

Bridgeton Area Emergency Department Data Review

Beginning in February 2013, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Service's (DHSS) began to evaluate electronic emergency department (ED) data from the St. Louis metropolitan area on a weekly basis. Data has also been evaluated specifically for the area immediately around the Bridgeton Landfill. The purpose is to identify increases in hospital ED visits that could potentially be related to the Bridgeton Landfill. This data is used for early event detection and situational awareness by determining if the number of ED visits for defined 'syndrome' categories is greater than expected when statistically compared to historical data. The data is analyzed specifically for complaints of respiratory illness with symptoms that include coughing, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, sore throat, and wheezing. The data comes from hospital EDs though it does not include all hospitals or other healthcare facilities such as clinics, urgent care centers, or physician offices. The data analyzed is chief complaint data, which may not represent the final diagnosis.

Thus far, no significant increase in ED visits for these symptoms has been observed. DHSS will continue to monitor the ED surveillance data for respiratory illness on a weekly basis. Any concerns will be assessed in conjunction with the air quality data taken from the Bridgeton Landfill.