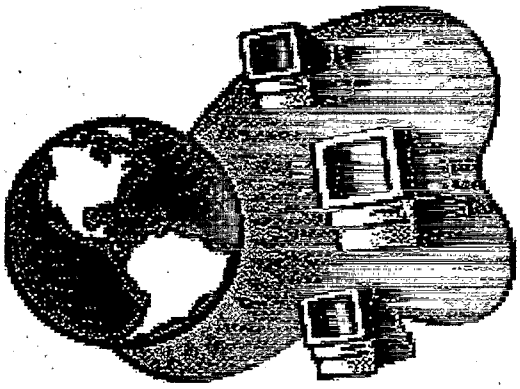
EPA 550-R-97-001

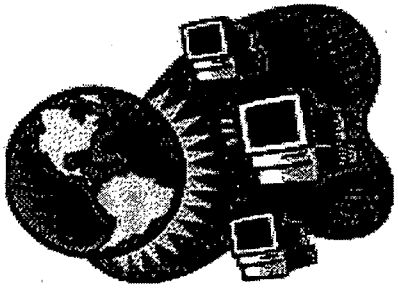
# Nationwide Survey of LEPC Data Management Practices



William C. Adams ■ Mary Beth Morgan ■ Mercedes M. Viana
Public Administration Department ■ The George Washington University

*Grant funding for this research was provided by the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ■ OMB Survey#2090-0019*

# Nationwide Survey of LEPC Data Management Practices



William C. Adams
Mary Beth Morgan
Mercedes M. Viana

Public Administration Department
The George Washington University
Washington, D.C. 20052

*Grant funding for this research was provided by the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
OMB #2090-0019

# Acknowledgments

This research was made possible by the funding provided by the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and by the assistance of CEPPO's Kathy Jones, Mark Horwitz, and Sherry Fielding. Jed Kee and Kathryn Newcomer of The George Washington University also had key roles in helping to facilitate this project. The methods, implementation, and judgments in this study are the full responsibility of the researchers.

William C. Adams
Mary Beth Morgan
Mercedes M. Viana
Washington, D.C.
May 1, 1997

# Table of Contents and Charts


Executive Summary . . . . . 1
Methodology . . . . . 2
Background . . . . . 2
LEPC Data Management . . . . . 3
Chart 1: How LEPC Receives Chemical Inventory Data . . . . . 4
Chart 2: LEPC Management of Chemical Inventory Data . . . . . 4
Chart 3: Plans and Status of Computer Management of Data . . . . . 5
Chart 4: Computerized Data Management and US EPA Regions . . . . . 6
Chart 5: EPA Regions and Survey Regions . . . . . 6
Chart 6: Number of LEPC Meetings in Past Year . . . . . 7
Chart 7: Computerized Data Management and Number of LEPC Meetings . . . 8
Chart 8: Explanations for Not Planning to Computerize Data Management . . . 9
Chart 9: Usefulness of Collected Data . . . . . 10
Chart 10: Application of Data for LEPC Activities . . . . . 11
Chart 11: Software Used (if LEPC Has a Computer) . . . . . 11
Chart 12: LEPC Software Overlap . . . . . 12
LEPC Evaluations of CAMEO . . . . . 13
Chart 13: Reasons for Not Using CAMEO . . . . . 14
Chart 14: Major Uses of CAMEO . . . . . 15
Chart 15: Overall Usefulness of CAMEO . . . . . 15
Chart 16: Usefulness of Specific CAMEO Features . . . . . 16
Chart 17: Suggested Improvements to CAMEO . . . . . 17
LEPC Evaluations of Tier II . . . . . 18
Chart 18: Overall Usefulness of Tier II . . . . . 19
Chart 19: Usefulness of Tier II Features . . . . . 20
Chart 20: Suggested Improvements to Tier II . . . . . 20
LEPC Evaluations of LandView . . . . . 21
Chart 21: LandView Usefulness . . . . . 22
LEPC Evaluations of the CEPPO Web Site . . . . . 23
Chart 22: CEPPO Web Site . . . . . 24
Commentary . . . . . 25
Appendix: LEPC Questionnaire . . . . . 26

# Executive Summary

In March 1997, researchers from the George Washington University's Public Administration Department conducted nationwide telephone interviews with 1,018 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). Highlights of the findings may be summarized as follows:

- Compared to a 1994 survey of LEPCs, the 1997 survey detects only a modest increase in the number of LEPCs that use computers to manage their facility chemical inventory data — from 35% up to 39%.

- The 1997 findings reveal that a large proportion of LEPCs (42%) are on the verge of switching from paper filing to computer systems for data management. (Just 18% contend that they do not need or cannot afford to shift to computers.)

- The forthcoming computerization is planned throughout all regions of the United States — and among virtually all but the least active and nonfunctioning LEPCs. If these plans are fulfilled, computer use for data management will more than double from 39% to 81% of all LEPCs. Even if some of these plans are delayed, the best evidence is that LEPCs are likely to undergo a radical shift in their data management practices during the 1997-1999 period. This is a pivotal time when support and assistance is likely to be particularly important for these later adaptors.

- LEPC leaders consider the facility chemical inventory data to be "very useful" (44%) or "moderately useful" (43%). They use the data for emergency response planning (96%), hazard analysis (91%), responding to public inquiries (89%), disseminating information to the community (85%), and, to a lesser extent, for zoning and land-use decisions (34%).

- CAMEO was the most liked and widely used of three software packages. LEPCs overwhelmingly use CAMEO to support the key LEPC activities of emergency planning (93%), emergency responses (92%), and managing chemical inventory data (91%). Rather than confining their use to one or two features, LEPCs find nearly all of CAMEO's key features to be useful.

- Of the LEPCs with computer data management, 76% currently use CAMEO, 21% use Tier II, and 8% use LandView.

- CAMEO is considered to be "very useful" by 69% of the LEPCs, Tier II by 57%, and LandView by 52%.

- The Web site for CEPPO (Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office) is considered worthwhile by those who have seen it. However, only 6% of those with computers have viewed the site in the past six months.

## Methodology

After sending advance notification letters, researchers from the Public Administration Department of the George Washington University completed telephone interviews with leaders of 1,018 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) in March 1997. The sample of LEPCs was drawn using population-weighting to ensure that jurisdictions were represented in approximate proportion to their population. Without population weighting, over half of the sample of LEPCs in the fifty states would have been drawn from just four states that have numerous LEPCs — New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Texas.[1] Consequently, (while not repeated throughout the report) all percentages referring to the surveyed LEPCs should be interpreted as percentages of the LEPCs *where Americans live*.

The previous George Washington University survey of LEPCs (1994) used concurrent validation to verify the accuracy of answers that LEPC leaders gave to sensitive questions.[2] That process was not duplicated for the 1997 survey because the new questions were significantly less sensitive than those previously tested.

The questionnaire is reprinted in full in the appendix. At the customary 95% level of probability adjusted by the finite population multiplier, the completed sample of 1,018 yields confidence intervals of ±3%. However, the text does not dwell on confidence intervals because the fundamental findings do not hinge on subtle 3% margins.

## Background

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) was part of Title III of the 1986 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA III). It stipulated that the governor of each state appoint a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Each SERC was then to create Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), with members to be drawn from such fields as public safety, health care, and local industry.

Most SERCs created one LEPC for each county in the state, but there were exceptions. A few states used smaller jurisdictions (e.g., townships) as the boundaries for LEPCs. And a few states created much larger districts, encompassing many counties in each LEPC.

LEPCs were required to submit an emergency response plan to their SERC. That plan was to identify, among other things, the quantity and location of stored and transported "Extremely Hazardous Substances" (EHS or Hazmat), along with procedures for emergency response, public notification, and evacuation in the event of an accidental release, spill or other chemical emergency. Each year facilities were required to provide LEPCs with a full EHS inventory. Thus, a key element of LEPC data management involves the "facility chemical inventory data" (also called EPCRA data).

---

[1]See William C. Adams, Stephen D. Burns, and Philip G. Handwerk, *Nationwide LEPC Survey* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1994), p 26.

[2]Ibid., pp. 28-29.

# LEPC Data Management

The 1997 nationwide survey of leaders of 1,018 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) by researchers from the Public Administration Department of the George Washington University focused on their data management practices. The first person contacted for this survey was usually the LEPC chairperson.

A majority of the chairpersons (54%) said that they were "familiar with the data management practices." If not, they were asked for the name of the person "who is responsible for managing EPCRA data" for the LEPC. The balance of the interviews were conducted with individuals who described themselves as LEPC staff (24% of all those surveyed), the LEPC information coordinator (12%), an emergency planner or first responder (5%), a firefighter or fire chief (2%), and miscellaneous others (3%).

In every region and even in relatively less active LEPCs, the respondents described a strong pattern of increasing computerization of the facility chemical inventory data. A sizeable segment of LEPCs have already computerized their data management. Moreover, an overwhelming majority of the rest have made plans to move from paper to computers to manage their EPCRA data. Few LEPCs are receiving EPCRA data in computerized form, but they are rapidly moving toward managing the data on computers.

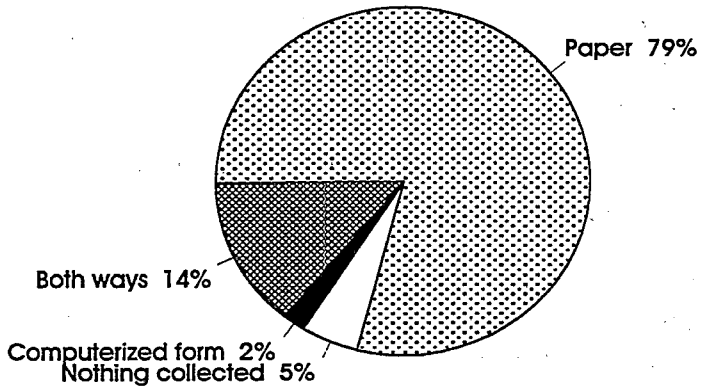
*How does your LEPC receive facility chemical inventory information —on paper, in computerized form, both ways, or not at all?*

- As shown on the following page in Chart 1, most LEPCs (79%) currently receive facility chemical inventory data on paper. Relatively few received the data all (2%) or in part (14%) in a computerized format.
- Only 5% of the LEPCs surveyed said that they were not collecting such data at all.

