



National Association of State EMS Officials

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Arkansas Joins National Collaborative for Bio-Preparedness

February 21, 2018 (Falls Church, Va.) – The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has completed Data Use and Analytic Agreements with Biospatial, Inc., to join the states of Illinois, Kansas, Florida, Mississippi and Rhode Island in the National Collaborative for Bio-Preparedness (NCBP). Arkansas will be submitting National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) data elements both to assist in national preparedness and to enhance the state’s ability to visualize their data with other data layers of relevance.

Greg Brown, ADH branch director for trauma and emergency response, envisions linking multiple data sets within the NCBP, including Hazmat Responses, Urgent Care, Trauma System and Hospital Discharge data. A high priority is the linkage of eCrash reports to EMS records. Mr. Brown states, “This project is incredibly valuable to the Arkansas Department of Health, and without the integration of the eCrash data, we will not be able to provide the actionable information that we need to look at outcomes and trauma-related deaths and injuries. We also feel that with the high rise in opioid use and Narcan administration that their opioid dashboard is invaluable. “

The NCBP is a collaborative of state and local responders and the national preparedness enterprise to provide early warning of health events and trends not otherwise detectable. NCBP has been a groundbreaking, multi-year pilot cooperative research and development program between the University of North Carolina (UNC) and the Office of Health Affairs in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Through a new partnership between UNC and Biospatial Inc., NCBP is transitioning to a commercially-hosted system, while maintaining NCBP’s unique mission and capabilities through growing and sustaining our national network of data owners and NCBP users. In exchange for access to EMS data, NCBP provides operational and clinical insight to state and local data owners to help improve operations and patient outcomes. NCBP provides alerts to anomalous health events, visualization of syndromic events and trends, and clinical and operational dashboards.

Biospatial and UNC are working closely with the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) to develop and grow the Collaborative through state EMS offices. NASEMSO has partnered with the NCBP because of the value the analytics can provide to the NEMSIS data that state EMS offices collect. The NCBP has created a pathway to contribute to state-specific surveillance and offer real-time value to state epidemiologists and state health officers.

The National Association of State EMS Officials is a leading national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, community-based universal and consistent EMS systems. Its members are the leaders of their state and territory EMS systems. State EMS Offices that are interested in participating in the NCBP should contact Joe Ferrell at joe@nasemso.org or 515-291-2550.

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