

# FACT SHEET ESSENCE

## ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM EARLY NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED EPIDEMICS



**The Department of Defense's ESSENCE program monitors and provides alerts for unusual increases in the occurrence of health events (e.g., infectious diseases and injuries) around the globe. ESSENCE is a combat support enabler and a key component in ensuring a healthy beneficiary population.**

ESSENCE collects near real-time biosurveillance data, including outpatient health encounter records, pharmacy prescriptions, laboratory results, and radiology reports, from Military Health System medical facilities to support the early detection and monitoring of health events. The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division, the Defense Centers for Public Health, and military hospitals and clinics worldwide rely on ESSENCE to provide prompt notifications of actionable and emerging health concerns.



### Key Features

- ▶ Provides an interactive system for querying and reviewing near real-time health data from multiple sources
- ▶ Detects and analyzes unusual spikes or trends and conveys data to public health officials
- ▶ Automates alerts and improves dashboard functionality to facilitate efficient, customized review of both aggregate and individual data
- ▶ Utilizes the same software as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and over half of the U.S. state public health departments

### Key Benefits

- ▶ Enables enhanced coordination with local civilian counterparts during an outbreak
- ▶ Monitors worldwide DOD outpatient health care data for medical anomalies
- ▶ Enhances timely monitoring and detection of health events of interest (e.g., reportable medical events, emerging diseases and injuries)
- ▶ Informs situational awareness of health events that merits further investigation and/or public health action



Scan to view the ESSENCE video