

Biosurveillance: Nonfederal Capabilities Should be Considered in Creating a National Biosurveillance Strategy



The nation is at risk for a catastrophic biological event. The Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act directed GAO to report on biosurveillance--to help detect and respond to such events--at multiple jurisdictional levels. In June 2010, GAO recommended that the National Security Staff lead the development of a national biosurveillance strategy, which is now under development. This report focuses on nonfederal jurisdictions, which own many of the resources that support a national capability. It discusses (1) federal support for state and local biosurveillance; (2) state and local challenges; (3) federal support and challenges for tribal and insular areas and (4) federal assessments of nonfederal capabilities. To conduct this work, GAO interviewed select federal-agency, jurisdiction, and association officials and reviewed relevant documents. To collect information on federal efforts and challenges, we also sent standardized questionnaires to seven states and two cities. The federal government has efforts to support health preparedness that state and city officials identified as critical to their biosurveillance capabilities. The efforts these officials identified fell into four categories: (1) grants and cooperative agreements, (2) nonfinancial technical and material assistance, (3) guidance, and (4) information sharing. Within each of the categories, the officials identified specific federal efforts that were essential to their biosurveillance activities. Because the resources that constitute a national biosurveillance capability are largely owned by nonfederal entities, a national strategy that considers how to leverage nonfederal efforts could improve efforts to build and maintain a national biosurveillance capability. State and city officials identified common challenges to developing and maintaining their biosurveillance capabilities: (1) state

policies that restrict hiring, travel, and training in response to budget constraints; (2) ensuring adequate workforce, training, and systems; and (3) the lack of strategic planning and leadership to support long-term investment in cross-cutting core capabilities, integrated biosurveillance, and effective partnerships. A national biosurveillance strategy that considers planning and leadership challenges at all levels of the biosurveillance enterprise may help partners across the enterprise find shared solutions for an effective national biosurveillance capability. The federal government provides some resources to help control disease in humans and animals in tribal and insular areas, but there are no specific efforts to ensure these areas can contribute to a national biosurveillance capability. Resources include cooperative agreements, disease-specific funding, training, and technical assistance. Surveillance capacity varies among tribes and insular areas, but common challenges include limited health infrastructure including human- and animal-health professionals and systems. The federal government has not conducted a comprehensive assessment of state and local jurisdictions ability to contribute to a national biosurveillance capability, as called for in presidential directive. According to federal, state, and local officials, the magnitude and complexity of such an assessment is a challenge. Until it conducts such an assessment, the federal government will lack key information to support a national biosurveillance capability. A national strategy like the one we previously recommended--one capable of guiding federal agencies and its key stakeholders to systematically identify gaps, resources to address those gaps, and investment priorities--would benefit from an assessment of jurisdictions baseline capabilities and critical gaps across the entire biosurveillance enterprise.

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Kindle. **GAO Action Tracker: Homeland security/Law enforcement** In particular, in its National Biosurveillance

Strategy for Human Health, CDC named the strategy calls for assessing the current biosurveillance workforce

capability, and establishing a national-level governance body for the biosurveillance to enlist taxonomic services from nonfederal institutions to identify and confirm **Download Testimony - Senate Homeland Security and** The specific biosurveillance systems discussed are illustrative of some recent larger systems challenges include: 0

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(GAO, **Biosurveillance: Nonfederal Capabilities Should Be Considered in** REGISTERING THE NATIONAL

BIOSURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY . National Biosurveillance Strategy for Human Health (Strategy), .. They then

posed four questions that should be considered in developing a functional governance . from nonfederal stakeholders

regarding a federal program or activity. **National Biosurveillance Science and Technology Roadmap** challenges in

developing and maintaining their biosurveillance capabilities, The White House issued the National Strategy for

Biosurveillance in July 2012, investments or address the need to leverage nonfederal resources. GAO recommended,

will better position APHIS to support national efforts **U.S. GAO - Search Open Recommendations** Nonfederal

Capabilities Should Be Considered in Creating a of a national biosurveillance strategy, which is now under

development. **Constructing Rigorous and Broad Biosurveillance Networks - PLOS** The 2010 National Strategy for

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. Biosurveillance nonfederal capabilities should be considered in **Public Health Informatics and Information Systems**

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Biosurveillance based on risk analysis can help guide the .. advance of an outbreak to plan a biosurveillance strategy for

a disease and a country. GAO (2011) Nonfederal Capabilities Should Be Considered in Creating a **Gao report -**

biodefense and biosurveillance challenges - SlideShare See also, GAO, Biosurveillance: Nonfederal Capabilities

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National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC) has activities that support . the August 2012 NBIC Strategic Plan,

we identified three general roles .. Nonfederal Capabilities Should Be Considered in Creating a **GAO-15-793,**

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such incidents, The Roadmap builds upon the National Strategy for Biosurveillance, published in July 2012, providing

essential information for better decision making. .. biosurveillance capabilities and, where necessary, develop new ones

Introduction to Statistical Methods for Biosurveillance: With an - **Google Books Result** June 30, 2010) GAO,

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enterprise for operational awareness, a - **NCBI - NIH National Association of County and City Health Officials.**

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