

Group 1 National Hub Template (HBM data for Awareness)

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Introduction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background information on the evolution and status of HBM in your country. 	<p>HBM has been part of research activities in Iceland in connection with the Arctic monitoring assessment program of Human Health since 1995. This work has focused on persistent organic pollutants and metals and women of childbearing age, with the developing fetus the most sensitive individual to the effects of these chemicals. The studies have been repeated at 5-year intervals since the start. This work was initiated by the Ministry of the Environment but funded with research grants. Other than this, very little attention has been given to HBM in Iceland and funding has been difficult, often because these studies fall between two different ministries, the Health and the Environmental ministries.</p>
<p>Main text - Results and Discussion ENSURE YOUR NARRATIVES ARE REFERENCED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of issue(s) which have resulted in the raising of awareness. Include brief description of sample population, substances of concern and whether local/regional/national. 	<p>Air pollution from fireworks at new years eve, plastic pollution of the oceans and endocrine disruptive chemicals in consumer products have made headlines and debates. The concern has been for the total population, not local problems.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of HBM programme if it exists e.g. implementation of a HBM module into HES 	<p>None</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe which ministries (Environment, Health etc.)/policy makers and stakeholders involved/steering/financing the HBM programme. Give examples - specific chemicals or outcomes. 	<p>As described under background the very limited HBM in Iceland has shown decreasing levels of metals and POPs in women of childbearing age. This has been reported repeatedly in AMAP-Human Health reports found at: www.amap.no</p> <p>No political and governmental support for an Icelandic National HBM program.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps/processes needed or used to get the attention of policy makers. 	<p>None</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe barriers e.g. funding; challenges e.g. participant recruitment; 	<p>Funding is a barrier, research grants are not available for HBM studies, these are referred to ministries, where the questions are involve both Health and the Environment</p>

<p>opportunities e.g. enhancing cross government working and linking of env data with exposure measurements currently at play in your country with regards to HBM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have any of these barriers been addressed by HBM4EU? If yes - describe. 	<p>allowing both ministries to wash their hands and point to the other.</p> <p>Recruitment has also proven more difficult, as young people have been unwilling to participate in long questionnaires and do not answer unknown phonenumbers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other players who would be beneficial in raising awareness and working together to promote HBM 	<p>Journalists</p>
<p><u>Future plans -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there plans to use HBM data in the future for policy or awareness - give clear examples. Will the data from HBM4EU be used? 	<p>Not yet, but with more data, the opportunities will come.</p>