



NCEH/ATSDR: Who We Are and What We Do

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**National Center for Environmental Health
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**



NCEH/ATSDR Mission

- **Protect people's health from environmental hazards that can be present in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the world that sustains us by**
 - Investigating the relationship between environmental factors and health
 - Developing guidance
 - Building partnerships to support healthy decision making



NCEH/ATSDR Priorities

1. Ensure safe drinking water
2. Eliminate lead exposure, especially for children
3. Expand Environmental Public Health Tracking Network
4. Use laboratory measurements to detect, diagnose, and prevent disease caused by environmental exposures
5. Strengthen ATSDR



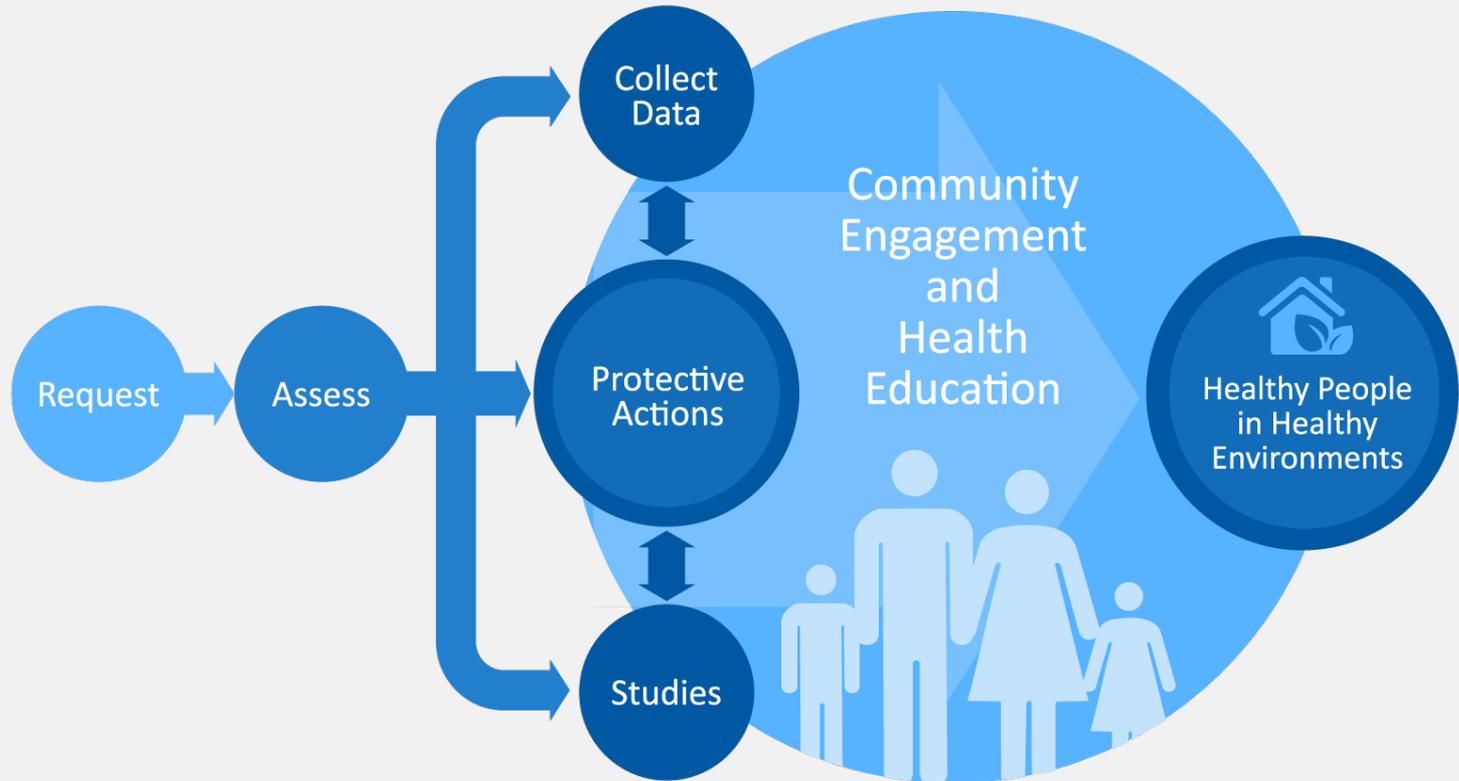
**ATSDR –
Safeguarding communities from
harmful chemicals**

ATSDR Focus

- **Congressionally mandated to**
 - Perform public health assessments at hazardous waste sites
 - Develop toxicological profiles on harmful substances
 - Conduct epidemiological health studies
 - Maintain health registries and conduct medical surveillance
- **Regional offices give national presence**
- **Community engagement key**



