

Dictionary for HSEES Public Use Data 1996-2001

This is the data dictionary for the 1996-2001 public use dataset of ATSDR's Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance System (HSEES).

*******When printing this document it is recommended that the layout orientation be changed to landscape.*******

This document provides users with information for using the HSEES public use dataset. The data are related to events that occurred in the 17 HSEES states from 1996 through 2001. During the entire time period analyzed 13 states participated in HSEES: Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. An additional four states participated during portions of the time period: New Hampshire (1996), New Jersey (2000-2001), Utah (2000-2001), and Louisiana (2001).

The public use dataset in text format contains tab delimited fields. The file contains 39,766 records, 84 variables, and a maximum record length of 920.

All data files contain one line of data for each event reported to HSEES. If the total number of chemicals in an event exceeds six, then only the first six are listed. A victim is defined as a person experiencing at least one documented adverse health effect (such as respiratory irritation or chemical burns) that likely resulted from the event and occurred within 24 hours of the release. The HSEES system does not identify the immediate cause of the adverse health effect other than the event itself. To determine the nature of victim injuries, state coordinators selected up to 7 entries among trauma, respiratory irritation, eye irritation, nausea or vomiting, heat stress, chemical burns, thermal burns, skin irritation, dizziness or other CNS symptoms, and headache. Therefore, the number of injuries per event is likely to exceed the number of victims.

State coordinators could select up to two categories to describe the type of area where the event occurred, type of fixed-facility for fixed-facility events, and type of transportation for transportation events. For fixed-facility events, information on contributing factors was expanded from one to two choices beginning in 2000. Information on contributing factors for transportation events was collected beginning in 2000.

The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) is used to represent county codes that are unique within each state. Pre-appended 2-digit FIPS state codes are provided to form the complete FIPS county code. Some events may lack the three digit county code because no

county is listed for that particular event. A list of state and county FIPS codes for the United States can be found at the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/codes/state.html>.

Industry codes for the type of industry responsible for each HSEES event were assigned according to the 1990 Industrial Classification System of the U.S. Census Bureau (Bureau of the Census). The industry classification system consists of 243 codes (see Industry Codes).

A description chemical categories and the hierarchical assignment are provided (see Chemical Category Definitions).

| Variable | Position | Type | Length | Description | Value |
|----------|----------|------|--------|--------------------------------------|--|
| RCD_ID | 1 | NUM | 8 | Sequential record number | A number |
| STATE | 2 | CHAR | 2 | State where event occurred | AL = Alabama CO = Colorado IA = Iowa LA = Louisiana MN = Minnesota MO = Missouri MS = Mississippi NC = North Carolina NH = New Hampshire NJ = New Jersey NY = New York OR = Oregon TX = Texas RI = Rhode Island UT = Utah WA = Washington WI = Wisconsin |
| EVNTCNTY | 3 | CHAR | 30 | County where event occurred | Text string |
| FIPSCODE | 4 | CHAR | 5 | Five digit FIPS county code | See http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/codes/state.html |
| EVNTTYPE | 5 | CHAR | 1 | Type of event | T = Transportation F = Fixed facility |
| THRTACTU | 6 | CHAR | 1 | Was the release actual or threatened | 1 = All actually released into the environment 2 = All threatened to be released into the environment 3 = Some actually and some threatened to be released |
| YEAR | 7 | CHAR | 4 | Year when event occurred | 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 |

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| SEASON | 8 | CHAR | 1 | Season when event occurred | W = Winter (December, January, February) S = Spring (March, April, May) U = Summer (June, July, August) F = Fall (September, October, November) |
| WEEKDAY | 9 | CHAR | 1 | Portion of week when event occurred | Y = Weekday (Monday – Friday) N = Weekend (Saturday – Sunday) |
| TIME | 10 | CHAR | 1 | Time range that event occurred | D = 06:00 – 17:59 pm N = 18:00 – 05:59 pm |
| AREATYP1 | 11 | CHAR | 1 | Description one of type of area where event occurred | 0 = Vacant 1 = Industrial 2 = Commercial 3 = Residential 4 = Rural/agriculture 5 = Forest 6 = Wetlands or coastal 7 = Surface water 8 = Other A = Military facility/DOE/DOD B = Railway, rail yard, and roadways C = Recreational |
| AREATYP2 | 12 | CHAR | 1 | Description two of type of area where event occurred | (Codes are the same as AREATYP1) |
| AREA_RES | 13 | CHAR | 1 | Residential area within ¼ mile of event | 1 = Yes 2 = No |
| FACTOR1 | 14 | CHAR | 1 | First contributing factor | 1 = Improper mixing 2 = Equipment failure 3 = Operator Error 4 = Improper filling, overflow 8 = Other A = Maintenance B = System/process upset C = System start up and shutdown D = Factors beyond human control |

