

Promoting Healthy Communities

Panel V: Policy and Public Health Indicators

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Policy and Public Health Indicators: Emergence of a Concept of Accountability

ORD 1999 Initiative Proposal

“To verify the protective benefit of environmental decisions and to maintain public confidence in those decisions and their associated costs, the Agency must be able to show that its **actions result in demonstrable improvements in ecological and human health** and that those actions are cost-effective”

Former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, 2001

It is also important that we hold ourselves **accountable** to the American public and report to them our progress in reaching the goals we have set for ourselvesto describe the condition of critical environmental areas and human health concerns

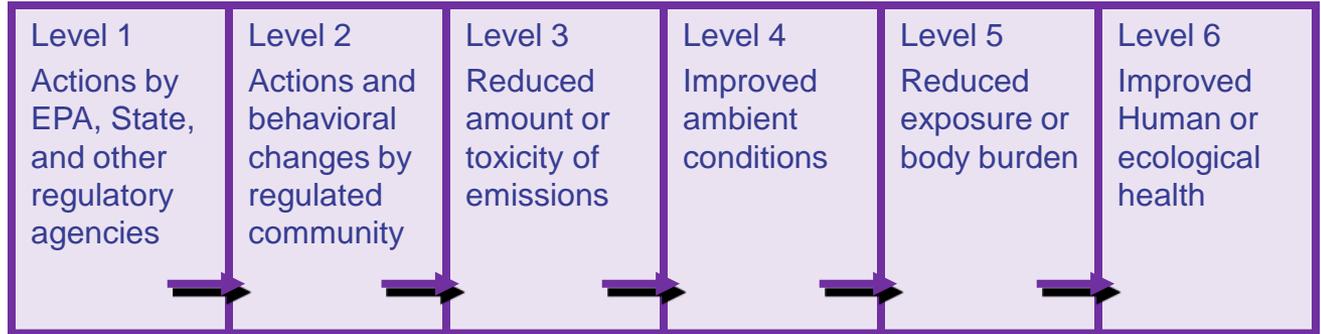
Former CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding, 2002

Development of CDC’s National Environmental Public Health Tracking: “By linking environmental and health data on a national level, we will be better equipped **to identify problems and effective solutions**, thereby reducing the burden of environment-related diseases on the American people.”

