Syndromic Surveillance
at work for Alabama
Near real-time data on hospital emergency department visits

Syndromic surveillance is the collection and monitoring of data on emergency department visits to inform public health interventions.

Each record includes de-identified information on the patient and their chief complaint.

Alabama proudly participates in the National Syndromic Surveillance Program.

Data on 2 million emergency department visits are reported by ~84 hospitals each year. 94% of records are available within 2 days of patient visit.

Thank you to our participating hospitals!

How is syndromic surveillance data used?

To understand our drug overdose epidemic. In 2018, more than 10,000 emergency department visits were related to an overdose. 40% of all overdoses occurred in people 25–45 years old.

To monitor disease trends. For example, State health officials use syndromic surveillance to monitor seasonal flu trends and to guide education, vaccination efforts, and treatment recommendations.

To respond to emergencies. Syndromic surveillance was used to determine if a 2017 chlorine gas leak caused an increase emergency department visits for respiratory symptoms.

To learn more about syndromic surveillance in Alabama:
Email syndromic@ADPH.State.AL.US | Call 334-206-5971
or Visit https://go.usa.gov/xPHM5