

State Environmental Health Directors Association

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- 🌀 **What are we getting now?** There is no national policy-setting voice for EH.
- 🌀 **What results do we really want?** All states to buy into and use the benefits of such an association. This helps elevate EH issues within public health and broader contexts.
- 🌀 **What is the payoff?** A unified EH body, sharing ideas, developing best practices, working together to solve common issues.



Mental Models:

What thinking leads to the choices being made?

- EH Programs vary from state to state.
- “State EH directors” did not have a national “home”.
- Excellent examples (e.g., State Preparedness Directors, State AIDS Directors, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists).
- Some states’ EH programs are buried in other agencies than health.
- Some states may not see a need for such a formed group.

What thinking lets the system persist as it is?

- Inertia.
- Too many organizations to join.



Benefits

- ☞ Access EH best management practices, response resources and brain trust throughout the nation
- ☞ Increase EH marketing nationally
- ☞ Provide cohesive approach to priority EH issues
- ☞ Develop of EH standards



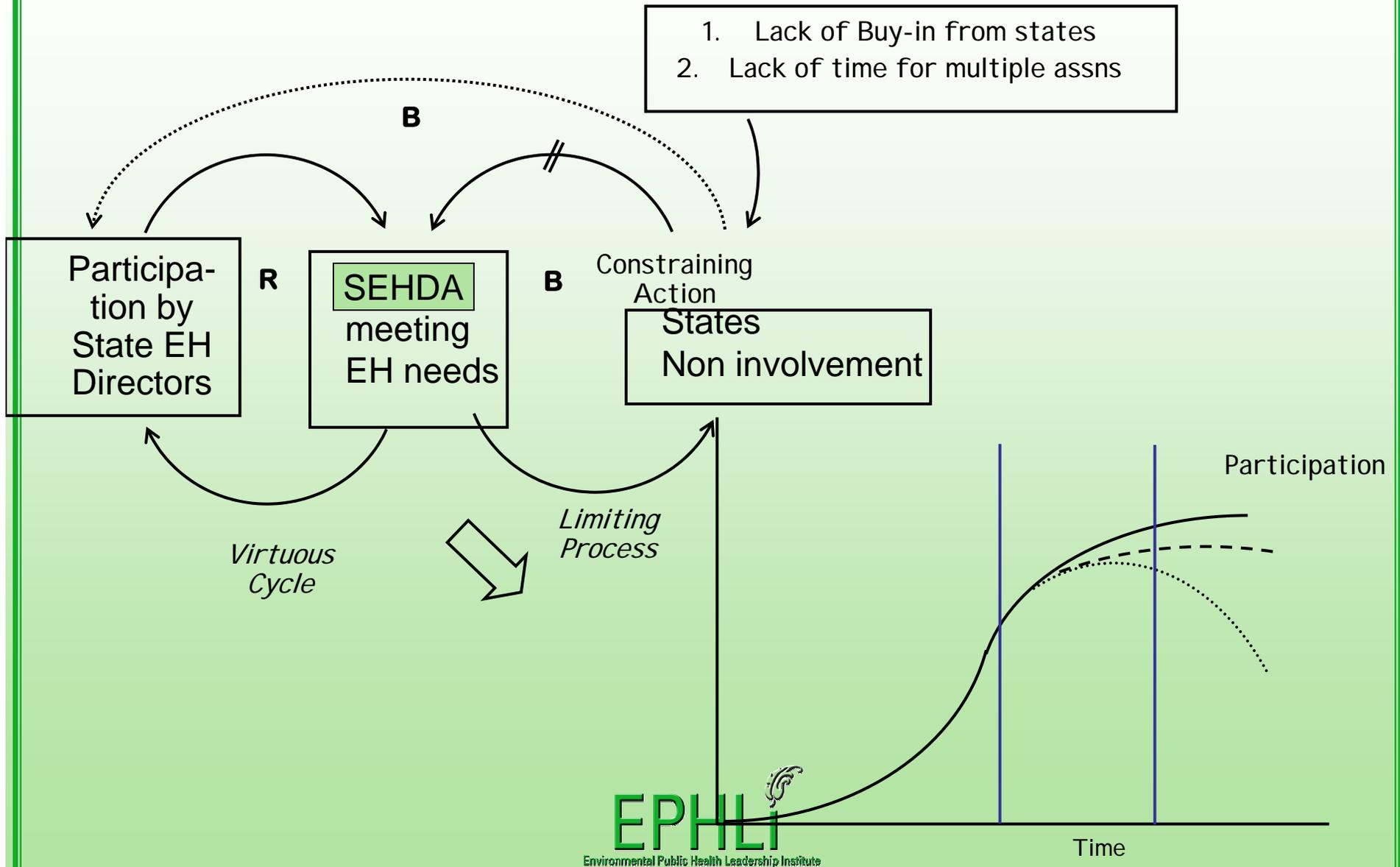
Benefits (cont'd)