Indicators

Data Available

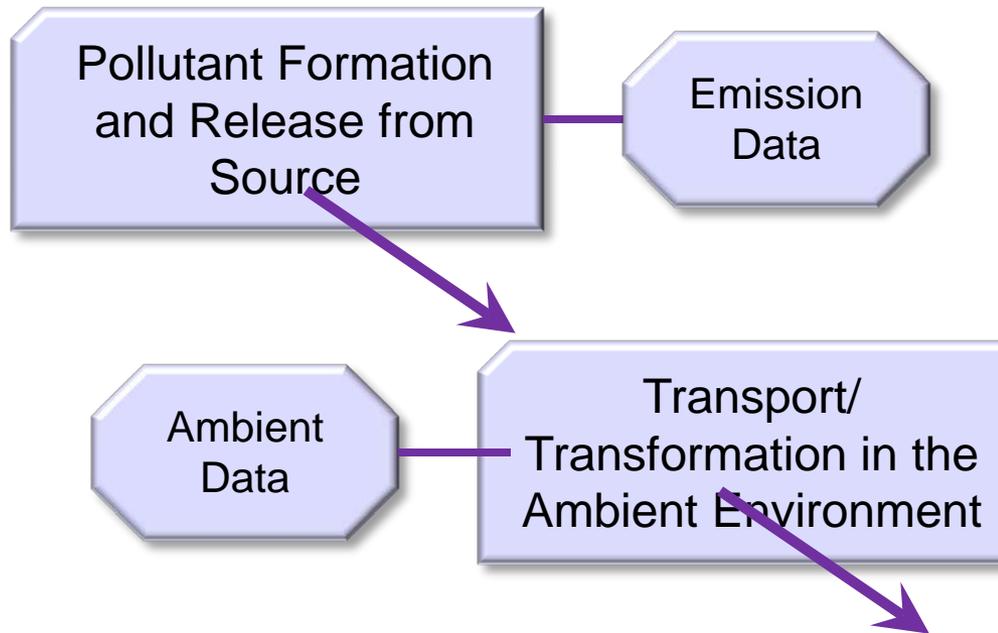
Data Unavailable
at present Time



Output
Measures

Measures of
Human/Eco- Health

Traditional Evaluation of Regulatory Management Decisions/Actions

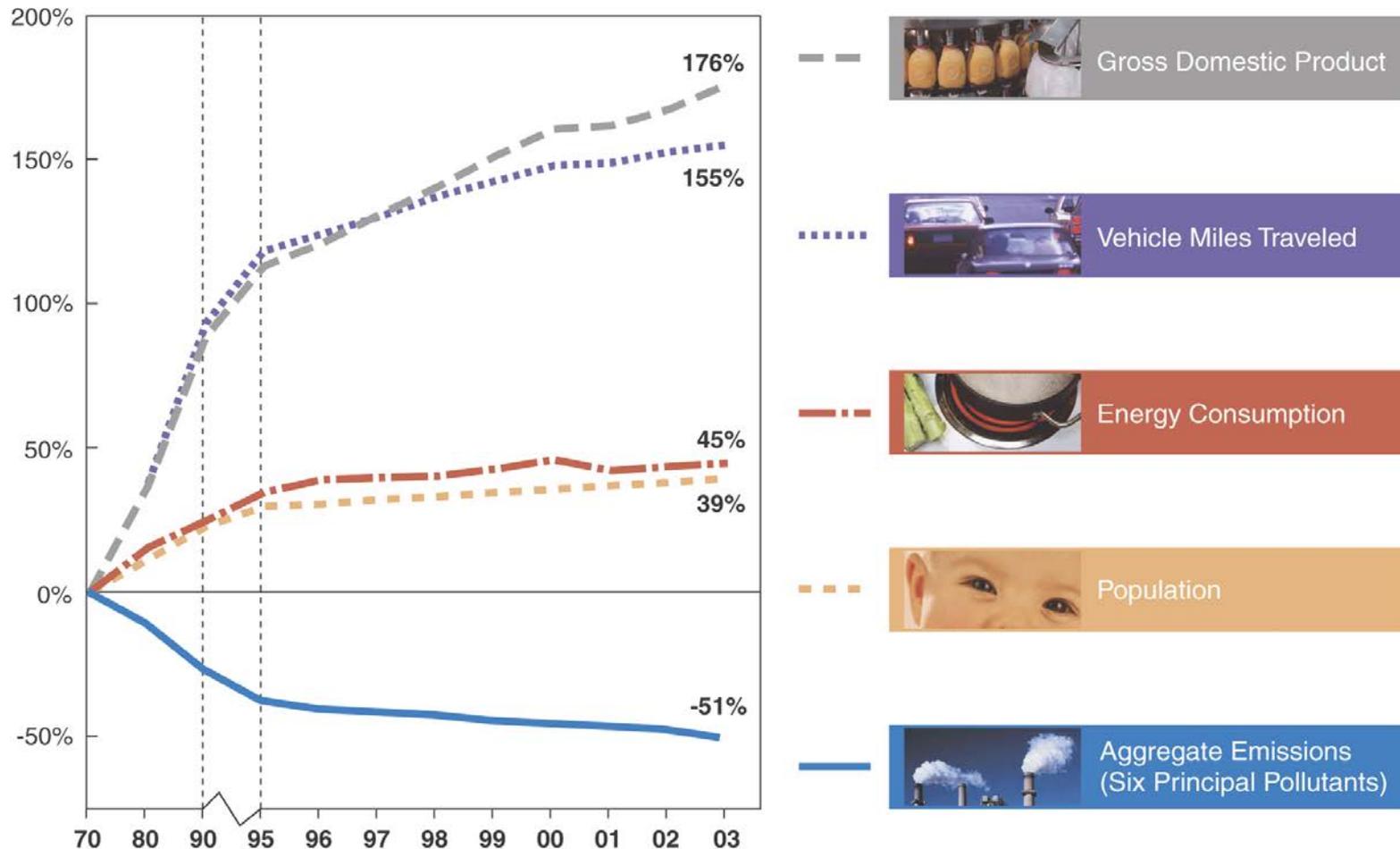


Process indicators such as decreases in emissions, discharges and pollutant levels in environmental media

EPA Progress in Reducing Emissions

What about health?

Comparison of Growth Areas and Emissions



Assessing Risk Management Decisions - Accountability

