



**Department
of Health**

New York State Wastewater Surveillance Network

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Center for Environmental Health**

NYSPHC Consortium Meeting | February 25, 2026

What is Wastewater Surveillance?

New York State Wastewater Surveillance



Wastewater surveillance is the **testing of untreated wastewater** to identify the types and levels of pathogens circulating in sewage water entering a wastewater treatment plant.

Identifying these in wastewater can be a reliable indicator of illnesses circulating in a community.



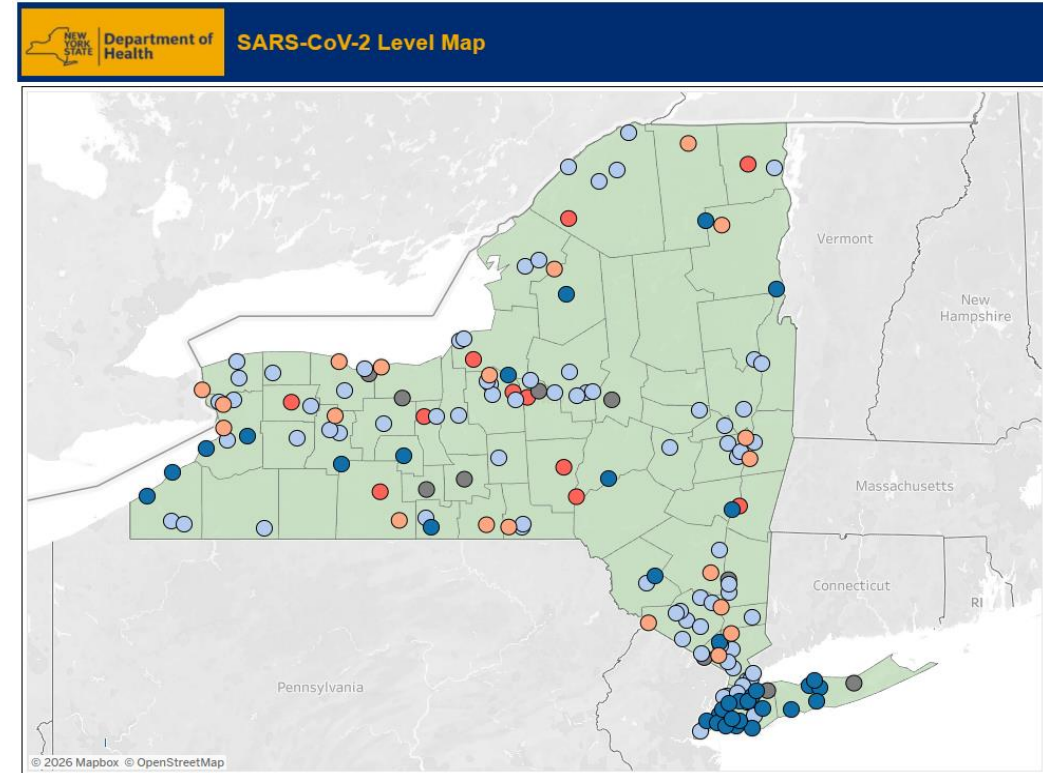
History

- Used since mid-19th century
- Gained traction during the pandemic
- Many wastewater programs are expanding to track more pathogens

Benefits

- Early detection of disease in a community
- Representative of entire communities
- Complements other data metrics