*"When your LEPC receives that information, are the data mainly managed with a paper filing system or a computer system?"*

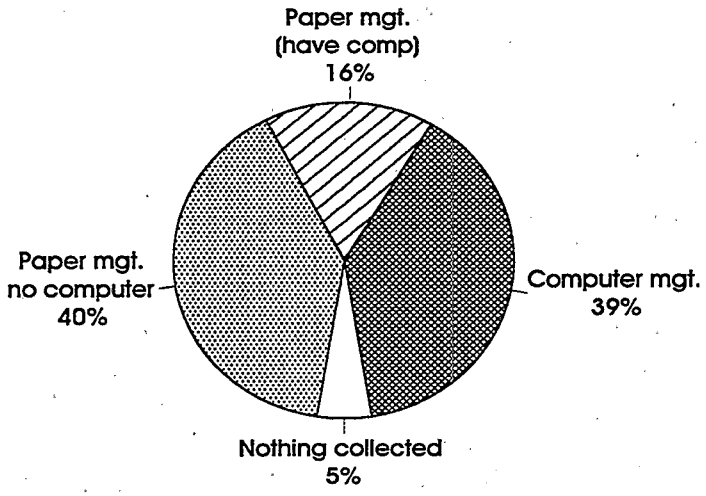
- A majority of the LEPCs (56%) are still using a paper filing system to manage the facility chemical inventory data that they receive. However, a sizeable and growing minority (39%) manage their data on a computer system. (See Chart 2 on page 4.)
- Nationwide, some LEPCs that use a paper filing system do have computers available — 16% of all LEPCs sampled. Nevertheless, their computers are currently used for correspondence or other things besides managing the chemical inventory data.

## Chart 1: How LEPC Receives Chemical Inventory Data



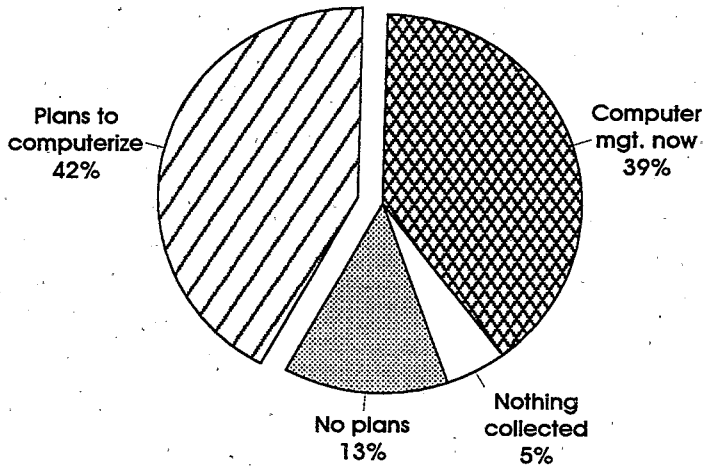

Percentages based on entire survey of 1,018 LEPCs.

## Chart 2: LEPC Management of Chemical Inventory Data




Percentages based on entire survey of 1,018 LEPCs.

## Chart 3: Plans and Status of Computer Management of LEPC Data




Percentages based on entire survey of 1,018 LEPCs.

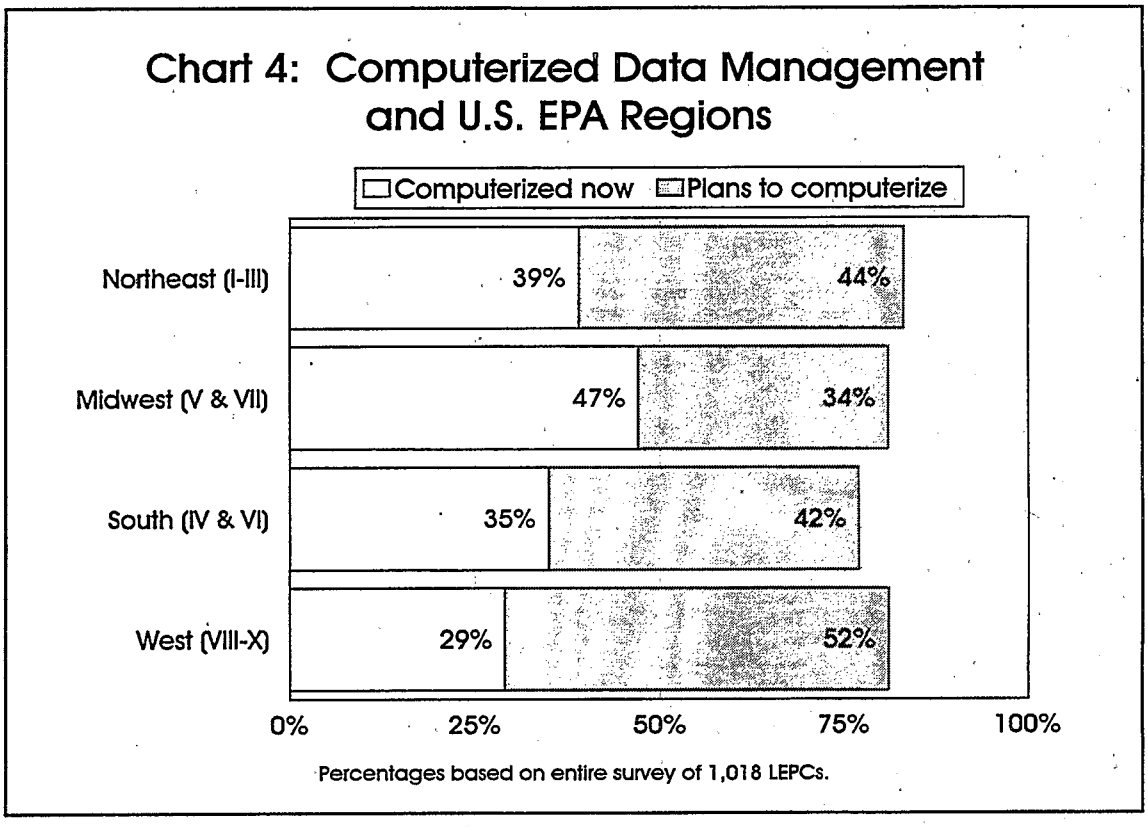
*"Does your LEPC have plans to put that inventory data on a computer?"*

- All LEPCs currently using paper filing systems were asked if they "have plans" to put the chemical inventory data on a computer. Chart 3 shows that a remarkable 42% of all LEPCs "have plans" to computerize their inventory data. Coupled with the existing 39% that are already computerized, this adds up to a remarkable 81% that are projected to have computer data management in the foreseeable future.

- Relatively few functioning LEPCs (13% of all surveyed LEPCs) do not have plans to convert to a computer filing system.

- Computerization of EPCRA data is proceeding throughout the country. Chart 4 on the next page reports the progress by region. To date, LEPCs in the Midwest (EPA Regions V and VII) are the most likely to already use computers to manage facility chemical inventory data (47%). Those in the West (EPA Regions VIII-X) are the least computerized (29%).

- Chart 4 also shows that regional variations will be minimal if LEPCs realize their plans to move to computer management of EPCRA data. The survey reveals that LEPCs around the nation are in the midst of a massive movement toward computer data management.



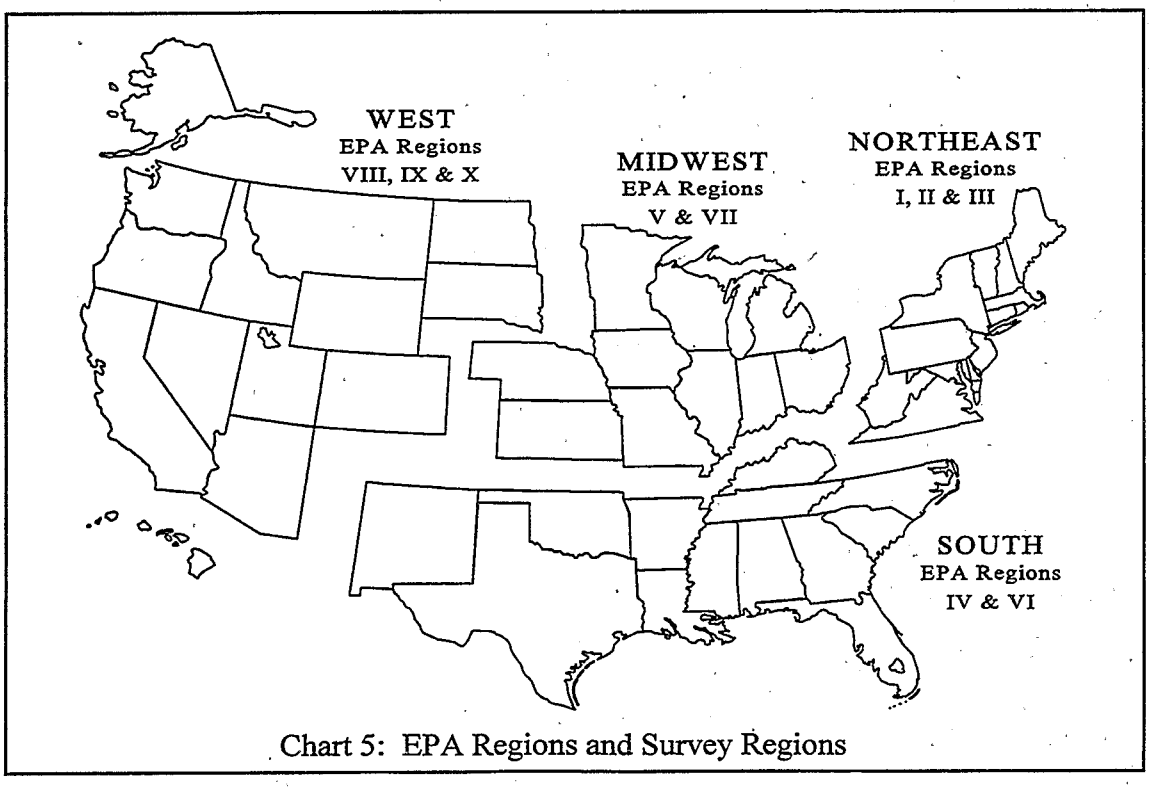
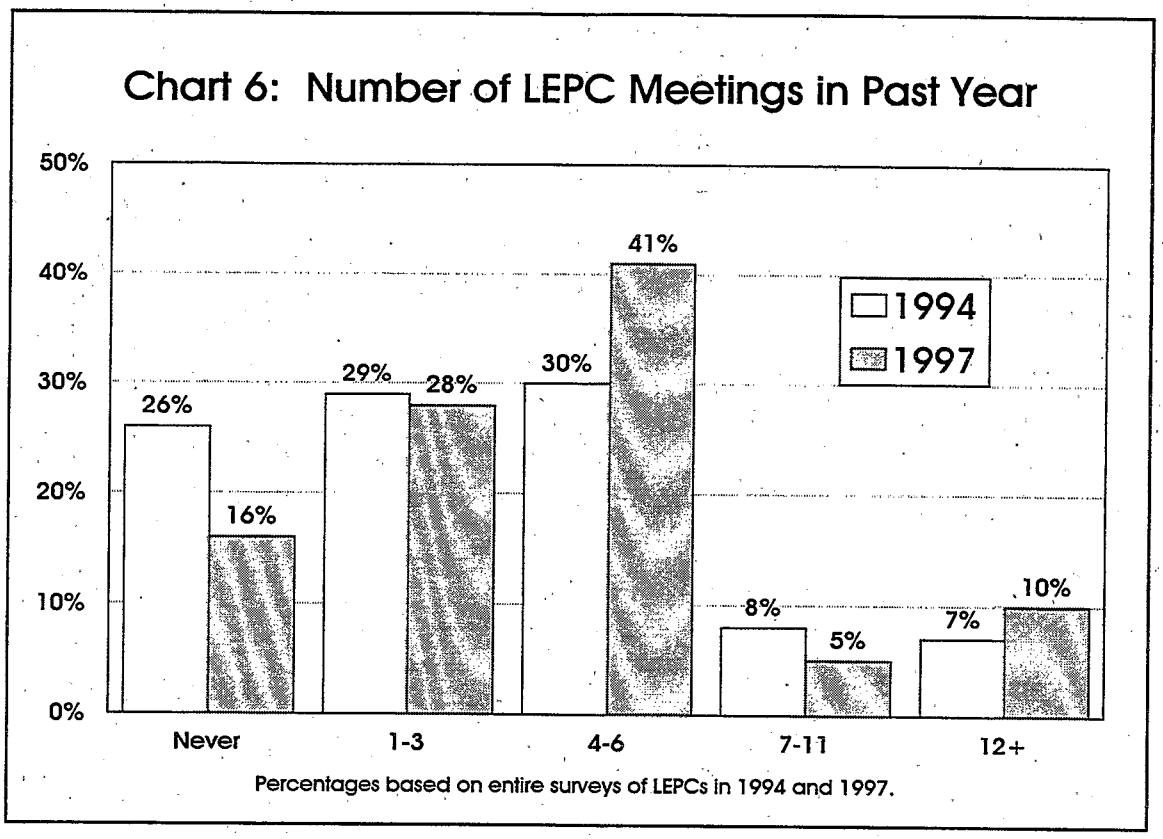




