

Outreach and Stakeholder/Partner Engagement in the Human Health Risk Assessment Program

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Overview of HHRA Stakeholder/Partner Engagement and Outreach

Stakeholder and partner engagement is critical to EPA's Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) National Research Program. The *HHRA Strategic Research Action Plan, 2016-2019* emphasizes stakeholder and partner engagement as an overarching principle that is integral to the development of our research products. HHRA uses a variety of approaches to engage stakeholders and partners, depending on the type of product, timelines, available resources, and stakeholder interest. This poster highlights the goals and approaches we use, how stakeholder and partner engagement is relevant to the HHRA research program, the broader impact of these efforts, and future directions.

HHRA Stakeholders and Program Partners

HHRA external stakeholders and internal EPA program partners are defined as any individual or group that participates in, has an impact on, or could be affected by products or services provided by the HHRA research program. The HHRA Program engages with stakeholders from the following sectors/groups:

- Academia
- Consultants/Legal Firms and Groups
- State, Local, and Tribal Governments
- International Governments
- Private Sector/Industry and Trade Associations
- Federal Government
- EPA Program and Regional Offices
- Non-Governmental Organizations

HHRA Engagement Goals

- Better understand stakeholder needs
- Ensure products are responsive to stakeholder needs and in a useful form
- Generate feedback on our products throughout the development process to enable refinement or course corrections as needed
- Include non-HHRA scientific experts to strengthen quality of our products
- Improve public perception and garner support for HHRA research products



HHRA Stakeholder/Partner Engagement Approaches & Metrics

The HHRA engagement strategy involves using a variety of approaches to communicate with stakeholders and partners. This strategy utilizes approaches that encourage early and consistent feedback throughout the planning and development of HHRA research products. These approaches include:

- Regularly holding HHRA meetings and coordination with EPA Programs and Regions;
 - Monthly EPA-wide Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program discussions
 - Continuous coordination with the Office of Air and Radiation on criteria air pollutants
 - Meetings with OSWER related to Provisional Peer Reviewed Toxicity Values assessments
 - Meetings and workshops to engage internal and external stakeholders on addressing critical scientific issues in HHRA research products;
- Technology transfer and contribution to advancing the science through professional societies (e.g., American Public Health Association; Society for Risk Analysis; Society of Toxicology);
- Utilizing listservs to disseminate relevant program information to interested stakeholders;
- Writing and distributing blogs on EPA's website highlighting high profile program activities;
- Using social media messages (via twitter) to raise awareness of program activities; and
- Conducting outreach and responding to local and national media to highlight accomplishments of the IRIS Program.

Steady Increase in HHRA Listservs Between 2013 - 2015

HHRA Bulletin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides monthly updates about all HHRA program activities Membership grew from 0 in 2012 to 7,211 in September 2015.
Benchmark Dose Software (BMDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides quarterly updates on new BMDS versions and training opportunities Membership is 5087 as of September 2015.
IRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides updates as needed on IRIS Program activities Membership grew from 700 in 2012 to 2,008 in September 2015.
EPA-Expo-Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly messages on updates, new features, and helpful tips Membership grew from 0 in 2013 to 806 in September 2015

Active blog/web presence, with continued effort to inform public on IRIS Program Activities



It All Starts with Science Blog:
Strengthening IRIS: Cultivating Broad Scientific Input



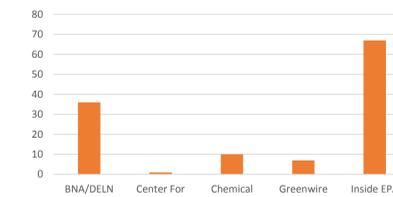
It All Starts with Science Blog:
Improving IRIS: Please Join the Conversation



EPA Leadership Blog: *National Academies' Report Shows that EPA has Strengthened IRIS Program*

Approaches and Metrics (Continued)

HHRA Research Featured in the Media and Trade Press in FY15



HHRA research products and activities, (e.g., IRIS Program and Integrated Science Assessment activities) are highlighted in >120 press articles, including Bloomberg News, Inside EPA, E&E News, and Chemical Water

Increased Stakeholder Diversity at IRIS Public Science Meetings

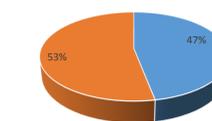
IRIS Public Science Meetings 2013-2015: Participation by Sector



IRIS Public Science Meeting engaged 800+ scientists and members of the public during 7 meetings between December 2013 and June 2015

Increased Participation from Remote Stakeholders at Public Meetings

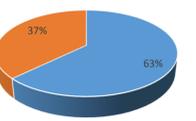
Fiscal Year 2014



■ Webinar ■ In Person

Increased number of stakeholders participated in public meetings via webinar; Engaged >500 stakeholders remotely at IRIS Public Science Meetings since December 2013

Fiscal Year 2015



■ Webinar ■ In-Person

Future Directions

- Maintain regular meetings with internal HHRA partners
- Continue targeted and strategic proactive outreach to stakeholder groups with a goal of further improving stakeholder diversity in IRIS public meetings (e.g., inclusion of NRC experts)
- Track progress through collecting and analyzing metrics
- Develop a long term strategy for measuring scientific impacts of outreach and stakeholder engagement (e.g., through improved scientific quality of products)
- Convene webinars to highlight key HHRA products to stakeholders

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