PREPARE✓
NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY PREPAREDNESS INDEX

Get Involved

Help improve the National Health Security Preparedness Index by sharing your expertise. The Index was initially developed through a collaborative process involving more than 30 partner organizations, and it continues to benefit from the active engagement of public, private, and nonprofit expertise.

Here are some ways that you can get involved in the Index:

The Index Analytic Methodology and Model Design Workgroup plays an important role in proposing and sharing insights on potential methodological and model updates, as well as Index use and application in real-world settings. Workgroup membership is open, and regular meetings are conducted online.

The **Public Comment Period on Suggested Index Changes** seeks broad input each fall on recommendations surfaced through the Index workgroups and think-tanks, the Call for Measures, and other channels.

Targeted Think-tanks and **Ad Hoc Workgroups** are recruited to provide expertise on emerging measurement, communication, and engagement issues. An Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH) think-tank was convened to examine composition of that Index domain and generate suggestions for new data sources to improve EOH measurement at the state level. Another think-tank was convened to discuss potential data sources and health security measures for local jurisdictions.

An online multi-stage **Delphi Process** is used annually with a panel of experts to determine the importance of each Index measure, subdomain, and domain to national preparedness and health security; these judgements determine the weights assigned to each Index measure for use in constructing the subdomain, domain, and overall composite scores. See the 2018 Release Methodology for more information.

The online **Open Call for Measures** is widely promoted in July and August each year to solicit recommendations for new measures, changes to existing measures, and/or measure removals for the following year's Index release; however, suggestions are welcome year-round via the online submission tool.

Index Webinars offer an opportunity to participate and explore how the Index can inform prioritization, collaboration, and communication activities designed to strengthen health protections.

To learn more about these opportunities or join the list for Index updates, contact HealthSecurity@uky.edu. You can also follow us on Twitter, @NHSPindex, for the latest Index updates and webinars.

National Health Security Preparedness Index
2018 Release Resources

The National Health Security Preparedness Index has developed a suite of tools and resources on the 2018 release to guide users as they explore the Index data and implications. The following resources provide a comprehensive overview of the Index findings, details about methods and data, and suggestions for how to use the Index to improve health security and preparedness in communities across the nation. These resources can be found online on the toolkit page along with archived tools from the previous releases of the Index.

2018 Release: Key Findings
This summary report provides an overview of the 2018 release of the Index and national health security trends from 2013 to 2017 for 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Key Findings provide a national context for the Index, noting rising threats to health security and gaps in preparedness. This report also identifies Index policy implications to address below average domain scores.

Guides to Using the Index
These guides provide tangible steps for using the Index to improve health security. Using the Index to Raise Awareness and Support for Health Security provides ideas for communicating about Index scores and explaining what scores mean. Using the Index for Health Security Planning and Priority-Setting shows how to use the Index to identify strengths and weaknesses and improve health security at the state level. The Innovator's Guide to Using the Index highlights pathways for cross-sector collaboration, identifies relevant stakeholders in health security, and shows how to turn the data into actionable plans. It also describes opportunities to get involved with the annual Index release process.

2018 Release: Methodology
This document provides an in-depth view of the process behind the 2018 Index release development. The methodology includes the Index's rationale and history, refinements and changes from the 2017 release, and the process to develop the Index results.

2018 Release: Health Security Data Explorer
This spreadsheet data application allows users to compare the five-year trends for any state to national averages and a comparison state. The dashboard displays can be selected for overall score, specific domain scores, or specific subdomain scores. This resource can be used to report data based on a state's health security priorities and goals.

2018 Release: List of Measures & Data Sources
This document is a complete list of all measures included in the 2018 release of the Index, including the measures' description, data source, years of data available, and potential limitations.

2018 Release: Individual State Profiles
Two profiles are available for download on the webpage for each state and the District of Columbia.
- The state's **Overview** graphically summarizes each state's preparedness levels in the 2018 release for sixdomains, compared to national averages. Five-year trends in the state's national and domain scores areillustrated for 2013 to 2017.
- The state's **Data Profile** combines graphic summaries with detailed information for each state including the summary scores and statistics for six domains and 19 subdomains, changes over time, strengths and challenges based on changes in scores, health security hazards in the state, and state scores for all measures included in the 2018 release of the Index.