Chart 5: EPA Regions and Survey Regions



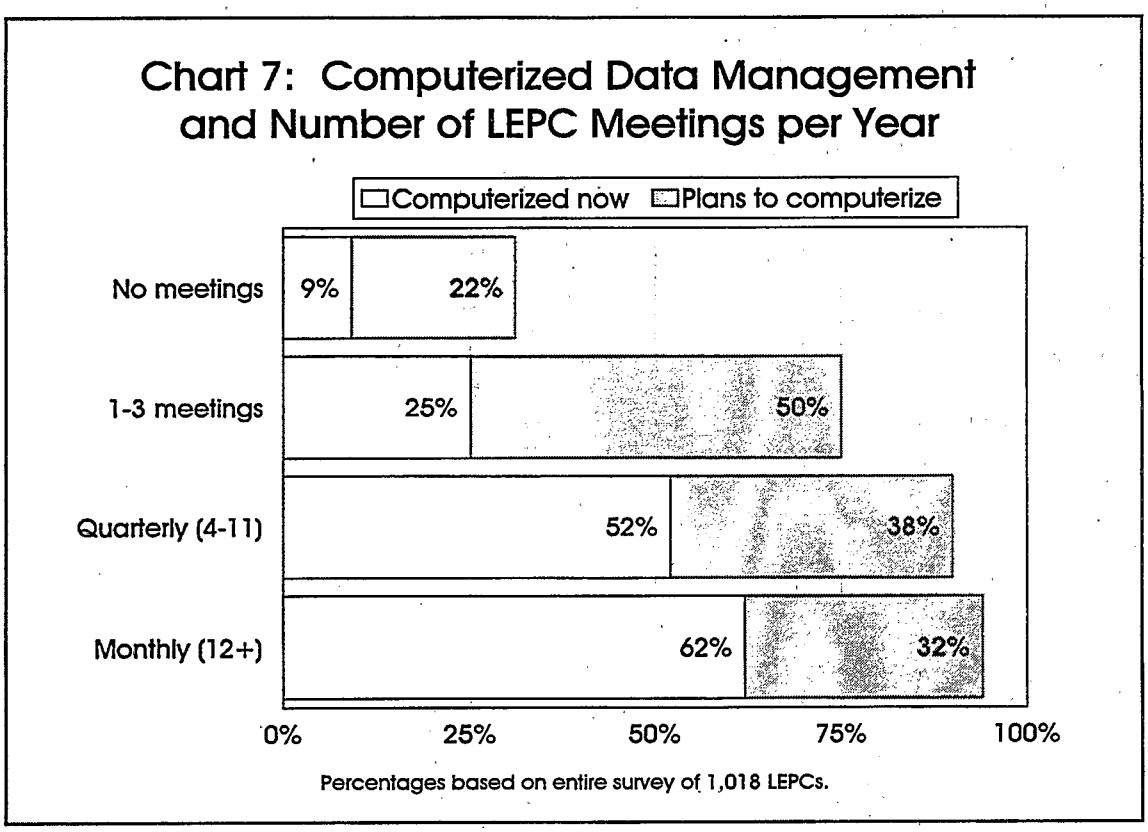

*"How many times did your LEPC hold formal meetings during the past twelve months?"*

- Chart 6 above contrasts LEPC meeting frequency in 1994 and 1997. It shows that 10% fewer LEPCs are "never" meeting — only 16% down from 26%. It also reveals a jump in the number meeting between quarterly and every other month (i.e., 4-6 times annually) — 41% up from 30%. This finding suggest that more LEPCs have become at least somewhat active during the nearly three years between the summer 1994 and spring 1997 surveys.

- The 1994 nationwide survey of LEPCs found that the frequency of meetings was a good predictor of LEPC activism and compliance with the mandates of SARA III.[3] Meeting frequency correlated significantly with a variety of LEPC responsibilities, such as annual reviews of the emergency response plan and communication requirements. Thus, while it is not a perfect substitute for a lengthy battery of questions, meeting frequency does serve as a simple and useful surrogate measure for LEPC activism.

---

[3]William C. Adams, Stephen D. Burns, and Philip G. Handwerk, *Nationwide LEPC Survey* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1994).



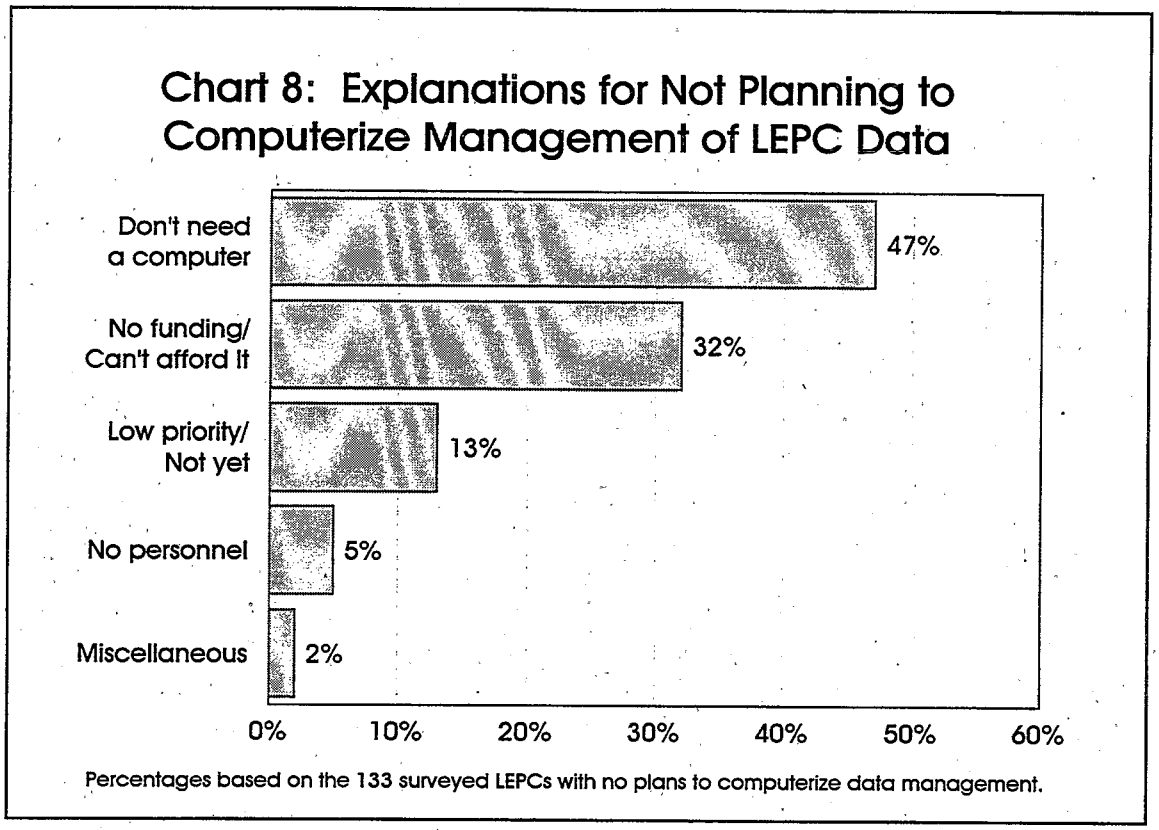

*"Does your LEPC have plans to put that inventory data on a computer?"*

- Using meeting frequency as a surrogate for LEPC activity, Chart 7 above confirms the expectation that the more active LEPCs are more advanced in terms of computer data management.

- Six out of ten (62%) of the LEPCs that meet at least monthly have already put their EPCRA data on computers. Computer data management is also practiced by five out of ten (52%) of LEPCs meeting at least quarterly but less than monthly (4-11 times per year).

- The lagging group consists of LEPCs that meet less than quarterly. EPCRA data is managed on computers by only 25% of those that held just 1-3 meetings in the past year and by only 9% of LEPCs that did not have any meetings in the past year.

