

FEEDER SYSTEMS: SYSTEMS PROVIDING DATA TO THE NATIONAL BIOSURVEILLANCE INTEGRATION SYSTEM

SYSTEM: Essence

AGENCY IN CHARGE: Defense Department

WHAT IT DOES: The Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics is an early warning system for biological events. DOD shares its outpatient health data from Essence with CDC's BioSense, which in turn reports to NBIS. Essence gathers data from 300 military health facilities around the world.

SYSTEM: Food and Agriculture Biosurveillance Integration System

AGENCY IN CHARGE: Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

WHAT IT DOES: Fabis would integrate animal health surveillance data from the Animal and Plant

Health Inspection Service with information from the Food Safety and Inspection Service's food safety and testing programs. USDA intends to finalize shortly the concept of operations for Fabis.

SYSTEM: BioSense

AGENCY IN CHARGE: Health and Human Services Department's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

WHAT IT DOES: Collects data on demographics; complaints and diagnoses at emergency rooms; lab results; medication orders, and radiology results. BioSense gets syndromic data from the Veterans Affairs and Defense departments' health care systems, LabCorp clinical laboratories and 30 health care facilities in 10 cities.

This year, CDC plans to receive clinical data from 350 health care facilities in 40 metropolitan areas.

SYSTEM: BioWatch

AGENCY IN CHARGE: Homeland Security

Department leads and funds system; operates with CDC, Environmental Protection Agency and the FBI

WHAT IT DOES: Monitors the environment, using air samplers distributed throughout selected cities with filters retrieved daily and analyzed at a Laboratory Response Network lab for genetic analysis. The next version of BioWatch, to be completed by October, increases the number of collectors three- to fourfold in the top 10 cities.

—Mary Mosquera