records; preparing life tables and analyses of life table phenomena; and investigating the quality and reliability of data and methodology. One part of this function is to provide national final counts of marriage, and divorce occurrences following the end of each year. The collection of the data is authorized by 42 U.S.C. 242k. Provisional counts of marriages and divorces are disseminated electronically. This form is the sole source of final counts for these two events.

This data has been published since 1937 and is the sole source of this information at the national level. The data are used by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and by other government, academic, and private research organizations in tracking changes in trends of vital events. The counts of events requested on the form are necessary to the administration of this portion of the program.

CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 46 annual burden hours. There are no costs to respondents other than their time.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)
State, Territory, and New Mexico County Officials.	Annual Vital Statistics Occurrence Report	91	1	30/60

Jeffrey M. Zirger,
Lead, Information Collection Review Office,
Office of Public Health Ethics and
Regulations, Office of Science, Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2025-19257 Filed 10-1-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-25-0980; Docket No. CDC-2025-0618]

Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice with comment period.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the general public and other federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS). This system collects data from foodborne illness outbreak

environmental assessments routinely conducted by local, state, territorial, or tribal food safety programs in health departments during foodborne outbreak investigations.

DATES: CDC must receive written comments on or before December 1, 2025.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2025-0618 by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number. CDC will post, without change, all relevant comments to www.regulations.gov.

Please note: Submit all comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal (www.regulations.gov) or by U.S. mail to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, contact Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; Telephone: 404-639-7570; Email: omb@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. In addition, the PRA also requires federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new proposed collection, each proposed extension of existing collection of information, and each reinstatement of previously approved information collection before submitting the collection to the OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, we are publishing this notice of a proposed data collection as described below.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments that will help:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other

technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submissions of responses; and

5. Assess information collection costs.

Proposed Project

National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS) (OMB Control No. 0920-0980, Exp. 2/26/2026)—Revision—National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Background and Brief Description

CDC is requesting OMB approval for the National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS) to collect data from outbreak environmental assessments routinely conducted by local, state, territorial, or tribal food safety programs during foodborne outbreak investigations. Prior to the development of NEARS, environmental assessment data were not collected at the national level. The data reported through this surveillance system provides timely information on the causes of outbreaks, including environmental factors associated with outbreaks, and are essential to environmental public health regulators' efforts to respond more effectively to outbreaks and prevent future, similar outbreaks. NEARS was developed by the Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net), a collaborative network of CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and state and local food safety programs. The network consists of environmental health specialists (EHS), epidemiologists, and laboratorians. EHS-Net developed a standardized protocol for identifying, reporting, and analyzing data relevant to foodborne illness outbreak environmental assessments. While conducting environmental assessments during foodborne outbreak investigations is routine for food safety program officials,

reporting information from the environmental assessments to CDC is not routine. Local, state, federal, territorial, and tribal food safety programs are the primary respondents for this data collection. One official from each participating program will report environmental assessment data on outbreaks. These programs are typically located in public health or agriculture agencies. In the U.S., there are approximately 3,000 such agencies.

It is not possible to determine exactly how many outbreaks will occur in the future, nor where they will occur. Forty (40) programs reported outbreaks to NEARS from 2021–2024. Based on our experience over those years, we expect a maximum of six additional sites (two per year) to register with and report data to NEARS over the next approval cycle, for a total of 46 reporting programs. We also expect each program to report an average of six outbreaks annually.

The activities associated with NEARS that require a burden estimate consist of training, observing, interviewing managers, and reporting the data. The first activity is the training for the new food safety program personnel participating in NEARS. These staff will be encouraged to attend a Microsoft Teams/Zoom Meeting (*i.e.*, webinar) training session on using the NEARS data entry system, conducted by CDC staff. Training burden is based on the maximum expected participation from the reporting programs which could be up to 10 additional local and state health departments. We estimate the burden of this training to be a maximum of two hours. Respondents will only be required to take this training one time. Assuming a maximum participation of up to six new programs and about five staff being trained at each participating program, the total estimated annual burden associated with this training is 60 hours.

New food safety program personnel participating in NEARS will also be encouraged to complete CDC's Environmental Assessment Training

Series (EATS). This e-Learning course provides training to staff on how to use a systems approach in foodborne illness outbreak environmental assessments. We estimate the burden of this training to be a maximum of 10 hours.

