

# National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)

**Mission:** CDC's National Center for Environmental Health plans, directs, and coordinates a program to protect the American people from environmental hazards.



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## **Center Organizational Chart**

<https://www.cdc.gov/about/pdf/organization/nceh-org-chart.pdf>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/about/pdf/organization/atsdr-org-chart.pdf>

## **Points of Contact**

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## **Priority Areas and Activities**

Examples of NCEH Priority Areas

- Air Quality and Asthma, <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/air-quality-awareness/index.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/asthmaawareness/index.html>
- National Biomonitoring Program and Newborn Screening, <https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/index.html>; [https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/dls/newborn\\_screening\\_laboratory.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/dls/newborn_screening_laboratory.html)
- Climate and Health, <https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/>
- Radiation Emergencies, <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/emergencies/index.htm>
- Safe Water, <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/water/index.html>
- Lead poisoning prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm>
- Natural Disasters and Severe Weather, <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/index.html>
- Public Health Tracking, <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/>
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/copoisoning/index.html#:~:text=CO%20is%20found%20in%20fumes,enclosed%20or%20partially%20enclosed%20spaces.>
- Food Safety, <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/food/index.html>
- Loud Noise Can Cause Hearing Loss, <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/food/index.html>

## Examples of ATSDR Priority Areas

- Hazardous substances
- Health surveillance and registries
- Public Assessments & Health Consultations (PHAs/HCs), <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/PHA/PHALanding.aspx>
- Emergency Response, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/emergencyresponse/index.html>
- Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/index.html>
- Brownfield/Land Reuse Initiative, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/index.html>
- soilSHOP, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/soilshop/index.html>
- Toxicological Profiles, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiledocs/index.html>
- Per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS), <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>
- PEHSU Network: Protecting Children and Families from Environmental Hazards (cdc.gov), <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/2021-annual-report/listening-responding-taking-action/PEHSU.html>
- Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP), [https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/about\\_grasp.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/about_grasp.html)

## Center Level Technical Assistance Services and Programs

CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>: An index that helps identify and maps socially vulnerable communities. CDC/ATSDR uses SVI to prepare for and respond to emergency events, including collecting data that will aid in strategically directing resources to communities in need.

National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (NEPHTN), <https://ephracking.cdc.gov/>: A dynamic, web-based data system where CDC/ATSDR, its partners, and community members can monitor broad public health concerns that affect at-risk communities and vulnerable populations across the nation. The multi-tiered system of data, tools, and services offers the ability to identify demographic factors, environmental burdens, socioeconomic conditions, and public health concerns directly related to environmental justice and health equity.

Public Assessments & Health Consultations (PHAs\_HCs), <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/PHA/PHALanding.aspx>

A PHA is site or community assessment that examines hazardous substances, health outcomes, and community concerns at a hazardous waste site to determine whether people could be harmed by coming into contact with those substances. The PHA also lists actions that need to be taken to protect public health. HCs are a review of available information or collection of new data to respond to a specific health question about a potential environmental hazard. HCs are more limited in scope than a PHA, which reviews the exposure potential of each pathway and chemical.

Exposure Assessments (EAs): The process of finding out how people come into contact with a hazardous substance, how often and for how long they are in contact with the substance, and how much of the substance they are in contact with.

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER): <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/casper/default.htm>

A type of Rapid Needs Assessment that provides household-level information to public health leaders and emergency managers. The information generated can be used to initiate public health action; identify information gaps; facilitate disaster planning, response, and recovery activities; allocate resources; and assess new or changing needs in the community.

Environmental Justice Index (EJI) <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/eji/index.html>

The EJI uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to rank the cumulative impacts of environmental injustice on health for every census tract. Census tracts are subdivisions of counties for which the Census collects statistical data. The EJI ranks each tract on 36 environmental, social, and health factors and groups them into three overarching modules and ten different domains.

## Budget Updates

### **Total Number of Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Tribes, TECs, or THOs for FY 22.**

One cooperative agreement that includes two tribal health organizations (Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and Sacramento Native American Health Center).

### **Total Number of Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Tribes, TECs, and THOs for FY 23.**

One cooperative agreement that includes two tribal health organizations (Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and Sacramento Native American Health Center)

### **For each FY 23 Funding Activity with Tribes, TECs, THOs Complete the Following Information. Please be sure to provide updates for each funding activity including CDC RFA Award Number, Award Title, Award Amount, Funding Period, and Brief Description)**

CDC-RFA-EH20-2005, Strengthening Environmental Health Capacity (EHC) cooperative agreement: In FY 20, NCEH funded 50 recipients to strengthen health department environmental health program capacity to detect, prevent, and control environmental health hazards. EHC recipients include the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (approximately \$135,037 per year) and the Sacramento Native American Health Center (approximately \$40,000 per year). This is year 4 of the 5-year (FY 20-FY 25) cooperative agreement.

## Health Equity Updates

**Does your CIO's Health Equity initiative include activities or metrics that specifically address AI/AN, Tribes, TECs, or THOs? (Yes/No) If yes, provide metric and/or describe activities (please be sure to include supporting links). Required to answer.**

No.

**Is your CIO currently collecting, receiving, or producing health equity data that includes AI/AN information? (Yes/No). If yes, describe the data being collected, received, or produced (please be sure to include supporting links). Required to answer.**

Communities that are or have been economically and socially marginalized bear the disproportionate effects of environmental hazards. That is why it remains a top priority for ATSDR to continue to engage these communities and build partnerships to address their concerns and to understand how exposures affect health. ATSDR's health assessors and regional offices evaluate community exposures and provide actionable information to communities disproportionately at-risk to environmental health impacts.

