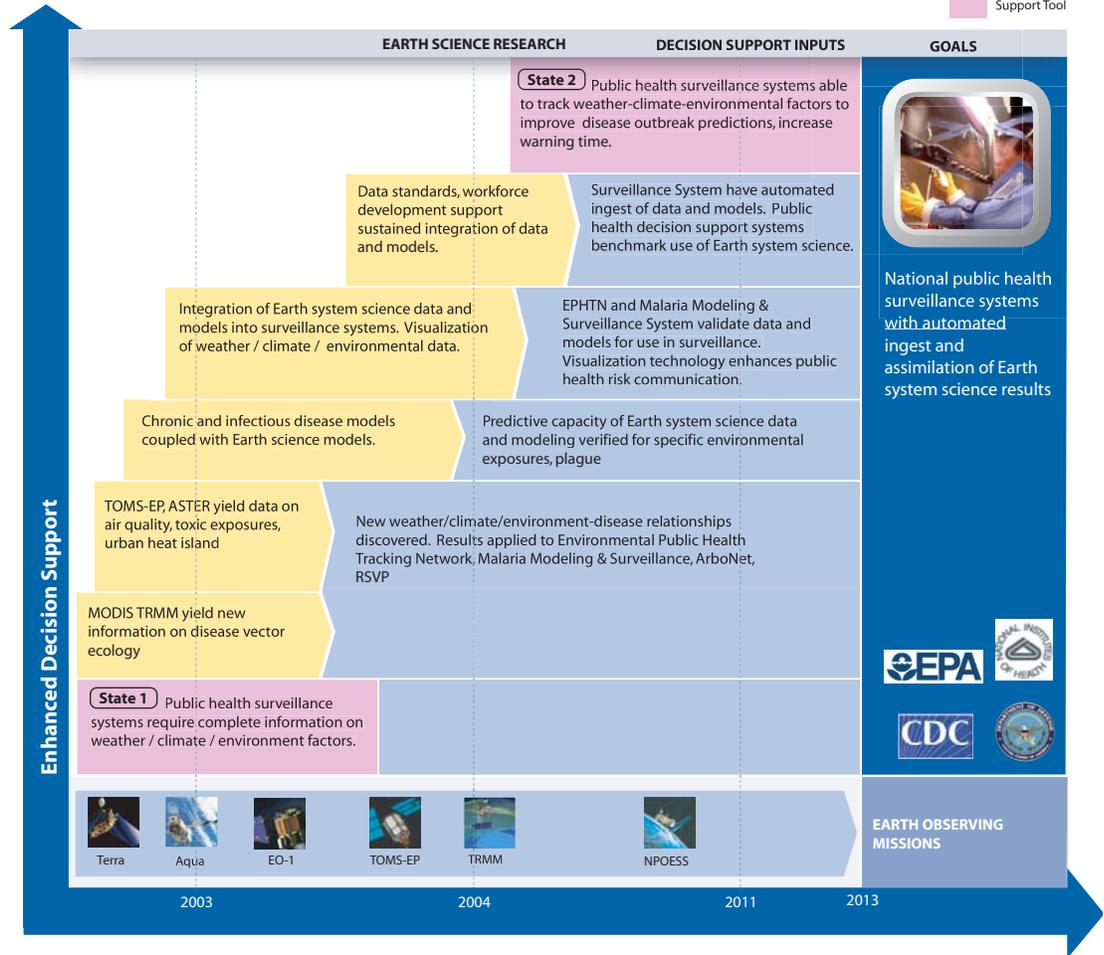


RoadMap

Public Health



Where we are now

The PHASES Program assists the professional community that is responsible for epidemiologic surveillance to understand and respond to environmental factors that adversely impact human health. Currently, epidemiologic surveillance does not systematically incorporate information on weather, climate, natural hazards, and other environmental factors. Therefore, these factors are not routinely included in disease forecasting.

PHASES employs products from Earth science missions such as Terra, TOMS, and TRMM. These and other systems provide information on environmental features that are correlated with disease risk factors or are risk factors themselves such as ecotones, flooding, human settlements, and soil moisture.

Where we plan to be

The PHASES Program enhances the ability of surveillance systems to assimilate the role of weather, climate and environmental risk factors--in place and time--to predict disease events. In surveillance terms, the goal for integrating Earth science and public health data is to represent more accurately these environmental risk factors in terms of the populations potentially affected by them. The intended impacts of this are: 1) measurable improvements in the ability of epidemiologists to more accurately predict the occurrence of conditions favorable to disease outbreaks and/or chronic disease conditions, and; 2) increased efficiencies in the public health response to infectious disease outbreaks, harmful exposures and other chronic disease conditions.

2004 ————— 2012