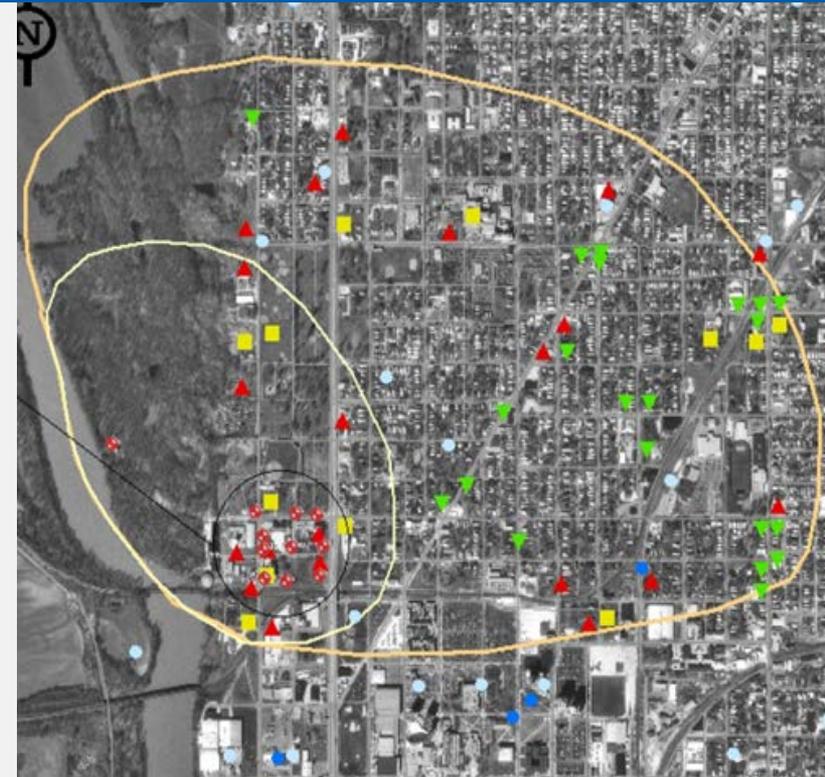
Protecting Communities



Technology and Tools

To better answer community questions

- Mapping and geospatial analysis
- Computational toxicology
- Exposure modeling
- Biomonitoring capacity



Map Source: Health Consultation: Elm Street Groundwater Contamination, ATSDR (2008). 1: Panterra (1999).

**NCEH –
Protecting people's health from
environmental hazards**

NCEH Main Activities

- **Support state, local, and tribal health through training and technical assistance**
- **Communication and education**
- **Standards, guidelines, and recommendations**
- **Public health surveillance**
- **Applied environmental health**
- **Key programs/activities**
 - Asthma Control
 - Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
 - Environmental Health Tracking
 - Food Safety
 - Water
 - Climate and Health
 - Laboratory Sciences/Biomonitoring

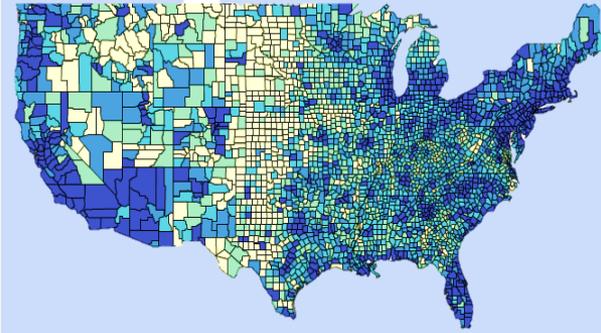
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- **Funding programs and staff in state/local health departments**
- **Surveillance**
- **National expertise, guidance, and recommendations**
- **Collaboration with federal agencies**
- **Overall goal: reduce lead from all sources in a child's environment**
 - Lead-based paint—biggest source and contributor
 - Lead in water—can learn from issues in Flint
 - Lead in soil—can learn from issues in East Chicago



Tracking Network Data

- Asthma
- Biomonitoring
- Birth Defects
- Cancer
- CO Poisoning
- Childhood Lead
- Climate Change
- Community Design
- Dev. Disabilities
- Heart Disease
- Homes
- Lifestyle Risk Factors
(smoking, overweight/obesity)
- Outdoor Air
- Pesticide Exposures
- Population Characteristics
- Reproductive and
Birth Outcomes
- Toxic Substance Releases
- Water



73% (281) of measures on National Portal cover more states than only Tracking states and city

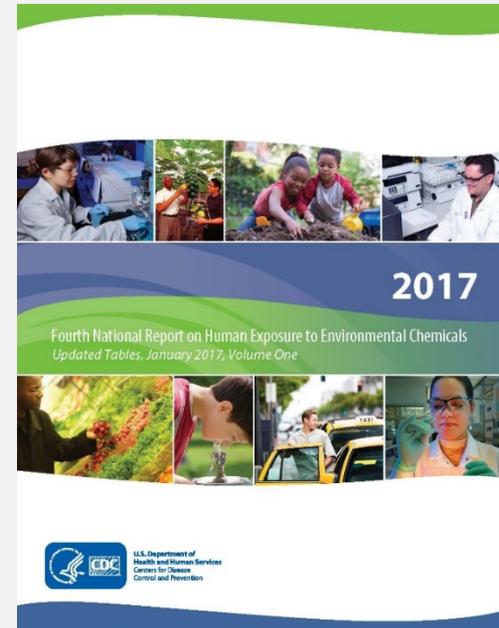
Safe Water Focus Areas

- **Private drinking water systems**
 - Safe Water for Community Health (Safe WATCH)
- ***Legionella***
- **Emergency response**
- **Emerging issues**
- **Recreational water**
 - Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)
- **Hazardous waste sites**



Laboratory Sciences

- **Assure quality of diagnostic tests in laboratories**
- **Respond to chemical and radiologic threats and select toxins**
- **Help reduce exposure to substances in tobacco products**
- **Use biomonitoring to detect, treat, and prevent harmful exposures and nutritional diseases**
 - National biomonitoring program
 - Network of state biomonitoring programs



Questions?



For more information, contact NCEH/ATSDR
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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