Respondents will only take this training one time. Assuming a maximum participation of up to six new programs and approximately five staff being trained at each program, the estimated annual burden associated with this training is 300 hours.

Program respondents (one official from each participating program) will record environmental assessment data on pen and paper for each establishment associated with an outbreak. Most outbreaks are associated with only one establishment; however, some are associated with multiple establishments. We estimate a maximum of four establishments will be associated with any given outbreak. Recording for each assessment will take about 25 minutes. The burden for this activity is 460 hours.

Program respondents will conduct a manager interview with each establishment associated with an outbreak and initially record the data with pen and paper. Each interview will take about 15 minutes. The burden for this activity is 276 hours.

Respondents will also report this environmental assessment and manager interview data into the NEARS web-based system. This data entry is expected to take approximately 25 minutes for the environmental assessment data and 20 minutes for each manager interview (assuming a maximum of four). The burden for this activity is 207 hours.

The retail food managers interviewed are another group of respondents. Again, assuming a maximum number of 276 outbreaks, the estimated annual burden is 276 hours.

The total estimated annual burden for this information collection is 1,579 hours. There is no cost to respondents other than their time.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden (in hours)
Food safety program personnel	NEARS introduction training	30	1	2	60
	NEARS e-learning (screenshots)	30	1	10	300
	NEARS environmental assessment data (recording form).	46	24	25/60	460
	NEARS manager interview (recording form).	46	24	15/60	276
	NEARS web entry (screenshots)	46	6	45/60	207
Retail food personnel	NEARS manager interview	1,104	1	15/60	276

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS—Continued

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden (in hours)
Total	1,579

Jeffrey M. Zirger,
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 Office of Public Health Ethics and
 Regulations, Office of Science, Centers for
 Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 2025-19253 Filed 10-1-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day-25-0978]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has submitted the information collection request titled “Emerging Infections Program (EIP)” to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. CDC previously published a “Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations” notice on July 14, 2025, to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. CDC received no comments. This notice serves to allow an additional 30 days for public and affected agency comments.

CDC will accept all comments for this proposed information collection project. The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments that:

(a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who

are to respond, including, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses; and

(e) Assess information collection costs.

To request additional information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, call (404) 639-7570.

Comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Direct written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice to the Attention: CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395-5806. Provide written comments within 30 days of notice publication.

Proposed Project

Emerging Infections Program (OMB Control No. 0920-0978, Exp. 9/30/2027)—Revision—National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

The Emerging Infections Programs (EIPs) are population-based centers of excellence established through a network of state health departments collaborating with academic institutions; local health departments; public health and clinical laboratories; infection control professionals; and healthcare providers. EIPs assist in local, state, and national efforts to prevent, control, and monitor the public health impact of infectious diseases.

Activities of the EIPs fall into the following general categories: (1) active surveillance; (2) applied public health

epidemiologic and laboratory activities; (3) implementation and evaluation of pilot prevention/intervention projects; and (4) flexible response to public health emergencies. Activities of the EIPs are designed to: (1) address issues that the EIP network is particularly suited to investigate; (2) maintain sufficient flexibility for emergency response and new problems as they arise; (3) develop and evaluate public health interventions to inform public health policy and treatment guidelines; (4) incorporate training as a key function; and (5) prioritize projects that lead directly to the prevention of disease.

Activities in the EIP Network to which all applicants must participate are:

- Active Bacterial Core surveillance (ABCs): active population-based laboratory surveillance for invasive bacterial diseases.
- Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet): active population-based laboratory surveillance to monitor the incidence of select enteric diseases.
- Influenza: active population-based surveillance for laboratory confirmed influenza-related hospitalizations.
- Healthcare-Associated Infections-Community Interface (HAIC) surveillance: active population-based surveillance for healthcare-associated pathogens and infections.

A Revision is being submitted to make existing collection instruments clearer and to add a new form specifically surveying laboratory practices. This form will allow the EIP to better detect, identify, track changes in laboratory testing methodology, gather information about laboratory utilization in the EIP catchment area to ensure that all cases are being captured, and survey EIP staff to evaluate program quality.

CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 40,733 annual burden hours. There is no cost to respondents other than their time.