

The People Network: Bridging the Environmental- Health Gap

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“People, people who need people, are the luckiest people in the world.”

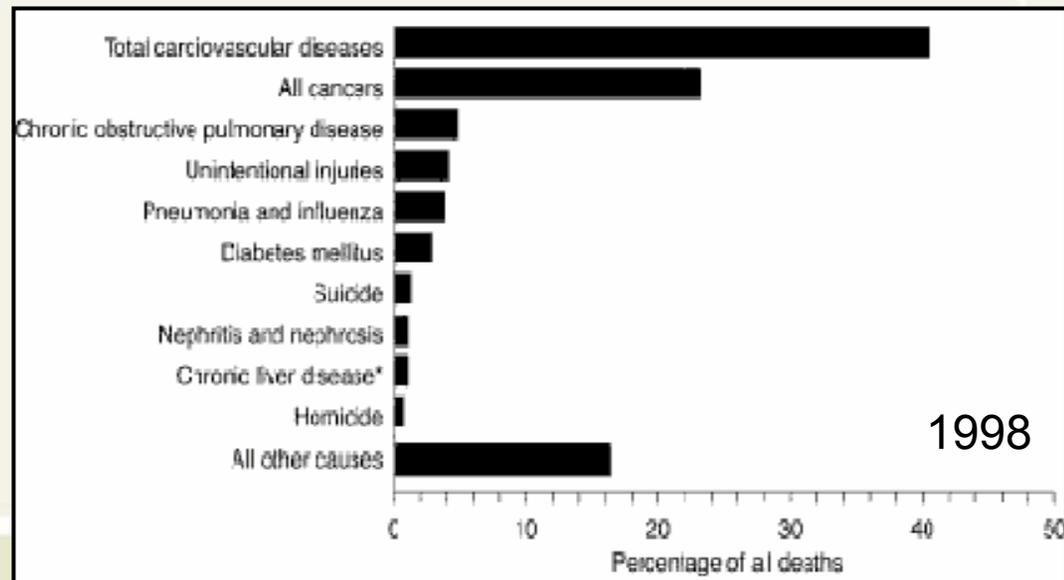
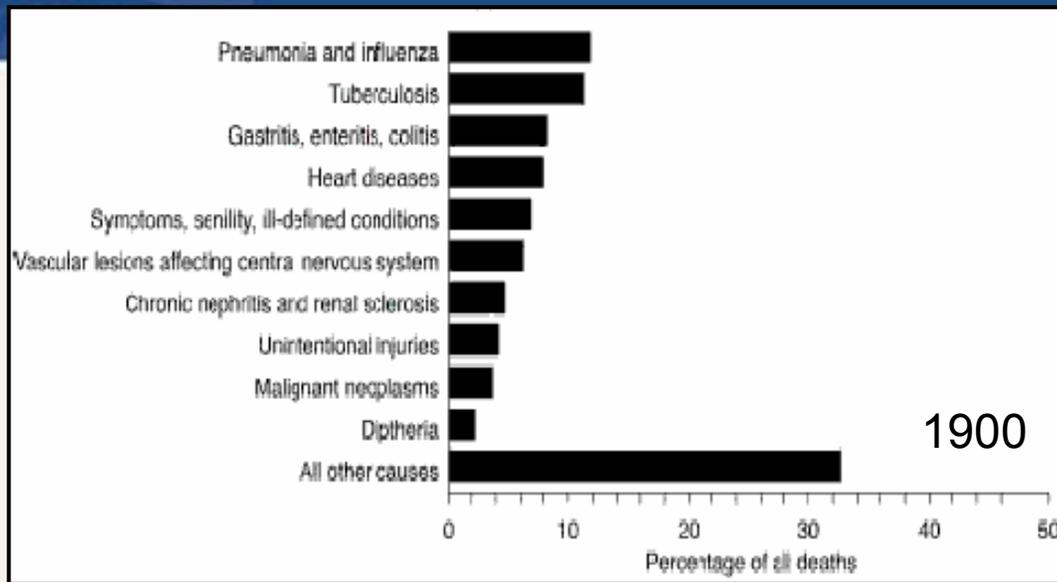
These are Dangerous Times

- Terrorism
- War
- Economy
- Emerging diseases
- Uncertainty about the future...
- Overwhelming challenge to the public health infrastructure?