The Agency's desire to be more accountable to the public in demonstrating true environmental process

Action: to develop and validate environmental public health indicators (EPHIs)

- Intended to reflect more closely the actual impact on public health that result from environmental decision-making
- Help clarify the benefits and costs associated with further incremental environmental improvements



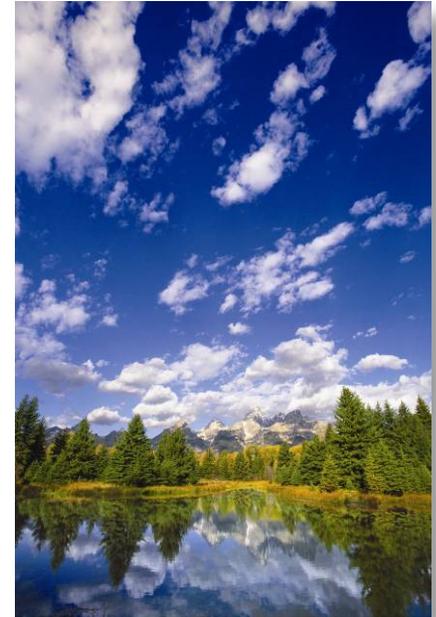
<http://www.epa.gov/hhrp/files/hhrp-framework.pdf>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 Report on the Environment (ROE)