- The 1994 study documented the extent to which LEPC activity correlates with the population size of the jurisdiction. Thus, rural and small-town LEPCs are less likely to be active, and less active LEPCs are less likely to make the effort to go beyond paper filing of EPCRA data. Despite these tendencies, not all rural and small-town LEPCs are inactive — and not all active LEPCs are computerized.




*"Does your LEPC have plans to put that inventory data on a computer?"*
*[If not:] "Why is that?"*

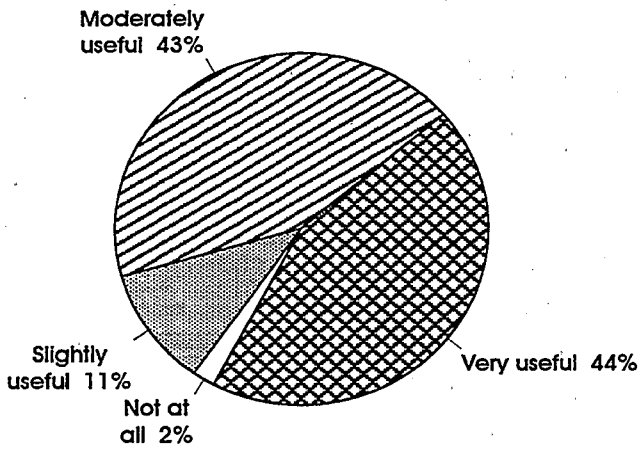
- As previously shown in Chart 3, a large majority of LEPCs (81%) either currently use computers to manage EPCRA data (39%) or have plans to do so (42%). The 13% who collect data but have no plans to shift to a computer system were asked: "Why?"

- Chart 8 above shows the answers of those LEPCs with no plans to shift from paper to computer data management. A plurality (47%) asserted that they had no need to move to computers. They are satisfied with their paper filing systems and/or say they do not have very much to file.

- About one-third (32%) would like to use a computer system for EPCRA data, but say that they lack the financial resources to buy and maintain computer hardware and software. In this same vein, another 5% emphasized that they lacked the personnel necessary to set up and sustain the computer operations.

- The remaining answers were scattered among those who said it was a "low priority" or "not yet a priority" (13%) and miscellaneous other answers (2%).

## Chart 9: Usefulness of Collected LEPC Data




Percentages based on 967 LEPCs that collect facility chemical inventory data (95% of the sample of 1,018).

*"Overall, is the data your LEPC collects very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful?"*

- LEPC leaders overwhelmingly (87%) consider the EPCRA data to be at least moderately useful. Very few (2%) dismiss it as "not at all useful." (See Chart 9.)

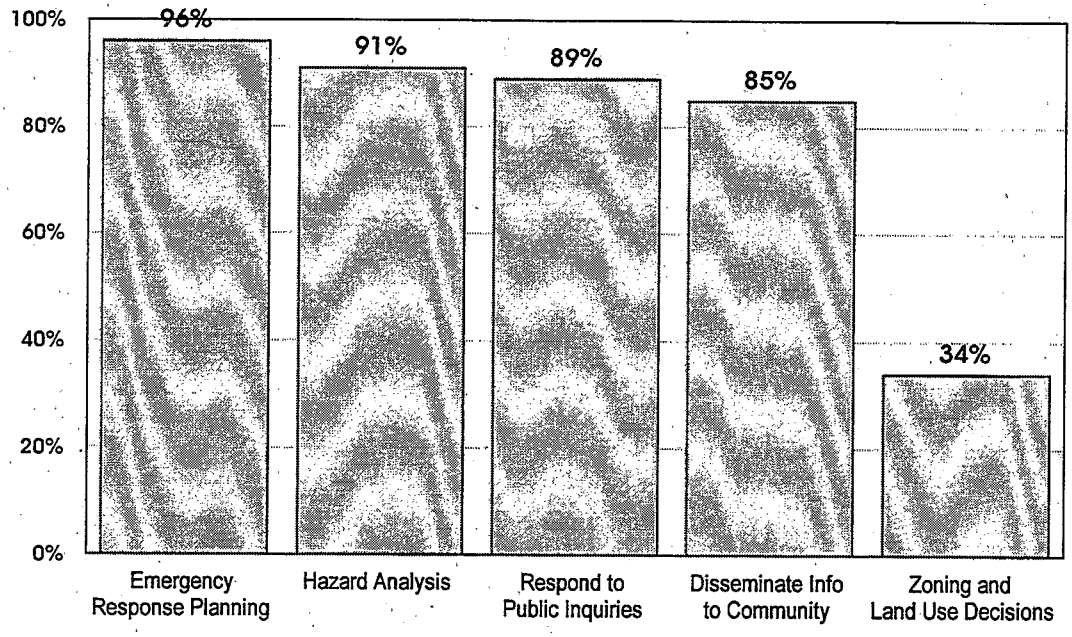
*"Can you tell me whether or not you use the data that your LEPC collects for the following activities: for hazard analysis? to respond to public inquiries? to disseminate information to the community? to support planning for emergency response activities? for zoning and land-use decisions?*

- Chart 10 on the next page shows that large majorities (85-96%) of the LEPCs are using the EPCRA data for four of the five uses specified above. The sole exception is zoning and land-use decisions, with only 34% using the data for that purpose.

*"To support your LEPC data management, are you using a software program called CAMEO?...Are you using a software program called Tier II?...LandView?"*

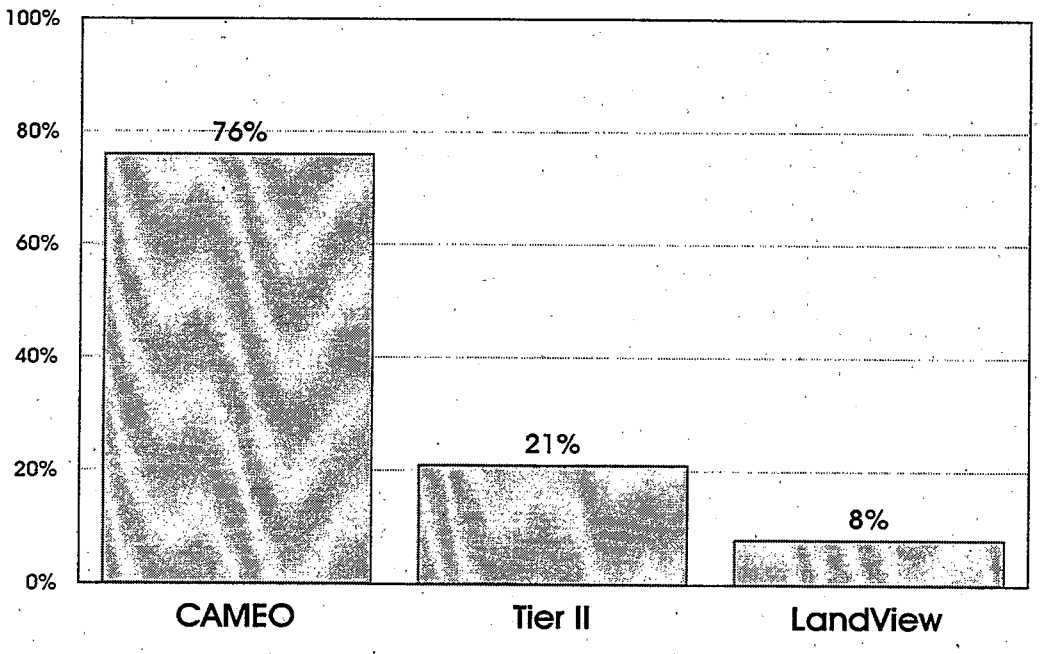
- Chart 11 on the next page shows that a large majority (75%) of the LEPCs that put their data on a computer use CAMEO. Fewer use Tier II (21%) or LandView (8%).

## Chart 10: Applications of Data for LEPC Activities




Percentages based on 967 LEPCs that collect facility chemical inventory data (95% of the sample of 1,018).

## Chart 11: Software Used (if LEPC Has a Computer)

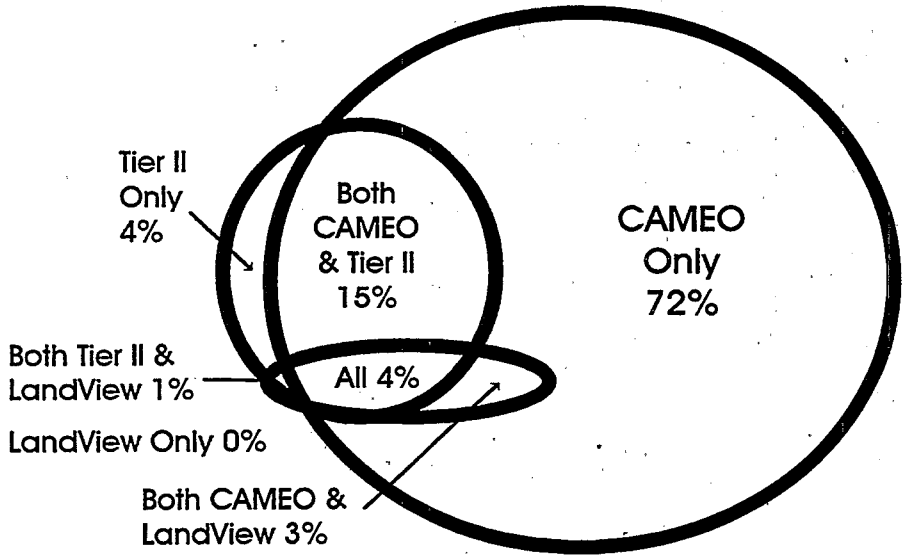



Percentages based on the 391 LEPCs that use computers to manage EPCRA data.

- Chart 12 below shows the extent to which usage of CAMEO, Tier II, and LandView overlap among LEPCs that use at least one of these three software programs.