Challenging Political Times Too

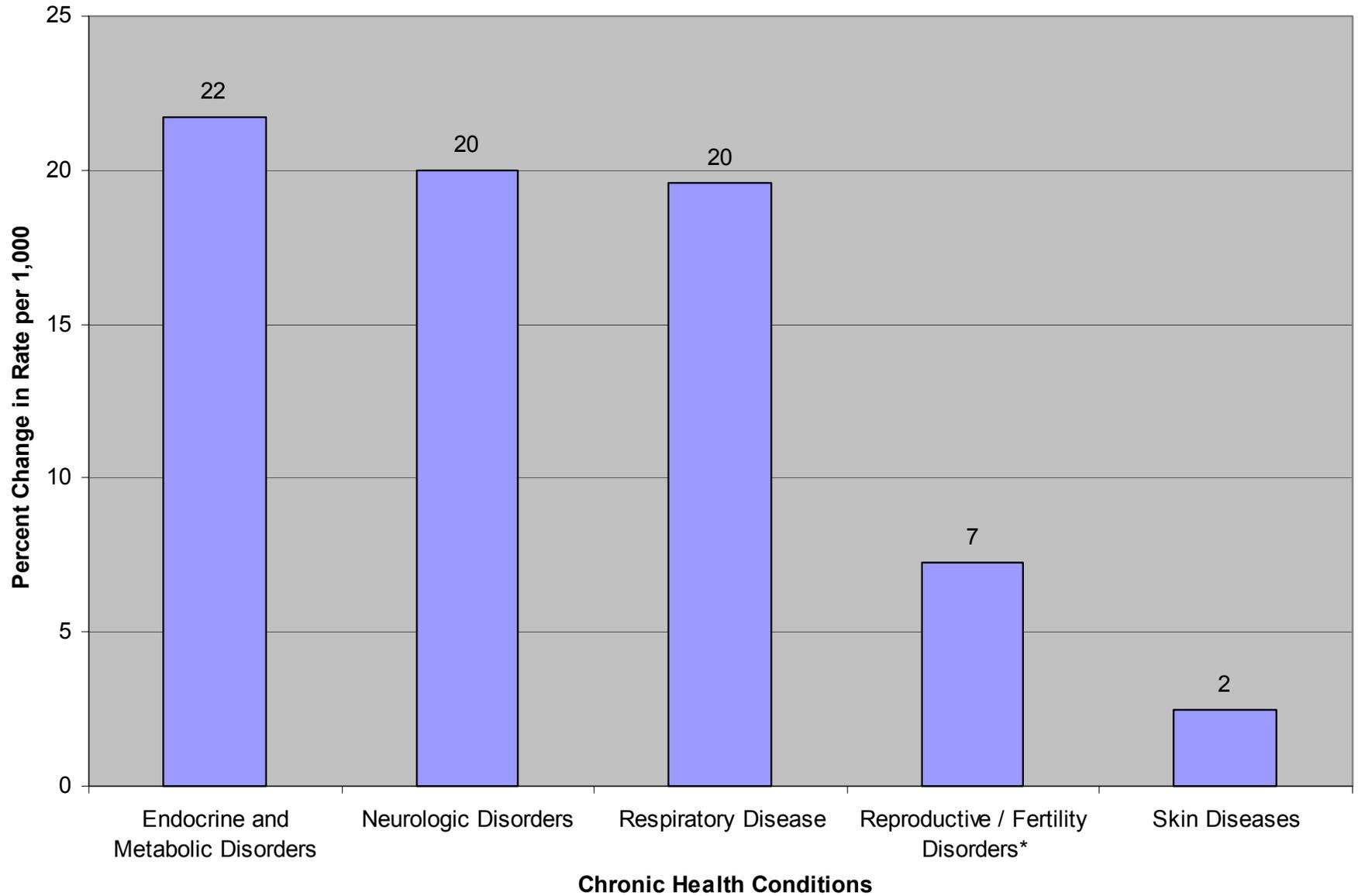
- Competition for scarce resources
- Rethinking regulatory approaches
- Balancing security issues with core functions of public health
- Pro-business economic policies
- Organization and turf
- Environment a priority?

