



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-26-1175; Docket No. CDC-2026-0662]

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 Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network). The Tracking Network involves ongoing collection, integration, analysis, and dissemination of health, exposure, and hazard data designed to drive public health actions that protect the population from harm resulting from exposure to environmental contaminants.

DATES: CDC must receive written comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION DATE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2026-0662 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; E-mail: 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

Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network) (OMB Control No. 0920-1175, Exp. 8/31/2026) – Extension - National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

The CDC is submitting a 3-year Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Extension information collection request (ICR) for Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network) (OMB Control No. 0920-1175, Exp. 8/31/2026). This ICR is sponsored by the Environmental Public Health Tracking Branch (Tracking Branch), Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice (DEHSP), National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) at CDC.

In September 2000, the Pew Environmental Health Commission issued a report entitled America’s Environmental Health Gap: Why the Country Needs a Nationwide Health Tracking Network. The Commission documented a critical gap in “knowledge that hinders our national efforts to reduce or eliminate diseases that might be prevented by better managing environmental factors” due largely to the fact that existing environmental health systems were inadequate and fragmented. They described a lack of data for the leading causes of mortality and morbidity, a lack of data on exposure to hazards, a lack of environmental data with applicability to public health, and barriers to integrating and linking existing data. To address this critical gap, the Commission recommended a “Nationwide Health Tracking Network” for disease and exposures. In response to the report and this critical gap, Congress appropriated funds in the fiscal year 2002 budget for the CDC to establish the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (Tracking Program) and Tracking Network and has appropriated funds each year thereafter to continue this effort.

The Tracking Program includes SLHD and other partners which collaborate to: (1) build and maintain the Tracking Network; (2) advance the practice and science of environmental public health tracking; (3) communicate information to guide environmental health policies and actions; (4) enhance tracking workforce and infrastructure; and (5) foster collaborations between health and environmental programs.

In spring of 2022, under Notice of Funding Opportunity CDC-RFA-EH22-2202, the CDC's Tracking Program funded 33 state and local public health programs (funded SLHDs). These recipients were selected through a competitive objective review process and are managed as CDC cooperative agreements. Awards are for five years and are renewed through an Annual Performance Report (APR)/Continuation Application. The Tracking Program collects data from recipients about their activities and progress for the purposes of program evaluation and monitoring (hereafter referenced as program data). The Tracking Program also collects data from radon testing labs to integrate into the Tracking Network.

Environmental public health tracking is the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, and dissemination of health, exposure, and hazard data (hereinafter referenced as Tracking Network data) to inform public health actions that protect the population from harm resulting from exposure to environmental contaminants. The Tracking Network provides data from existing health, exposure, and hazard surveillance systems and supports ongoing efforts within the public health and environmental sectors to improve data collection, accessibility, and dissemination as well as analytic and response capacity. Data that were previously collected for different purposes and stored in separate state and local systems are now available in a nationally standardized format allowing programs to begin bridging the gap between health and the environment.

CDC is requesting approval for an Extension of the previously approved ICR. This request has an increase in the number of annual respondents, from 37 to 47, with a decrease in overall responses (599 to 522) and overall burden hours (14,041 to 12,348). In spring of 2022, under the new 5-year NOFO No. CDC-RFA-EH22-2202, CDC's Tracking Program funded 33

state and local public health programs (funded SLHD). The approval number reflects the current 33 SLHD respondents plus four to allow for future funding of new SLHD or to collect voluntary responses from unfunded SLHD as well as radon testing labs.

Data from recipients or other SLHD are submitted annually following standardized procedures. Tracking Network data submitted annually by recipients and other SLHD to the Tracking Program include six datasets and the metadata form, specifically (1) birth defects prevalence, (2) drinking water monitoring, (3) emergency department visits, (4) hospitalizations, (5) radon testing for SLHD and radon labs, (6) biomonitoring, and (7) metadata. The Tracking Program uses Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) for its Electronic Data Capture System (EDCS) needs, which is an easy-to-use, free software tool useful for programmatic deliverable management and data capture. Using an EDCS significantly reduces the burden by optimizing the data capture method to eliminate the need for personnel to complete manual data cleaning and organization before using data for analysis and evaluation upon submission.

Based on the above changes, we are requesting to decrease the annualized number of responses from 599 to 522 and the annualized time burden from 14,041 to 12,348 hours.

Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Type of Respondent	Form Name	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Avg. Burden per Response (in hrs.)	Total Burden (in hrs.)
State and local health department (SLHD)	Birth Defects Prevalence Form	30	1	40	1,200
	Drinking Water Monitoring Form	37	1	50	1,850
	Emergency Department Visits Form	37	1	40	1,480
	Hospitalizations Form	37	1	40	1,480
	Radon Testing Form (combined form)	25	1	50	1,250

	Biomonitoring Form	8	1	40	320
	Metadata Records	37	2	20	1,480
	Environmental Public Health Tracking Work Plan - REDCap	33	1	21	693
	Program Accomplishments and Public Health Actions Report - REDCap	33	2	20	1,320
	Performance Measures Report – REDCap	33	1	20	660
	PHA Impact Follow-up - REDCap	33	2	15/60	16
	Communications Plan Template	33	1	2	66
	Web Stats Template	33	1	1	33
Radon Testing Labs	Radon Testing Form (combined form)	10	1	50	500
Total					12,348

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Lead,

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Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations,

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