

# Environmental Health

**ABOUT THE COVER**



Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are the rapid growth of algae that can produce toxic or harmful effects in people and animals. Defining HAB exposure and related illness can be challenging. This month's

cover article, "Evaluation of Electronic Health Records to Monitor Illness From Harmful Algal Bloom Exposure in the United States," queried the MarketScan Research Databases between January 2009 and April 2019 for use of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes for HAB exposure. The study found that although the HAB-related ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes were used infrequently, they were most often recorded during bloom seasons in warmer months. This analysis is the first that utilizes a large-scale national database of de-identified health records to understand the use of medical diagnostic codes related to algae exposure.

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