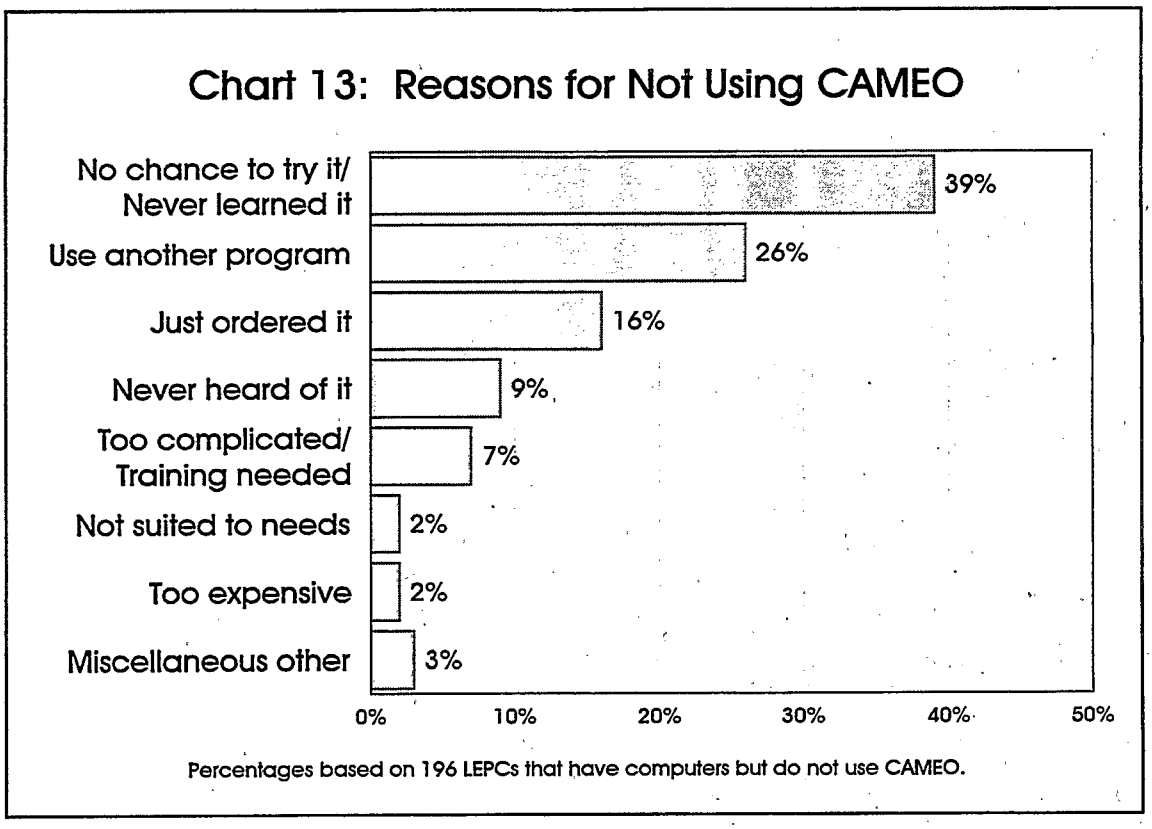
- LEPCs are most likely use CAMEO alone. They are next most likely to use CAMEO and Tier II. Only 4% or fewer use all three packages, use CAMEO and LandView, use only Tier II, or use only LandView.

## Chart 12: LEPC Software Overlap
(If using at least one of three programs)




Note: Percentages differ from Chart 11 because these sum to 100% based on all those using at least one of these three programs. (n=353 LEPCs).

# LEPC Evaluations of CAMEO




*"To support your L-E-P-C data management, are you using a software program called CAMEO?" [If not:] Is there any particular reason why you are not using CAMEO?"*

- Reasons for not using CAMEO are varied. Chart 13 reports the explanations offered by all those who have computers but do not use CAMEO.

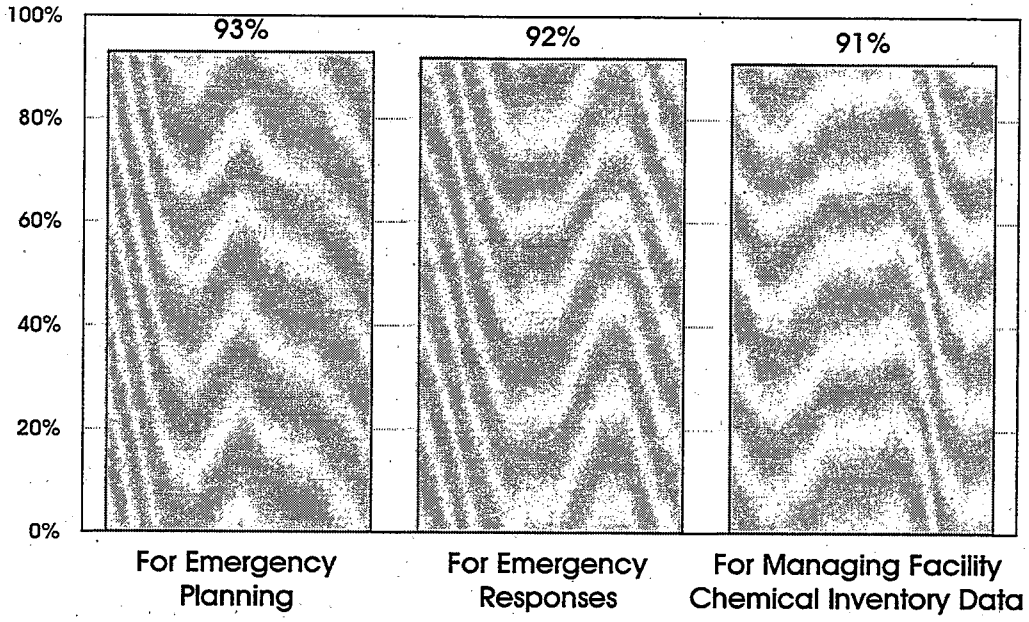
- The most common answers (39%) were variations on the themes of "just haven't gotten around to it," "haven't had a chance to try it yet," and "never got around to learning how to use it."

- One in four non-CAMEO users (26%) say they use another program. One in six (16%) say they had just ordered CAMEO and did plan to use it. A few (9%) said they had never heard of CAMEO. Others (7%) said it was too complicated and required too much training.

*"Are you using CAMEO to manage the facility chemical inventory data collected under EPCRA? ...for emergency planning such as for screening and for contingency plans? ...for emergency responses?"*

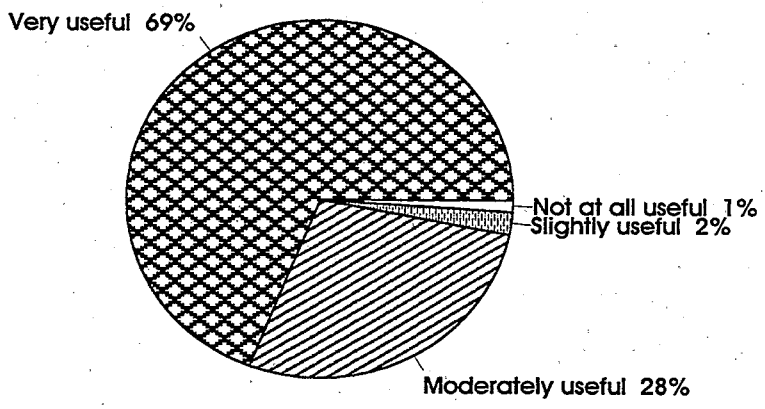
- Chart 14 on the next page shows that CAMEO is being widely used for emergency planning (93%), emergency responses (92%), and data management (91%).

## Chart 14: Major Uses of CAMEO



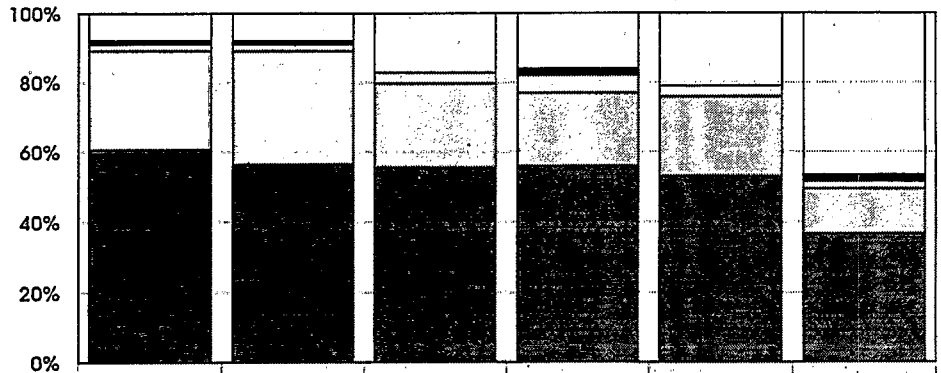

Percentages based on 365 LEPCs using CAMEO.

## Chart 15: Overall Usefulness of CAMEO




Percentages based on 365 LEPCs using CAMEO.

## Chart 16: Usefulness of Specific CAMEO Features




| | Code Breaker & RIDS | Facility Database | Hazard Analysis & Screening | MARPLOT | ALOHA | Import/ Export Data |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Not tried it | 8 | 8 | 17 | 16 | 21 | 47 |
| Not useful | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Slightly | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Moderately | 29 | 33 | 24 | 21 | 23 | 13 |
| Very useful | 62 | 57 | 55 | 56 | 53 | 37 |

Percentages based on 365 LEPCs using CAMEO.

*"Overall, would you say that CAMEO is very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful?"*

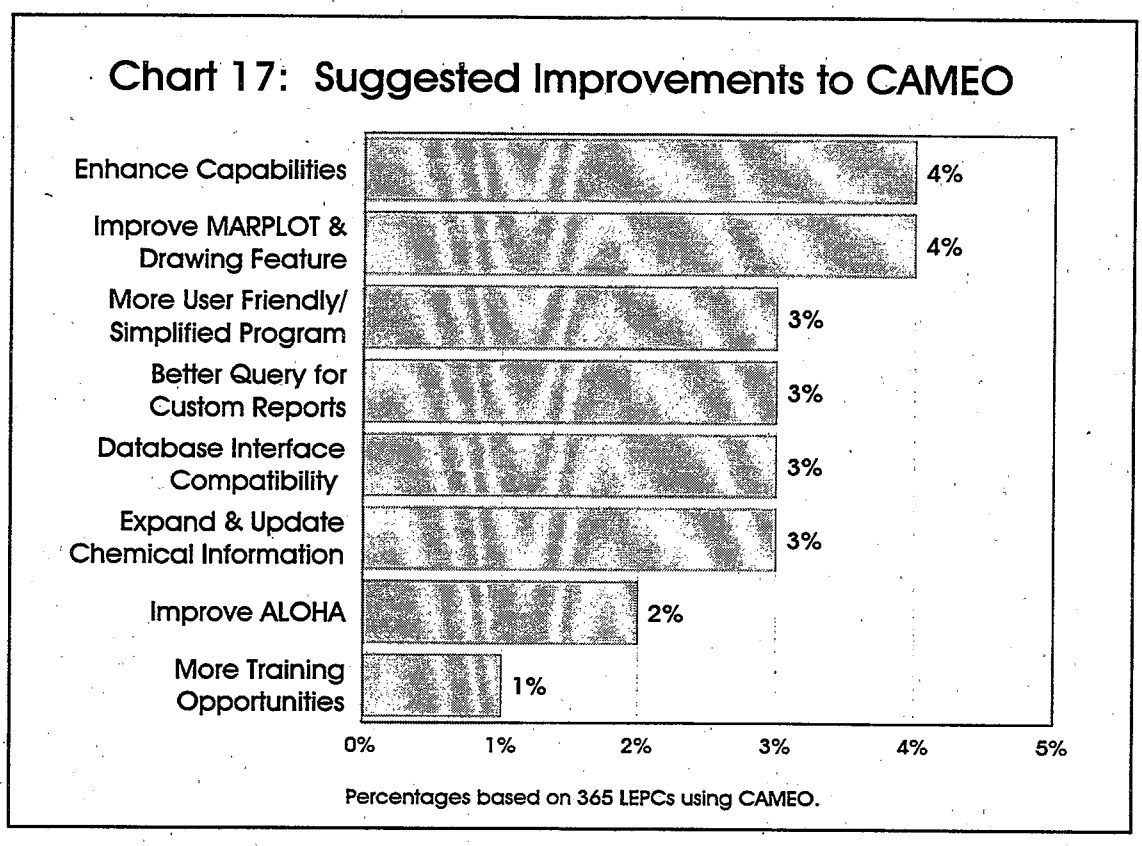
- CAMEO users give the software very high marks — mostly "very useful" (69%) or "moderately useful" (28%). (See Chart 15 on the previous page.)

