

EPA's COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECT: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND TRIBES

The Issue

Communities have expressed the need for access to interpretable environmental health data to inform risk management, local planning, and wellness promotion strategies. EPA's Program Offices have echoed these needs with respect to cumulative risks from chemical and non-chemical stressors, emphasizing vulnerable and overburdened populations.

Vision

EPA's Community Public Health (CPH) project in the Office of Research and Development (ORD) produces high quality science and tools to understand and assess environmental risks and ecosystem goods and services (EGS) to decision-makers at all levels concerned with sustaining and promoting human health and well-being, environmental quality, and economic vitality in America's communities.

Goal

The goal is enhancing public health by providing methods, data, models, guidance, and web-based assessment tools to:

1. identify and prioritize local environmental concerns
2. inform alternative environmental decisions,

- related to priority concerns, to reduce risks and promote public health and well-being
3. evaluate impacts of sustainable solutions on public health, incorporating valuation approaches.

Research Activities

CPH activities include:

- understanding health disparities, e.g. respiratory and cardiovascular disease, across communities and life stages
- mining large national databases to develop indicators and understand key factors and health outcomes of concern
- quantifying exposure and risk to priority issues such as lead and radon, at the local scale
- integrating chemical and non-chemical stressors for cumulative risk assessment
- developing decision support tools including [Community-FERST](#) and [Tribal-FERST](#)
- conducting Health Impact Assessment (HIA) case studies related to transportation, buildings, and other sectors.

Stakeholders

Project stakeholders are EPA Regions and Program Offices; communities; and local, state, tribal, and federal organizations.

A Collaborative Approach

CPH research and tools, focused on problems formulated by project stakeholders, will be refined through participatory place-based studies considering cumulative risks and health impacts of high-priority pollution sources and exposures, significant non-chemical stressors, and EGS. Lessons learned and best practices will be provided through generalizable web-based tools for broad use.

Impact

This project directly supports the EPA Administrator's priorities to clean up our communities, work for environmental justice and children's health, and build strong tribal partnerships. Stakeholders will be empowered with research and tools to implement sustainable strategies to improve health and the environment. Identification and analysis of community health issues via systems approaches will translate to decreased environmental health disparities, and promotion of well-being.

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