ATSDR collaborated with the Navajo Nation and federal agencies in 2020 to continue to address the effect of uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation. The Ten-Year Plan, released in January 2021, builds on two previous Five-Year Plans (2008-2013, 2014-2019) to address legacy contamination of uranium mining and milling operations on the Navajo Nation. During the years spanning the new ten-year plan, ATSDR will work with the Indian Health Service to provide training to clinicians and other healthcare providers about the health effects of non-occupational exposure to uranium; and work with the Navajo Nation Department of Health to develop outreach and health education materials and to provide training to community health representatives. ATSDR will also continue to participate in the Community Outreach Network, a key partnership initiative for the Ten-Year Plan

## **Tribal Data Updates**

**Please Provide a Brief Description of any Efforts to help Tribes/TECs/THOs Build or Improve Data Infrastructure. (Please be sure to include supporting links and references).**

N/A

**Please Provide a Brief Description of any Efforts to help Tribes/TECs/THOs to Collect, Acquire, or Improve data. (Please be sure to include supporting links and references).**

N/A

**Please Provide a Brief Description of any Efforts to help Tribes/TECs/THOs Enhance their Ability to Manage, Analyze, Interpret, or Disseminate data. (Include training or technical assistance tools and resource links.)**

ATSDR collaborates with its tribal partners to identify and evaluate environmental health concerns and empower tribes to make informed decisions that benefit their people and their communities. For example, members of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, fearing health effects from dioxin exposure, stopped harvesting clam and crab for food in the Ankau Saltchuk and closed their native culture camp for 14 years. Alaska's Environmental Public Health Program partnered with ATSDR to assess cancer and non-cancer risks from eating dioxin-contaminated seafood, conduct risk communication and health education in the community, and conduct a survey to evaluate the initiative's effectiveness. The initiative proved successful when a year later, the majority of the community resumed harvesting seafood. In FY 2024, ATSDR will continue to partner with the Community Outreach Network (Network) that was formed in 2015 by federal and Navajo Nation agencies to communicate with Navajo communities about the legacy of uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation. In FY 2023, ATSDR delivered a Uranium 101 presentation in the Kayenta Chapter (Kayenta, AZ). In partnership with the Network, ATSDR will continue to develop materials and training on the health effects of exposure to uranium.

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The Network ensures broad information sharing and partnership building with Navajo communities to increase general understanding of uranium exposure and potential health issues related to exposure, on how communities can be engaged, and about assessment and cleanup projects at abandoned uranium mines and former uranium mills. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ceplaybook/community-health-education.html>

ATSDR's National Land Reuse Health Program (Land Reuse Program) provides annual Environmental Health and Land Reuse (EHLR) training for tribal environmental professionals attending the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum. The EHLR trainings include the EHLR Basic and Immersion Trainings. The EHLR Basic training includes five, 2-hour modules: 1) Engaging with your community; 2) Evaluating environmental and health risks; 3) Communicating environmental and health risks; 4) Redesigning with health in mind; and 5) Measuring Success: Evaluating environmental and health change. The EHLR Immersion Training offers more intensive training in the first three Basic modules. Since 2019, the Land Reuse Program has trained over 200 tribal environmental professionals. In addition, from 2019 - 2022, the Land Reuse Program worked intensively with Diné (Navajo) College summer intern students, providing EHLR training and field exercises to supplement the training. More information on the EHLR training is available at this link: [https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/classroom\\_training.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/classroom_training.html)  
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites>

A commentary about training the Diné College students is available at this link: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35350769/>

Climate-Ready Tribes Initiative: CDC's Climate and Health Program partners with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) on the Climate-Ready Tribes Initiative (CRTI) to build capacity with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to identify, assess, and take action to mitigate climate-related health threats. The Climate Ready Tribes Initiative, first launched in 2016, is still ongoing and provided \$200,000.00 in funding to tribes in 2023. New mini-grants will be announced soon for 2024.

National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) partnered with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) to host a series of Regional Tribal Environmental Health summits. Four summits were held across the nation. To close out the cooperative agreement, NIHB, CDC/ATSDR will host a series of environmental health webinars and podcasts by July 31, 2024.

Navajo Birth Cohort Study/Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes- NCEH/Division of Laboratory Sciences is providing technical assistance to the University of NM.

Planning for A Series of Regional Tribal Environmental Health Summits: In the summer of 2023, the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) partnered with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) to host a series of Regional Tribal Environmental Health summits. Four summits were held across the nation: On July 25-26th, a summit for the Southern Plains Area was held in Oklahoma City, OK. On August 8-9th, a summit for the Phoenix and Tucson Areas was held in Phoenix, AZ. On August 17-18th, a summit for the Billings and Great Plains Areas was held in Billings, MT.

On August 22-23rd, a summit for the Nashville and Bemidji Areas was held in Green Bay, WI. The summits were intended specifically for tribal leaders, organizations and community members interested in environmental health and were designed for tribal communities to exchange knowledge, share best practices, identify solutions to address environmental health and environmental justice/health equity issues affecting tribal communities, and expand regional partnerships in the environmental health field. NIHB was funded a total of \$500,000 for the planning and execution of these summits. To close out the cooperative agreement, NIHB, CDC/ATSDR will host a series of environmental health webinars and podcasts by July 31, 2024.

Navajo Birth Cohort Study/Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (NBCS/ECHO)–NCEH’s Division of Laboratory Sciences (DLS) is providing technical assistance to the University of New Mexico for the extension of the NBCS (through the NIEHS-funded Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes study) that will extend the follow-up to five years of age to assess the effects of environmental exposures in this community on neurodevelopmental delays. To date, DLS has reported 20,217 analytical results for the extension of the NBCS.