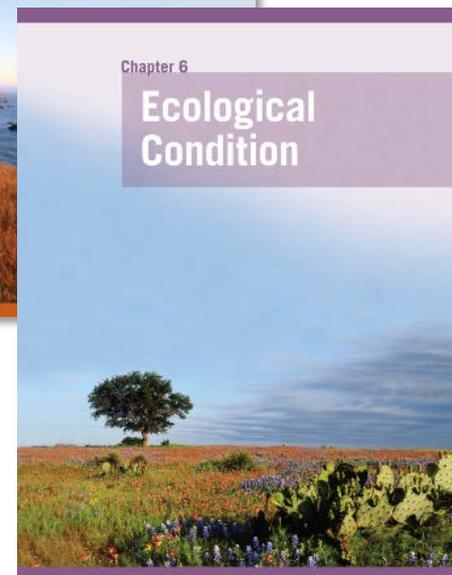
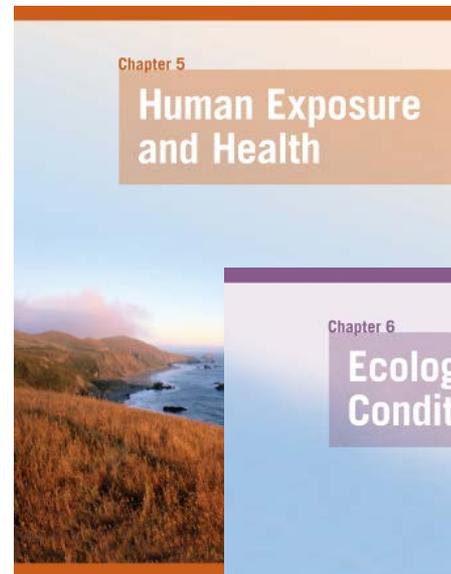
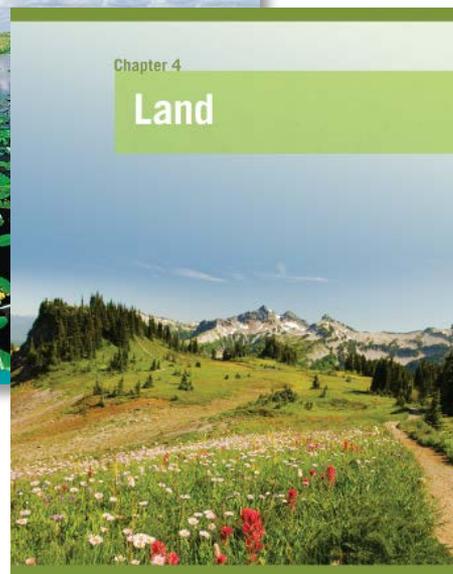
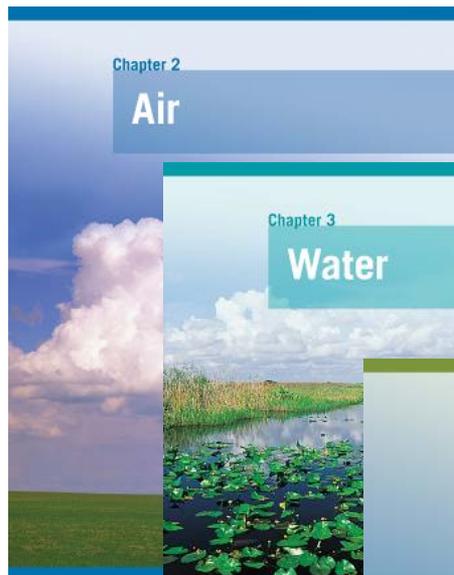


ROE Purpose

- Presents scientifically sound indicators of status and trends and important gaps in environmental and human health conditions to answer questions important to EPA's mission
- Provides objective, reliable information on status and trends and important scientific input to EPA planning, decision making and priority setting



ROE Structure



For More Information...

<http://www.epa.gov/roe/>



Electronic Report on the Environment (eROE)

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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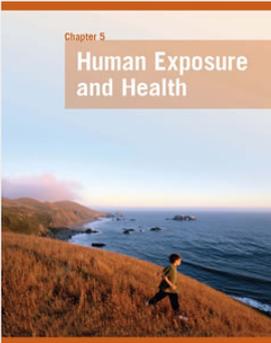
The Electronic Report on the Environment (eROE) is a Web site for the Report on the Environment (ROE) project. The ROE presents the best available indicators of national conditions and trends in air, water, land, human health, and ecological systems to address 23 questions that EPA considers critical to its mission.

The eROE is composed of two reports – the [2008 Report on the Environment](#), a technical document intended for environmental professionals, and the [2008 Report on the Environment: Highlights of National Trends](#) (referred to as the ROE Highlights Document or ROEHD), which summarizes the key findings of the ROE for the interested public. The eROE provides access to the information in both reports, including the underlying methodology, references, and sources of additional information, in one location and in a searchable format.

The navigational graphic below integrates the technical and highlights documents. It provides several options for accessing content. Clicking on a tab at the top for one of the five ROE chapters reveals the ROE questions addressed in that chapter, along with corresponding information from both documents. Also available below are dynamic Web sites and PDF versions of both documents).

ROE	Air	Water	Land	Human Health	Ecological Condition
Human Exposure	Health Status	Human Disease and Conditions			

Health Status



Q. What are the trends in health status in the United States?

A. This question uses several general health outcome indicators (life expectancy, infant mortality, and general mortality) to provide a broad picture of health in the U.S. Trends in these indicators provide a general context for understanding trends in specific diseases and conditions that may in part be linked with the environment.

[Highlights of status and trends](#)

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- ROE Dynamic Web Site
- EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment
- ROE "Highlights"