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|----------|----|------|---|----------------------------|--|
| | | | | | <p>E = Power failure/electrical problems F = Unauthorized/improper dumping G = Deliberate damage H = Bad weather condition I = Motor vehicle accident/rollover J = Fire K = Explosion</p> |
| FACTOR2 | 15 | CHAR | 1 | Second contributing factor | (Codes are the same as FACTOR1 except there also is 7 = No Secondary Factor) |
| FIXTYPE1 | 16 | CHAR | 1 | Fixed facility type one | <p>0 = Transportation within a fixed facility 2 = Process vessel 3 = Piping 4 = Material handling area 5 = Storage area above ground 6 = Storage area below ground 7 = Dump/waste area 8 = Other A = Ancillary process equipment B = Transformer or capacitor C = Incinerator D = Heating/Cooling for building E = Secondary Contamination F = Outdoor, farming or industrial areas G = Outdoor, non-farming or non-industrial areas H = Indoor, non-industrial, living (residence) areas I = Indoor, non-industrial, non-living areas J = Laboratory</p> |
| FIXTYPE2 | 17 | CHAR | 1 | Fixed facility type two | (Codes are the same as FIXTYPE1) |
| TRNTYPE1 | 18 | CHAR | 1 | Transportation type one | <p>2 = Ground 3 = Rail 4 = Water 5 = Air 6 = Pipeline</p> |

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| | | | | | 8 = Other |
| TRNTYPE2 | 19 | CHAR | 1 | Transportation type two | (Codes are the same as TRNTYPE1) |
| IND_DESC | 20 | CHAR | 75 | Industry code description | Text String |
| IND_CODE | 21 | CHAR | 3 | Three digit industry code | (See Industry Codes) |
| ATHOMQTR | 22 | NUM | 8 | Number of people at home within ¼ mile of event | A number |
| LIVEQTR | 23 | NUM | 8 | Number of people living within ¼ mile of event | A number |
| EVAC_ORD | 24 | CHAR | 1 | Evacuation ordered | Y = Yes N = No |
| EVAC_PPL | 25 | NUM | 8 | Total number of people evacuated as a result of the event | A number |
| SHLT_ORD | 26 | CHAR | 1 | In-place sheltering ordered | Y=Yes N=No |
| DCON_SN | 27 | NUM | 8 | Number of people decontaminated at the scene | A number |
| DCON_MF | 28 | NUM | 8 | Number of people decontaminated at a medical facility | A number |
| TOT_CHEM | 29 | NUM | 8 | Total number of chemicals spilled | A number |
| SUB_CAT | 30 | CHAR | 2 | Substance category | (see Chemical Category Definitions) 1 = Acid 2 = Ammonia 3 = Bases 4 = Chlorine 5 = Other inorganic substances category 6 = Paints and dyes 7 = Pesticides/Agricultural 8 = Polychlorinated Biphenyls 9 = Volatile Organic Compounds 10 = Other substance category not listed |

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| | | | | | 12 = Mixture across chemical categories A = Formulations B = Hetero-Organics C = Hydrocarbons D = Oxy-Organic E = Polymers 88 = Multiple substance categories |
| CHEM1 | 31 | CHAR | 70 | Chemical name one | Text string |
| CHM_QCAT1 | 32 | CHAR | 1 | Category for the amount of Chemical #1 | B=1-<10 C=10-<100 D=100-<500 E=500-<1,000 F=1,000-<10,000 G=10,000+ |
| CHM_UNIT1 | 33 | CHAR | 1 | Unit of measure for the amount of Chemical #1 | 1=Pounds 2=Kilograms 3=Gallons 4=Liters 5=Cubic feet 6=Ounces 7=Milliliters 8=Pico curies A=Tons |
| RELS1CHEM1 | 34 | CHAR | 1 | First type of release for Chemical #1 | 1 = Spill 2 = Air Emission 3 = Fire 4 = Explosion 7 = Threatened 8 = Other type of release |
| RELS2CHEM1 | 35 | CHAR | 1 | Second type of release for Chemical #1 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| CHEM2 | 36 | CHAR | 70 | Chemical name two | Text string |
| CHM_QCAT2 | 37 | CHAR | 1 | Category for the amount of | (Codes are the same as CHM_QCAT1) |

