

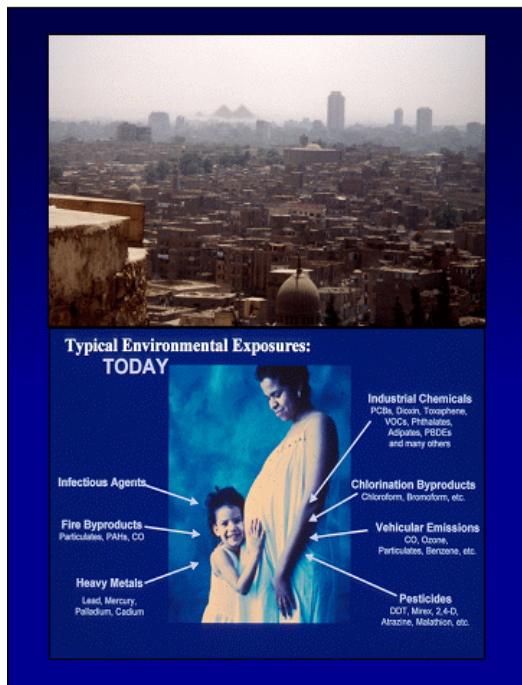


National Center for Environmental Health Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects

The Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects (EHHE) is part of the National Center for Environmental Health, whose mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing or controlling diseases or deaths that result from interactions between people and their environment.

The Division conducts surveillance and investigations that increase knowledge about the relation between human health and the environment and uses this knowledge to develop national public health programs and policies for preventing disease. The Division studies ways to prevent or control health problems associated with exposure to air pollution, radiation, and other toxicants, as well as health problems resulting from natural, technological, or terrorist disasters.

Four branches support the Division's mission:



Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch: conducts epidemiologic research and investigates the effects of airborne environmental agents on respiratory diseases such as asthma, and through its National Asthma Control Program (\$35 million for fiscal year 2002) works to reduce the number of deaths, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, school or work days missed, and limitations on activity due to asthma.

Health Studies Branch: investigates the human health effects associated with exposure to environmental hazards and natural, technologic, or terrorist disasters and develops and evaluates strategies for preventing human exposure to environmental hazards and disasters and for minimizing the effects of such exposures when they do occur.



Radiation Studies Branch: identifies potentially harmful environmental exposures to ionizing radiation and associated toxicants, conducts energy-related health research, and responds to protect the public's health in the event of an emergency involving radiation or radioactive materials.

In 2002, the Division established a new branch:

Environmental Health Tracking Branch: coordinates the development of sustainable environmental public health capacity and infrastructure for the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, develops innovative methods and tools for tracking of environmental hazards and associated health effects, disseminates environmental public health information to diverse audiences, and conducts studies of the links between environmental hazards, exposures, and health effects.

CDC defines **environmental public health tracking** as the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, and interpretation of data about the following factors: environmental hazards (measures of contaminants in the environment); exposure to environmental hazards (measures of contaminants in the human body); and health effects potentially related to exposure to environmental hazards. The overall goal is to protect communities by providing information to federal, state, and local agencies. These agencies, in turn, will use this information to plan, apply, and evaluate public health actions to prevent and control environmentally related diseases. CDC's goal is to develop a national network that will (1) be standards-based, (2) allow direct electronic data reporting and linkage within and across health effect, exposure, and hazard data, and (3) interoperate with other public health systems.

**For more information or additional copies of this document, please contact:
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