*"We're interested in what you think about a few of CAMEO's features. For example, CAMEO's facilities database feature — have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful—or haven't you had a chance to try it?"*

- Chart 16 above shows three tiers of popularity for CAMEO features. The most popular features are the Code Breaker/RIDS (Response Information Data Sheets) and the Facility Database, with 90-91% calling those features moderately or very useful.

- Three additional features are also widely appreciated — Hazard Analysis/Screening, MARPLOT, and ALOHA — with just over three-fourths (76-79%) describing them as at least moderately useful.

- The least used feature is the importation and exportation of data. Nearly half (47%) have never tried to use that aspect of CAMEO.




*"What improvements would you most want to see in CAMEO?"*

- Most CAMEO users (76%) did not offer any immediate suggestion for improvements. The recommendations of those who did are summarized in Chart 17 above.

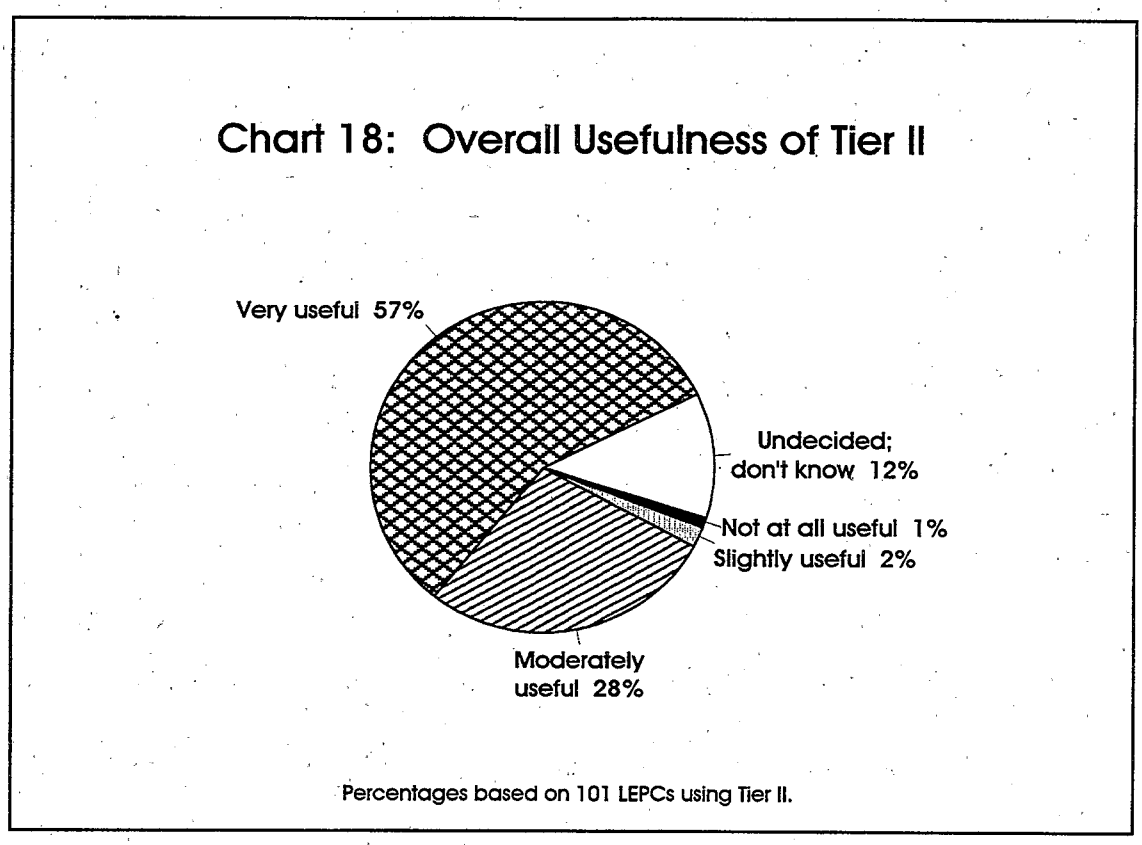
*LEPC Users vs. Other Users of CAMEO*

- In February 1997, researchers from the George Washington University (GWU) conducted a separate survey of 561 CAMEO users. Drawn from the list of CAMEO users, nearly one-third of the respondents were not using CAMEO for LEPC purposes at all. Results from the two surveys show more similarities than differences. Both groups had high praise for the program as well as similar but few specific suggestions.

- One key difference is that LEPCs use CAMEO for the three purposes identified in Chart 14 to a more overwhelming extent than does the CAMEO user base as a whole. For example, only 57% of the full user base employs CAMEO to manage facility data compared to 91% of the LEPCs. And, while 79% of all CAMEO users apply it for emergency planning and response, 92-93% of the LEPC users of CAMEO do so.

- The facility database feature (Chart 16) is also considered more valuable by LEPC users than by the CAMEO user base as a whole.

# LEPC Evaluations of Tier II




*"Overall, would you say that Tier II is very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful?"*

- While it is not as popular as CAMEO, Tier II still earned good ratings. As shown in Chart 18, most Tier II users consider the program to be at least moderately useful.

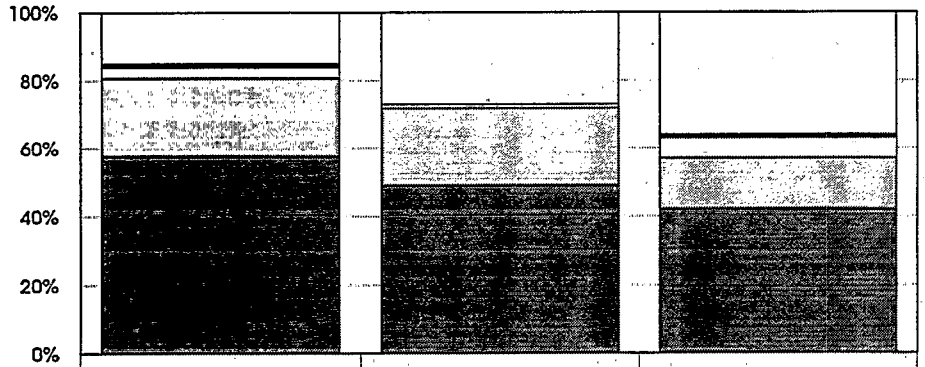
*"Tier II's facility chemical inventory feature—have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful—or haven't you had a chance to try it? ...electronic submission (import/export) feature? ...report generation feature?"*

- Of these three key features of Tier II, the facility chemical inventory feature is considered the most useful. Although majorities find the other two features to be at least moderately useful, they are not as widely used. (See Chart 19 on the next page.) With the chief exception of greater LEPC appreciation of the facility chemical inventory feature, LEPC evaluations of Tier II were similar to those found in the recent separate survey of the Tier II user base.

*"What improvements would you most like to see in Tier II?"*

- While most users had no immediate suggestions for improving Tier II, the ideas of those who did are summarized in Chart 20. The top two recommendations were simplification/more user friendly (8%) and compatibility with other programs (4%).

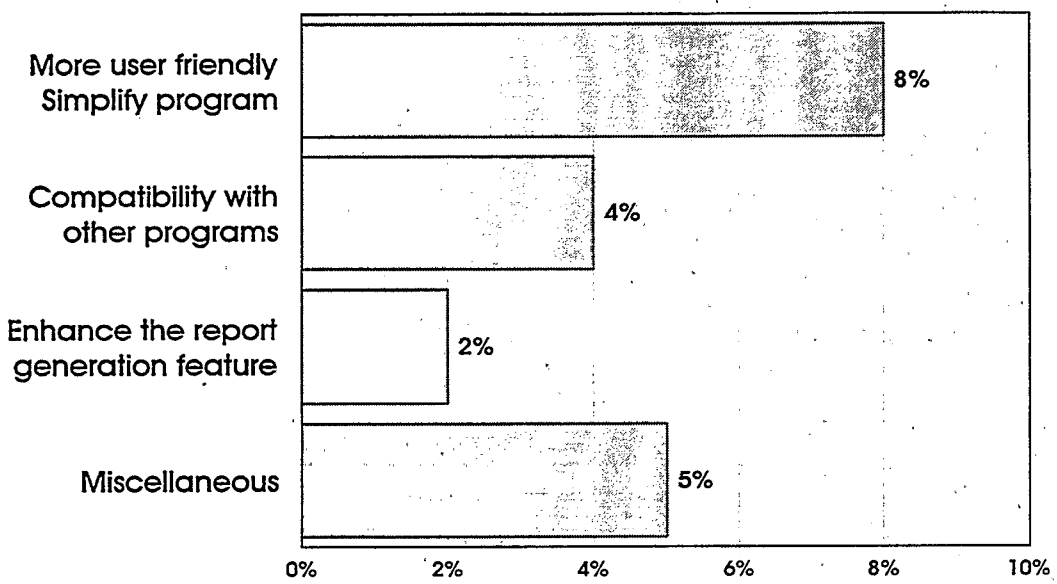
## Chart 19: Usefulness of Tier II Features




| | Facility Chemical Inventory | Report Generation | Electronic Submission (Import/Export) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Not tried it | 15 | 27 | 36 |
| Not useful | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Slightly | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Moderately | 23 | 23 | 15 |
| Very useful | 57 | 49 | 42 |