| | | | | Chemical #2 | |
|------------|----|------|----|---|------------------------------------|
| CHM_UNIT2 | 38 | CHAR | 1 | Unit of measure for the amount of Chemical #2 | (Codes are the same as CHM_UNIT1) |
| RELS1CHEM2 | 39 | CHAR | 1 | First type of release for chemical #2 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| RELS2CHEM2 | 40 | CHAR | 1 | Second type of release for chemical #2 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| CHEM3 | 41 | CHAR | 70 | Chemical name three | Text string |
| CHM_QCAT3 | 42 | CHAR | 1 | Category for the amount of Chemical #3 | (Codes are the same as CHM_QCAT1) |
| CHM_UNIT3 | 43 | CHAR | 1 | Unit of measure for the amount of Chemical #3 | (Codes are the same as CHM_UNIT1) |
| RELS1CHEM3 | 44 | CHAR | 1 | First type of release for chemical #3 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| RELS2CHEM3 | 45 | CHAR | 1 | Second type of release for chemical #3 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| CHEM4 | 46 | CHAR | 70 | Chemical name four | Text string |
| CHM_QCAT4 | 47 | CHAR | 1 | Category for the amount of Chemical #4 | (Codes are the same as CHM_QCAT1) |
| CHM_UNIT4 | 48 | CHAR | 1 | Unit of measure for the amount of Chemical #4 | (Codes are the same as CHM_UNIT1) |
| RELS1CHEM4 | 49 | CHAR | 1 | First type of release for chemical #4 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| RELS2CHEM4 | 50 | CHAR | 1 | Second type of release for chemical #4 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| CHEM5 | 51 | CHAR | 70 | Chemical name five | Text string |
| CHM_QCAT5 | 52 | CHAR | 1 | Category for the amount of Chemical #5 | (Codes are the same as CHM_QCAT1) |
| CHM_UNIT5 | 53 | CHAR | 1 | Unit of measure for the amount of Chemical #5 | (Codes are the same as CHM_UNIT1) |
| RELS1CHEM5 | 54 | CHAR | 1 | First type of release for chemical #5 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| RELS2CHEM5 | 55 | CHAR | 1 | Second type of release for | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |

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| | | | | chemical #5 | |
| CHEM6 | 56 | CHAR | 70 | Chemical name six | Text string |
| CHM_QCAT6 | 57 | CHAR | 1 | Category for the amount of Chemical #6 | (Codes are the same as CHM_QCAT1) |
| CHM_UNIT6 | 58 | CHAR | 1 | Unit of measure for the amount of Chemical #6 | (Codes are the same as CHM_UNIT1) |
| RELS1CHEM6 | 59 | CHAR | 1 | First type of release for chemical #6 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| RELS2CHEM6 | 60 | CHAR | 1 | Second type of release for chemical #6 | (Codes are the same as RELS1CHEM1) |
| TOT_VICT | 61 | NUM | 8 | Total number of victims of the event | A number |
| AGE_RNG1 | 62 | NUM | 8 | Number of victims between birth and 19 years of age | A number |
| AGE_RNG2 | 63 | NUM | 8 | Number of victims between 20 and 64 years of age | A number |
| AGE_RNG3 | 64 | NUM | 8 | Number of victims 65 years of age or older | A number |
| VICT_EMP | 65 | NUM | 8 | Number of employee victims | A number |
| VICT_RESP | 66 | NUM | 8 | Number of responder victims | A number |
| VICT_GP | 67 | NUM | 8 | Number of general public victims | A number |
| VICT_STD | 68 | NUM | 8 | Number of student victims | A number |
| INJ_TRA | 69 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with trauma injuries | A number |
| INJ_RESP | 70 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with respiratory system irritation | A number |
| INJ_EYE | 71 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with eye irritation | A number |
| INJ_GASTRO | 72 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with gastrointestinal problems | A number |

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|-----------|----|-----|---|---|----------|
| INJ_HEAT | 73 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with heat stress injuries | A number |
| INJ_CHEM | 74 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with chemical burn injuries | A number |
| INJ_THERM | 75 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with thermal burn injuries | A number |
| INJ_SKIN | 76 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with skin irritation injuries | A number |
| INJ_CNS | 77 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with dizziness or other CNS symptoms | A number |
| INJ_HACHE | 78 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with headaches | A number |
| INJ_HRT | 79 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with heart problems | A number |
| INJ_SOB | 80 | NUM | 3 | Number of victims with shortness of breath | A number |
| SEV_DTH | 81 | NUM | 8 | Number of victims where injury severity was deadly | A number |
| SEV_HOSPA | 82 | NUM | 8 | Number of victims where injury severity required treatment at hospital and admittance | A number |
| SEV_HOSPR | 83 | NUM | 8 | Number of victims where injury severity required treatment at hospital without being admitted or victim was transported to hospital for observation with no treatment | A number |
| SEV_NHOSP | 84 | NUM | 8 | Number of victims where injury severity required treatment on the scene (first | A number |

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| | | | | aid); or victim was seen by a private physician within 24 hrs; or injuries were experienced within 24 hrs of the event and reported by an official | |
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