- ☞ Discuss handling of challenging situations
- ☞ Unify and give voice to state EH programs
- ☞ Provide a mentoring opportunity to interested states



SEHDA Limits to Success

1. Lack of Buy-in from states
2. Lack of time for multiple assns



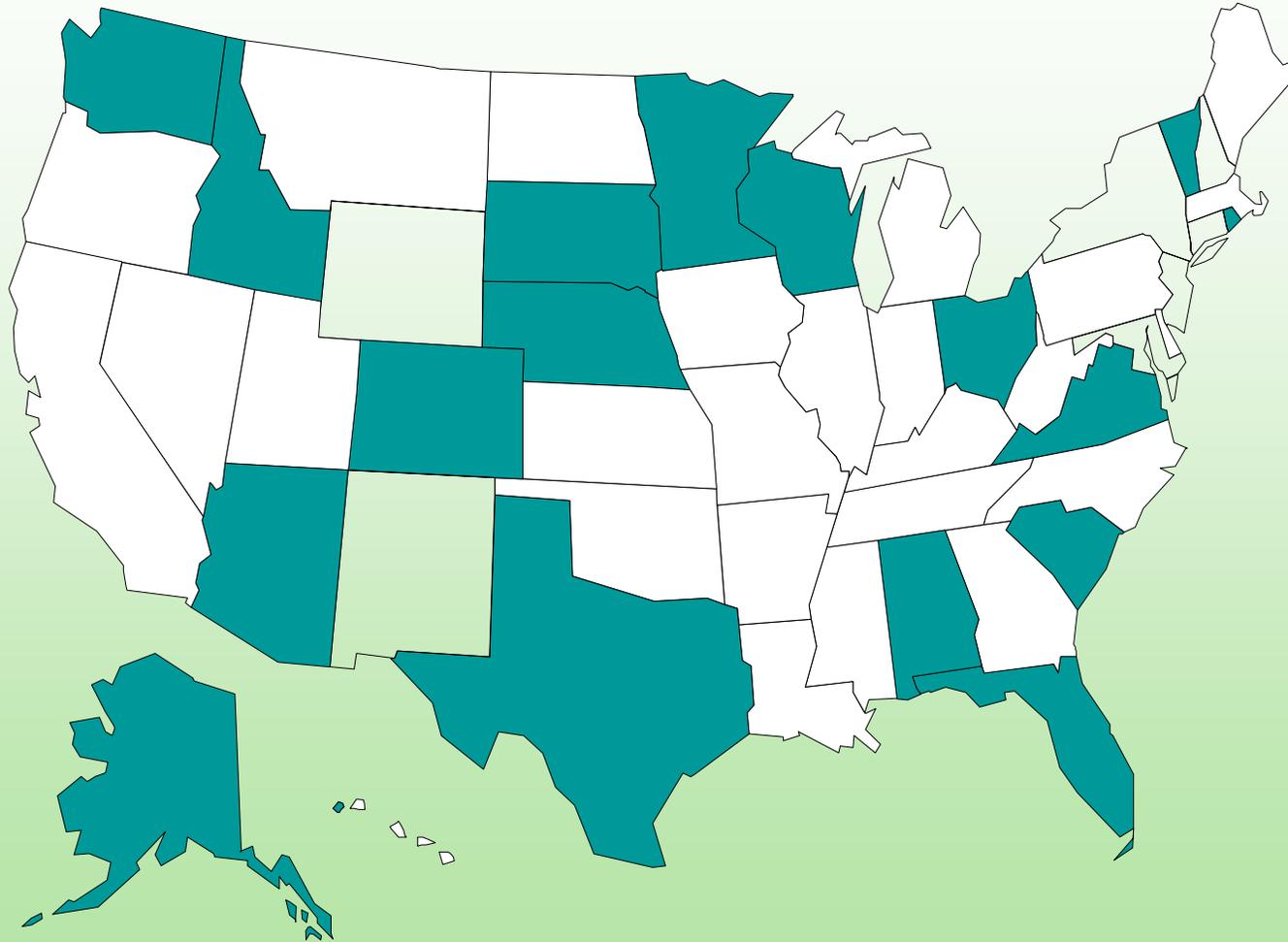
Interventions

- ☞ Work through State Health Officers to identify SEHDs (ASTHO).
- ☞ Give examples of how joining the association can assist in mutual aid issues such as disaster response.
- ☞ Have member states seek out nonmember state representatives to help market the benefits of their states' collaboration in this national association.
- ☞ Assure rapid communication to those who are not able to attend meeting, for example – keep engaged



Emergence...

🌿 17 States



Action!

- ☞ Facilitated brainstorming session to prioritize EH needs (ASTHO)
- ☞ Creation of initial Email distribution list
- ☞ Development of Sharepoint Site
- ☞ Creation of Principles of Operation
- ☞ Launch!