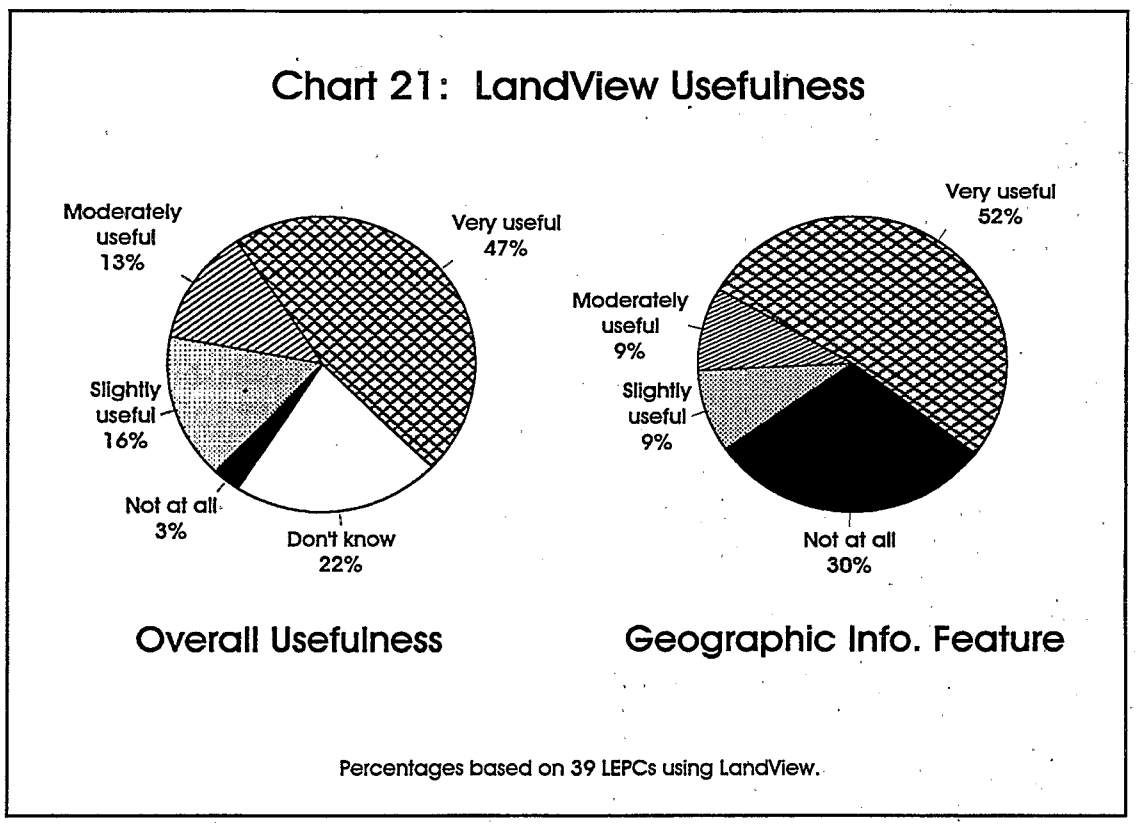
Percentages based on 101 LEPCs using Tier II.

## Chart 20: Suggested Improvements to Tier II




Percentages based on 101 LEPCs using Tier II.

# LEPC Evaluations of LandView




*"Overall, would you say that LandView is very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful?"*

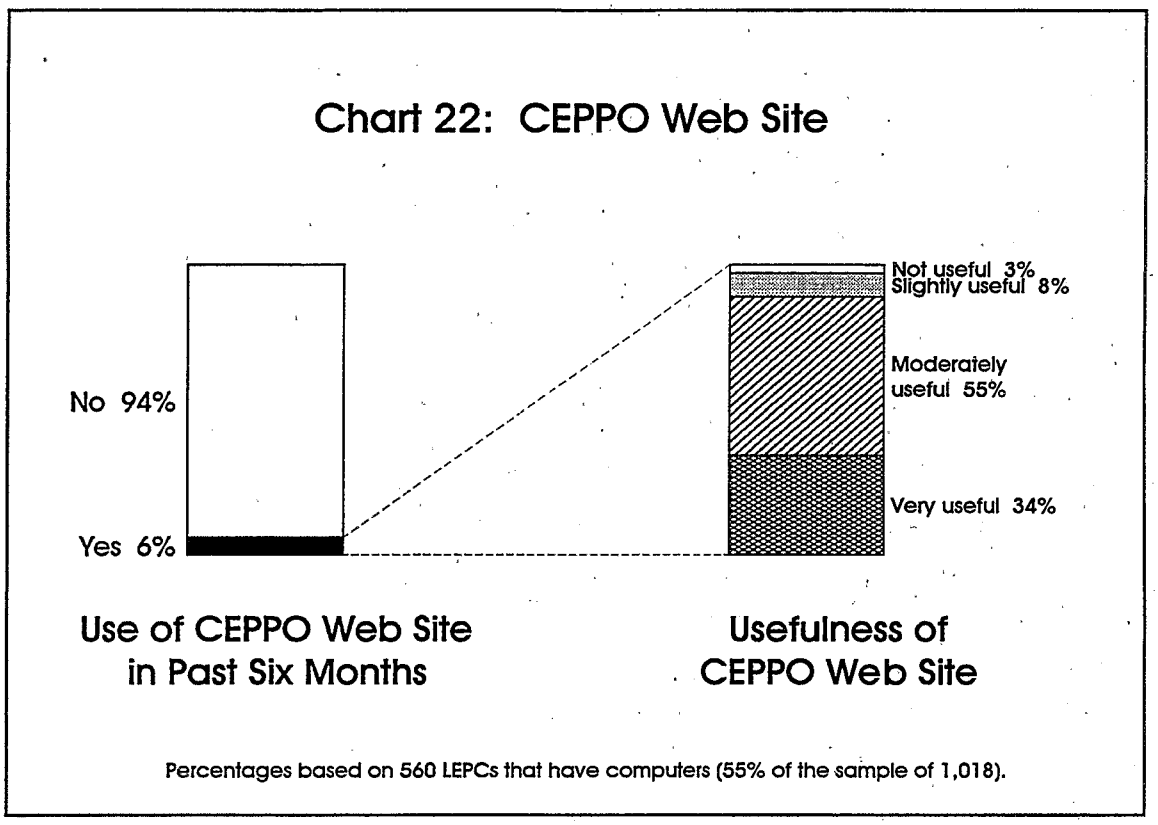
- Relatively few LEPCs use LandView, just 8% of those using computers for data management. However, those who do use it give LandView respectable ratings. As shown in Chart 21, a majority (60%) assess it as at least moderately useful.

*"LandView allows you to add your own geographic information to the program. Have you found that feature to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it?"*

- This particular feature prompts similar scores to the program as a whole. About half (52%) say it is "very useful" and the rest are not particularly convinced. Despite the small subsamples of users, these ratings tend to echo the findings from the separate recent survey of the LandView user base, which included mostly non-LEPC users.[4]

[4]William C. Adams, Mary Beth Morgan, and Mercedes M. Viana, *Nationwide Surveys of CAMEO, LandView, and Tier II Users* (Washington, DC: George Washington University, 1997).

# LEPC Evaluations of the CEPPO Web Site




*"Have you looked at the Internet Web site for CEPPO — the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office — in the past six months?" [If "yes,":] Is the information that you found on the CEPPO Web site very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful?*

- Of those who have computers, few LEPC leaders (only 6%) looked at the CEPPO (Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office) Web site during the past six months. However, most of those who did actually examine the site found it to be moderately useful (55%) or very useful (34%). Thus, a total of nine out of ten viewed the site as worthwhile. Only 3% (one person) said it was "not useful." (See Chart 22 above.)

## Commentary

**Impending Transformation.** The 1994 survey found that 35% of the LEPCs had put their EPCRA data into a computerized database. The 1997 survey suggests a modest increase, with 39% now doing so. However, the 1997 "snapshot" depicts LEPCs on the verge of a widespread transformation from paper to computer systems.

Only four out of every ten LEPCs (39%) have already entered the computer era — but another four out of ten (42%) now have plans to join them. Just two in ten LEPCs (18%) contend that they do not need or cannot afford to make the shift to computers.

The forthcoming computerization of LEPCs is planned throughout all regions of the United States — and among virtually all but the least active and nonfunctioning LEPCs. Even if some of these plans are delayed, the best evidence is that LEPCs are likely to undergo a radical shift in their data management practices during the 1997-1999 period.

**Uncertain Outcomes.** The success of these good intentions to computerize EPCRA data is not assured. The early adaptors are likely to have been more computer savvy and predisposed to high-tech solutions. In contrast, these late adaptors may find the attempted shift to computers significantly more difficult. Indeed, one dramatic finding from the GWU surveys of listed users of CAMEO, LandView, and Tier II (February 1997) is that there are so many would-be users who — for a variety of reasons — never actually used the software.

The next few years appear to be a crucial time for a potential revolution in LEPC data management. Many hundreds of LEPCs around the country are going to try to replace their paper filing with a computer system. Whatever timetable EPA envisions for promoting, training, and assisting LEPCs in this endeavor, the survey results are unambiguous: The ideal time is now.

**Satisfactory Software.** Most LEPCs are pleased with the software they are using. CAMEO users are especially happy with its features and overall utility. LEPCs that use CAMEO are overwhelmingly employing the software to support the key LEPC activities of emergency planning, emergency responses, and managing chemical inventory data.

LandView and Tier II are newer programs that are not quite as popular as CAMEO and have far fewer LEPC users. Yet, most of those who use those programs consider them worthwhile. (With a few minor exceptions, LEPC users tended to mirror the opinions of other users of these three programs as found in the other recent GWU user surveys.) The best evidence is that, for most LEPCs, the software itself is not a major impediment to their computerizing EPCRA data.

**Web-based Communications.** CEPPO's Web site has attracted little LEPC interest. While it garners good reviews from those who have seen it, very few (only 6% of those with computers) have made the effort to see it in the past six months. Absent a major promotion, this is not yet an effective channel for CEPPO communication with LEPCs.

