


The One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System (OHHABS) is a CDC surveillance system. It informs actions to prevent people and animals from becoming ill from [harmful algal blooms \(HABs\)](#). Health departments work with their human, animal, and environmental health partners to detect and investigate HAB events and associated illnesses and report them to OHHABS. This is a One Health approach that improves surveillance and health outcomes by recognizing that human health is connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

OHHABS collects data on HABs and associated illnesses in freshwater and coastal areas, including:

- HAB events
- Human illness
- Animal illness in pets, livestock, and wildlife




**One Health partners help detect HAB events and associated illnesses**


Understanding human and animal exposures and illnesses can help prevent future illnesses. Public health officials can also use information from algal bloom observations, toxin testing, and other measures of environmental impacts to reduce HAB exposures.



### Human Illnesses

Partners that help detect human illnesses include:


-  Healthcare providers
-  Poison control centers
-  General public



### Animal Illnesses



Partners that help detect animal illnesses include:

-  Veterinarians
-  Wildlife biologists
-  Pet and livestock owners



### HAB Events




Partners that help detect HAB events include:

-  Environmental professionals
-  Researchers
-  General public

**Partners report HAB events and illnesses to health departments**  
Health departments review reports, collect additional information, and conduct case investigations for illnesses.

**OHHABS users enter reports online**  
Public health users and their designated environmental and animal health partners review evidence; classify cases and events; and enter HAB environmental, human illness, and animal illness reports in OHHABS.

**CDC analyzes and shares OHHABS data**  
OHHABS surveillance data can help public health professionals understand:

-  The number of illnesses occurring each year
-  Where illnesses are occurring across the U.S.
-  Signs and symptoms in humans and animals