The NYS Wastewater Surveillance Team



Department of Health

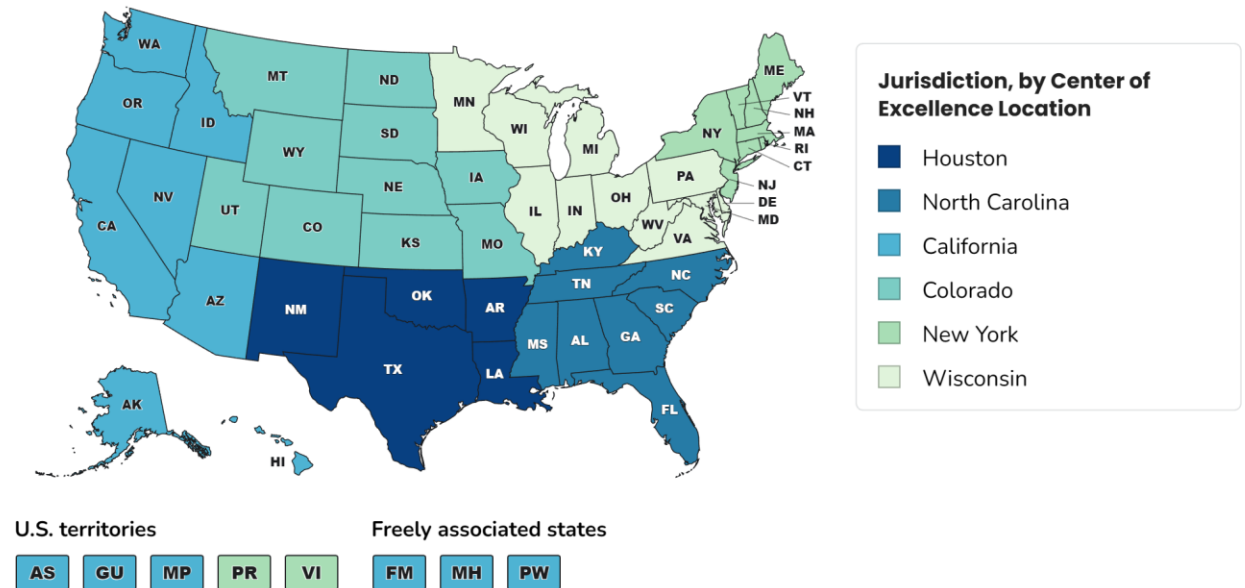


CDC Foundation
Together our impact is greater



The New York NWSS Center of Excellence

- We became a Center of Excellence in August 2024
- We serve as a regional leader in the field of wastewater surveillance
- We support other jurisdictions' wastewater surveillance programs
 - Responding to technical assistance requests and providing SME
 - Developing resources
 - Organizing conferences to share research and network



What I Do

About Me

- BS in Biological Sciences, BA in History and Philosophy of Science — University of Pittsburgh
- MPH coursework at the School of Public Health
- Student Research Assistant — qualitative coding of nicotine and tobacco social media content



Fellowship Duties

- Preparing for our Monthly Regional Calls
- Updating our program tracker
 - Technical requests
 - Presentations
 - Publications
- Responding to emails
- Maintaining meeting notes
- And many projects...

Projects

List of Projects (in order of start date)

- Cost analysis
- Communications Library
- Dashboard guide
- Animated videos
- Website FAQs
- Communications Library content analysis
- FIFA World Cup literature review

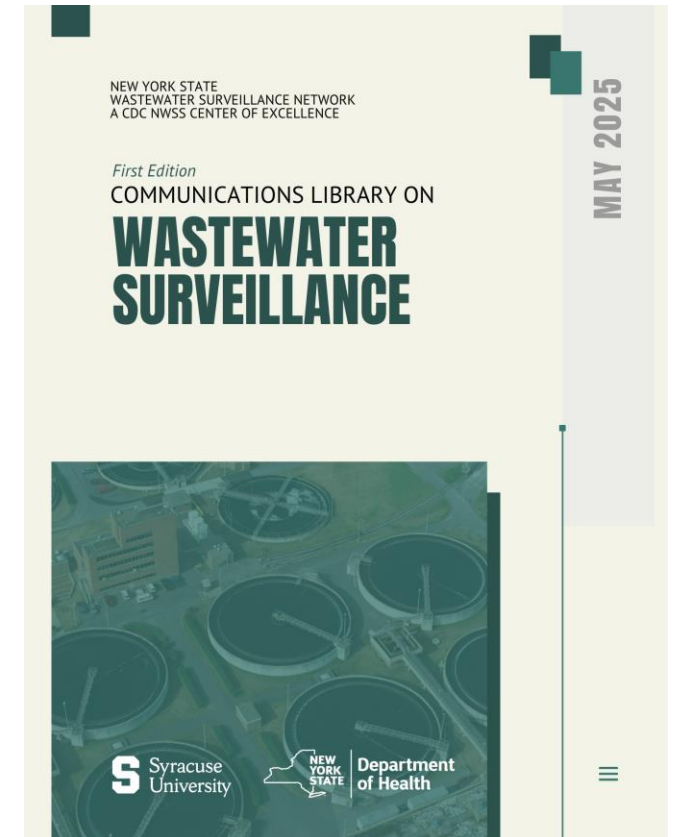
Highlighted Project #1: Cost Analysis

- Gathered cost data from invoices
- Used R to extract sample count data from network datasets
- Calculated/estimated costs
- Contributed to manuscript draft
 - Methods
 - Tables and pie charts
 - Limitations
 - References

Projects (continued)

Highlighted Project #2: Communications Library

- Features more than 250 resources, all related to wastewater surveillance
- Annotated bibliography format, with citations and descriptions
- Available on our website [here](#)
- Resources were categorized by audience
 - Everyone
 - Public health professionals
 - Lab staff
 - Wastewater utility staff



Contact Information!

Thank you for listening!

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