Causes of Death, United States, 1900 and 1998



Source: US Bureau of the Census; 1998: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC

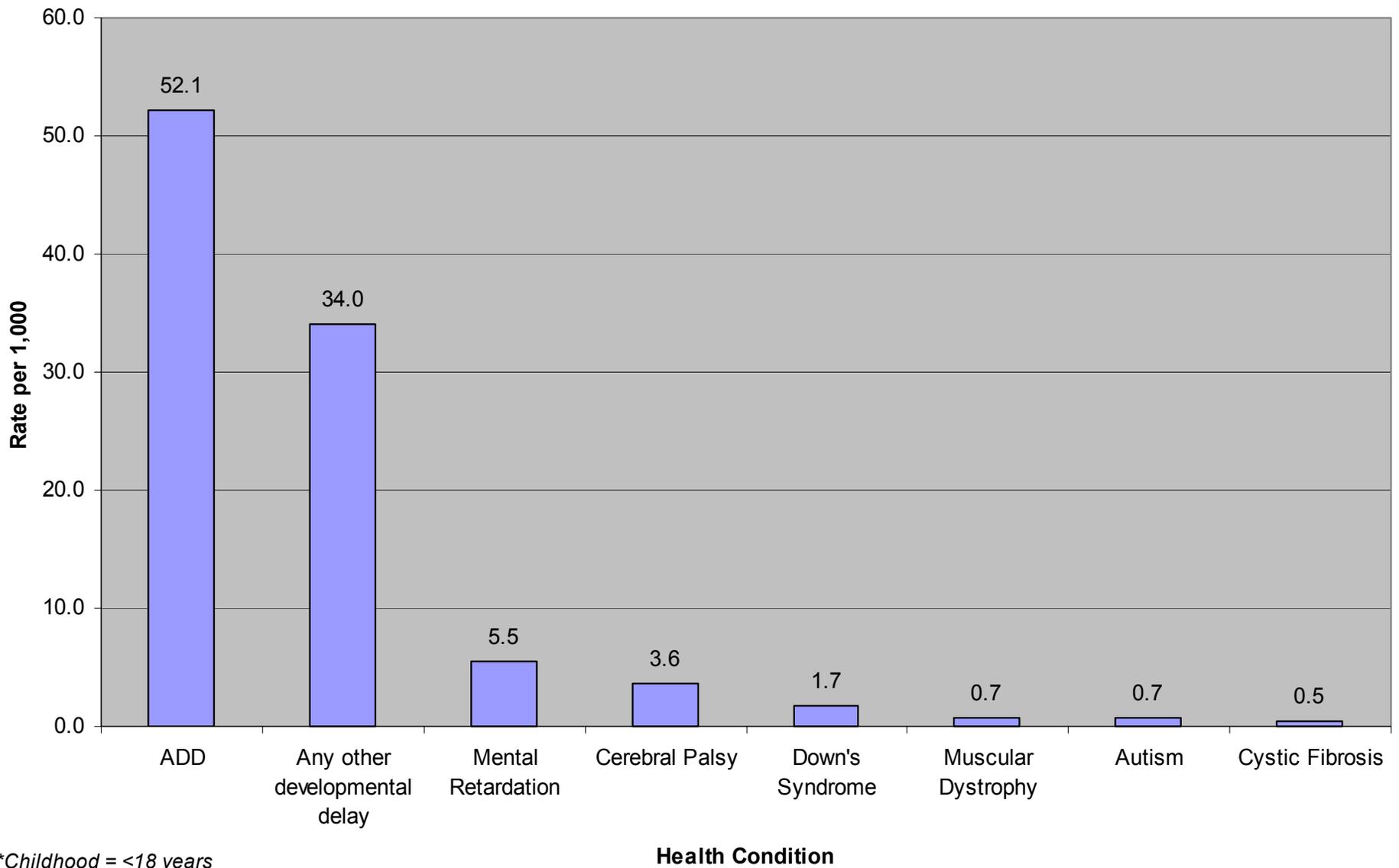
Percent Change in Self-Reported Prevalence of Non-Cancer Chronic Health Conditions National Health Interview Survey, 1986-1995