# Appendix: LEPC Questionnaire

# Primary LEPC Data Management Survey

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Date: | Interviewer: | City: |
| Area Code: | Telephone: | State: |

Hello. I'm calling from George Washington University. My name is _____. You may have received our letter about the short survey that we're conducting for the US EPA. We have just a few questions about your LEPC data management activities. It only takes between five and ten minutes. Can you hear me OK?

(1) Are you generally familiar with the data management practices of your L-E-P-C? . . . . . .

Yes . . . . . .1
*[Go to Q-3]*

No, not familiar . . . . . 2
*[Go to Q-2]*

No data collected . . . . . 7
*[Confirm if L-E-P-C is active, if answer "yes", ask for person who is familiar with data management practices. If inactive and no data collected, thank and terminate.]*

(2) *[If not]* Who is responsible for managing EPCRA data in your L-E-P-C? . . . . . .

*[EPCRA = the chemical facility inventory data submitted to the L-E-P-C]*

*[Ask for name and number of the person who oversees L-E-P-C data management and contact; then thank and terminate.]*

Name: _____

Phone: _____

(3) Are you the chairperson for the L-E-P-C in your area?

| Yes-1 | No-2 | DK-8 |
|---|---|---|
| *[If "yes," go to Q-5]* | *[If "no" go to Q-4]* | *[If "dk" go to Q-4]* |

(4) *[If "no"]* What best describes your function on the L-E-P-C?

Firefighter . . . . . 1
Computer Technician . . 2
Emergency Planner . . . 3
First Responder . . . . . 4
Information Coordinator 5
Elected Local Official . . 6
L-E-P-C Staff . . . . . 7
Other:
_____ 8

(5) Is there a computer that's regularly used to support L-E-P-C activities? . . . . . .

Yes . . . . . .1
*[GO TO Q-6]*

No . . . . . 2
*[GO TO Q-31]*

Don't know . . . . . 3
*[GO TO Q-31]*

(6) To support your L-E-P-C data management, are you using a software program called CAMEO? . . . . . .

| Yes-1 | No-2 | DK-8 |
|---|---|---|
| *[Go to Q- 9]* | *[Go to Q-7]* | *[Go to Q-7]* |

(7) *[If "no":]* Have you heard of CAMEO? . . . . . .

| Yes-1 | No-2 | DK-8 |
|---|---|---|
| *[Go to Q-8]* | *[Go to Q-20]* | *[Goto Q-20]* |

(8) Is there any particular reason why you are not using CAMEO? . . . . . .
*[One probe:]* Anything else?

Like current software . . 1
Too complicated / training needed . . . . 2
Not suited to needs . . . 3
Expensive . . . . . 4
Not gotten around to it 5
Other
_____ 6
Don't know . . . . . 8

*[ALL Q-8 ANSWERS GO TO Q-20]*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (9) | Are you using CAMEO to manage the facility chemical inventory data collected under EPCRA? . . . . . | Yes-1 No-2 DK-8 |
| (10) | Are you using CAMEO for emergency planning such as for screening and for contingency plans? | Yes-1 No-2 DK-8 |
| (11) | Are you using CAMEO for emergency responses? . . . . . | Yes-1 No-2 DK-8 |
| (12) | We're interested in what you think about a few of CAMEO's features. For example, CAMEO's facilities database feature — have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? . . . . . | Very useful . . . . . 1<br>Moderately useful . . . . 2<br>Slightly useful . . . . . 3<br>Not at all useful . . . . . 4<br>>NOT tried it . . . . . 5<br>Don't know . . . . . 8 |
| (13) | How about the chemical information already supplied in CAMEO in Code Breaker and the Response Information Data Sheets (RIDS) — have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? . . . . . | Very useful . . . . . 1<br>Moderately useful . . . . 2<br>Slightly useful . . . . . 3<br>Not at all useful . . . . . 4<br>>NOT tried it . . . . . 5<br>Don't know . . . . . 8 |
| (14) | How about the hazards analysis and screenings feature? *[Repeat as needed]* Have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? . . . . . | Very useful . . . . . 1<br>Moderately useful . . . . 2<br>Slightly useful . . . . . 3<br>Not at all useful . . . . . 4<br>>NOT tried it . . . . . 5<br>Don't know . . . . . 8 |
| (15) | How about CAMEO's MARPLOT mapping feature? *[Repeat as needed]* Have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? . . . . . | Very useful . . . . . 1<br>Moderately useful . . . . 2<br>Slightly useful . . . . . 3<br>Not at all useful . . . . . 4<br>>NOT tried it . . . . . 5<br>Don't know . . . . . 8 |
| (16) | How about CAMEO's air dispersion model called ALOHA? *[Repeat as needed]* Have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? . . . . . | Very useful . . . . . 1<br>Moderately useful . . . . 2<br>Slightly useful . . . . . 3<br>Not at all useful . . . . . 4<br>>NOT tried it . . . . . 5<br>Don't know . . . . . 8 |
| (17) | CAMEO has a feature that allows the user to import and export data. Have you found this feature to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? . . . . . | Very useful . . . . . 1<br>Moderately useful . . . . 2<br>Slightly useful . . . . . 3<br>Not at all useful . . . . . 4<br>>NOT tried it . . . . . 5<br>Don't know . . . . . 8 |
| (18) | What improvement would you most like to see in CAMEO? . . . . . | *[Recommendation:]*<br>Don't Know . . . . . 8<br>Nothing/It's O.K. . . . . 9 |
| (19) | Overall, would you say that CAMEO is very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful? . . | Very useful . . . . . 1<br>Moderately useful . . . . 2<br>Slightly useful . . . . . 3<br>Not at all useful . . . . . 4<br>Don't know . . . . . 8 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (20) | Are you using a software program called Tier 2? ..... | Yes-1 No-2 DK-8<br>*[Go to Q-21][Go to Q-26][Go to Q-26]* |
| (21) | We're interested in what you think about three features of Tier 2. For example, Tier 2's facility and chemical inventory feature — have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? ..... | Very useful ..... 1<br>Moderately useful .... 2<br>Slightly useful ..... 3<br>Not at all useful ..... 4<br>>NOT tried it ..... 5<br>Don't know ..... 8 |
| (22) | How about the electronic submission (import/export) feature — have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? ..... | Very useful ..... 1<br>Moderately useful .... 2<br>Slightly useful ..... 3<br>Not at all useful ..... 4<br>>NOT tried it ..... 5<br>Don't know ..... 8 |
| (23) | How about the report generation feature?<br>*[Repeat as needed]* Have you found that to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? ..... | Very useful ..... 1<br>Moderately useful .... 2<br>Slightly useful ..... 3<br>Not at all useful ..... 4<br>>NOT tried it ..... 5<br>Don't know ..... 8 |
| (24) | What improvement would you most like to see in Tier 2? . | *[Recommendation:]*<br>Don't know .....8<br>Nothing/It's O.K. ..... 9 |
| (25) | Overall, would you say that Tier 2 is very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful? .. | Very useful ..... 1<br>Moderately useful .... 2<br>Slightly useful ..... 3<br>Not at all useful ..... 4<br>Don't know ..... 8 |
| (26) | Are you using a software program called Landview? .... | Yes-1 No-2 DK-8<br>*[Go to Q-27][Go to Q-29][Go to Q-29]* |
| (27) | LandView allows you to add your own geographic information to the program. Have you found that feature to be very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, not at all useful — or haven't you had a chance to try it? | Very useful ..... 1<br>Moderately useful .... 2<br>Slightly useful ..... 3<br>Not at all useful ..... 4<br>>NOT tried it ..... 5<br>Don't know ..... 8 |
| (28) | Overall, would you say that LandView is very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful? .. | Very useful ..... 1<br>Moderately useful .... 2<br>Slightly useful ..... 3<br>Not at all useful ..... 4<br>Don't know ..... 8 |

(29) Now we'd like to ask you a few questions about how your L-E-P-C receives and uses chemical inventory information. How does your L-E-P-C receive facility chemical inventory information — on paper, in computerized form, both ways, or not at all? . . . . . .

- On paper . . . . . 1
- Computerized . . . . . 2
- Both ways . . . . . 3
- Not at all 4 *[If "not at all," GO TO Q-34.]*

(30) When your L-E-P-C receives that information, are the data mainly managed with a paper filing system or a computer system? . . . . . .

- Paper . . . . . 1 *[If "paper," GO TO Q-31]*
- Computer . . . . . 2 *[If "computer," GO TO Q-32]*
- Both . . . . . 3 *[If "both," GO TO Q-32]*

*[If "PAPER" in Q 30]*

(31) Does your L-E-P-C have plans to put the chemical inventory data from chemical facilities on a computer? [If not: "Why is that] . . . .

- Yes . . . . . 1
- No, cannot afford it . . . 2
- No, don't need computer 3
- No, other reasons: _____ 4
- Do not collect data . . . . 6
- Don't know . . . . . 8

(32) Can you tell me whether or not you use the data that your L-E-P-C collects for the following activities:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| For hazard analysis . . . . . | Yes-1 | No-2 | DK-8 |
| To respond to public inquiries . . . . . | Yes-1 | No-2 | DK-8 |
| To disseminate information to the community . . . . | Yes-1 | No-2 | DK-8 |
| To support planning for emergency response activities . . . . . | Yes-1 | No-2 | DK-8 |
| For zoning and land use decisions . . . . . | Yes-1 | No-2 | DK-8 |

(33) Overall, is the data your LEPC collects very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful? . . .

- Very useful . . . . . 1
- Moderately useful . . . . . 2
- Slightly useful . . . . . 3
- Not at all useful. . . . . 4
- Don't know . . . . . 8

(34) Have you looked at the Internet web site for CEPPO — the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office — in the past 6 months? . . . . . .

- Yes . . . . . 1 *[GO TO Q-35]*
- No . . . . . 2 *[GO TO Q-36]*
- Don't know . . . . . 8 *[GO TO Q-36]*

(35) *[If "yes"]* Is the information that you found on the CEPPO Web site very useful, moderately useful, slightly useful, or not at all useful? . . . . . *[ALL ANSWERS GO TO Q-36]*

- Very useful . . . . . 1
- Moderately useful . . . . . 2
- Slightly useful. . . . . 3
- Not at all useful. . . . . 4
- Don't know . . . . . 8

(36) And finally, how many times did your L-E-P-C hold formal meetings during the past twelve months? . . . . . *[If "don't know," ask for best guess]*

- Number of times: _____
- Never hold meetings . 71
- Don't know . . . . . 88

That concludes our interview. Thank you very much for your help!