

# New Strategy and Innovative Projects at the National Biosurveillance Integration Center

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## Objective

Enhance knowledge of the vision, mission, strategic goals, and objectives of the National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC). Learn about innovative biosurveillance projects ongoing in NBIC.

## Introduction

For a number of years, the federal government has provided biosurveillance in various domains within different departments and agencies. Congress recognized the need for a means of integrating these separate information sources into a more useable resource by chartering NBIC within the Department of Homeland Security.

## Methods

NBIC engaged the biosurveillance community within and beyond the federal government through a series of extensive discussions, workshops, and symposia to define a strategy for future development of integrated biosurveillance activities grounded in legislative and presidential direction. The NBIC Strategic Plan was extensively reviewed by the twelve federal Departments that comprise the National Biosurveillance Integration System (NBIS) as well as the White House Office of Management and Budget. The NBIC Strategic Plan is currently being revised for release of a public version. The NBIC also engaged partners in the development of projects designed to develop and test new approaches to biosurveillance.

## Results

The NBIC Strategic Plan was delivered to Congress in August, 2012. The plan explains the Center's approach, why it is needed, and how it seeks to execute the mission of integrating national biosurveillance information to provide relevant and timely information that effectively supports decision making. Projects are underway involving text analyses of emergency medical system data, changes to poison control center data collection and analysis, and the application of machine learning to social media analyses. A sub-working group of the NBIS has been established to guide selection of future pilot project areas to address prioritized requirements for integrated biosurveillance.

## Conclusions

NBIC has increased flexibility in its commitment to collaboration and coordination, engaged in bold new approaches, and is defining requirements that will encourage buy-in and support of the users across the levels of government and the private sector. With success in its mission, NBIC will support its partners' missions and provide relevant and timely information that effectively supports decision making.

## Keywords

NBIC; NBIS; strategy

## References

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