Summary
This session provides an introduction to public health surveillance. There are three major types of surveillance: passive, active, and syndromic. In the US, states hold the authority to gather information on disease occurrence through state communicable disease law. There are many applications of disease surveillance in setting public health priorities, but there are also limitations in using surveillance data. The CDC plays a primary role in standardized reportable disease surveillance throughout the nation, and national data sources and examples of surveillance systems are discussed. This session also briefly covers techniques for reviewing of surveillance data, including using the raw data, rates, descriptive epidemiology, and graphical presentations of data.

Intended Audience
Non-epidemiologists who collaborate or work with epidemiologists

Running Time
Part 1: 40 minutes of lecture
  20 minutes for pre-test, post-test, and evaluation
Part 2: 35 minutes of lecture
  20 minutes for pre-test, post-test, and evaluation
Optional Q&A: 15 minutes (approximate)

Learning Objectives
• Explain the surveillance “feedback loop” of data and information flow through local, state, and federal channels
• Describe characteristics of three different types of surveillance: active, passive, and syndromic
• List 5 applications of public health surveillance
• List federal public health surveillance systems relevant to epidemiology programs
• Discuss the major components of surveillance data analysis