* Change from 1988 and 1995

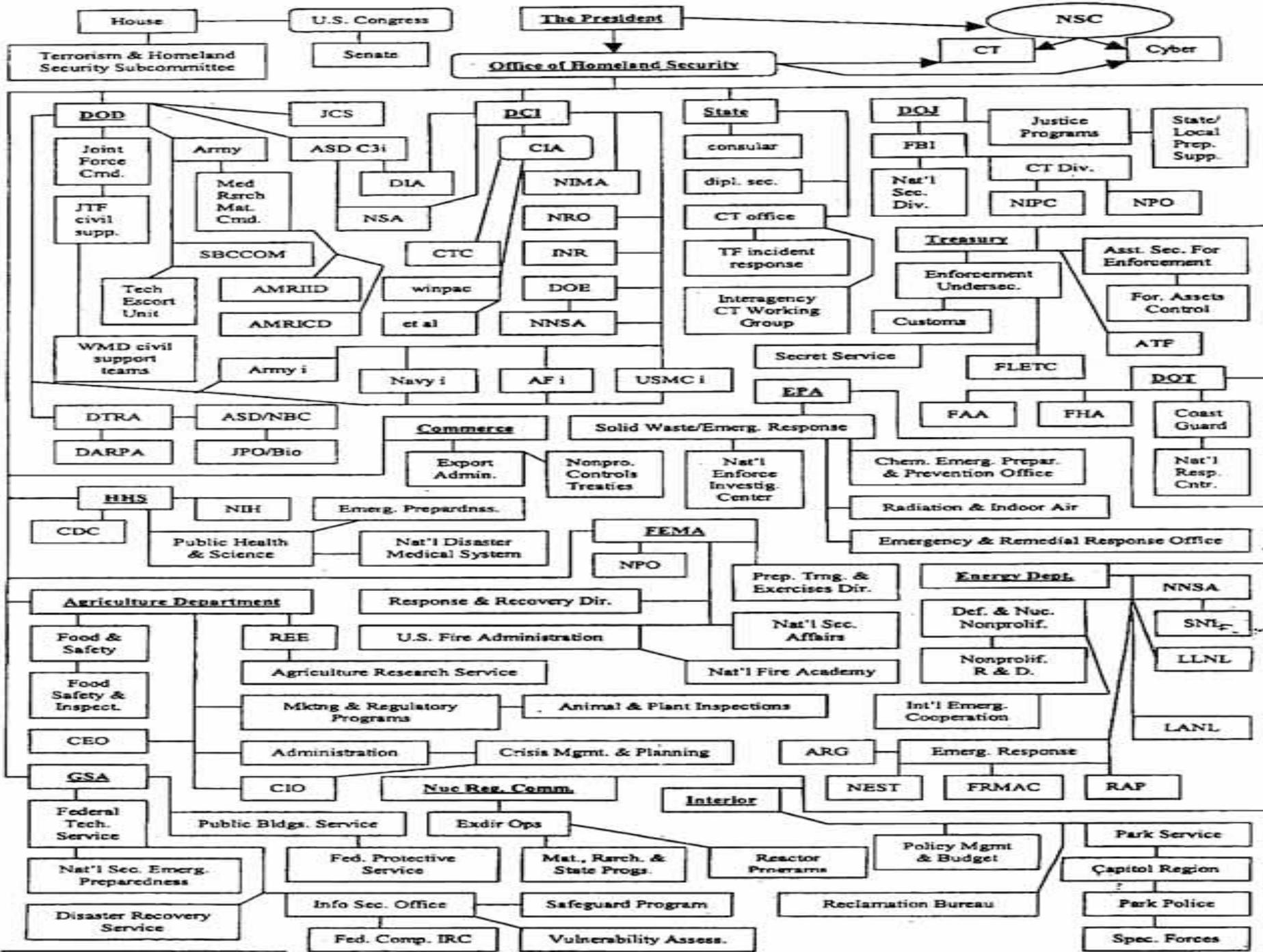
Self-Reported Prevalence of Selected Childhood Health Conditions

National Health Interview Survey, 1997*



The Future of Public Health

“The removal of environmental health authority from public health agencies has led to fragmented responsibility, lack of coordination, and inadequate attention to the health dimensions of environmental problems.” – Institute of Medicine, 1988



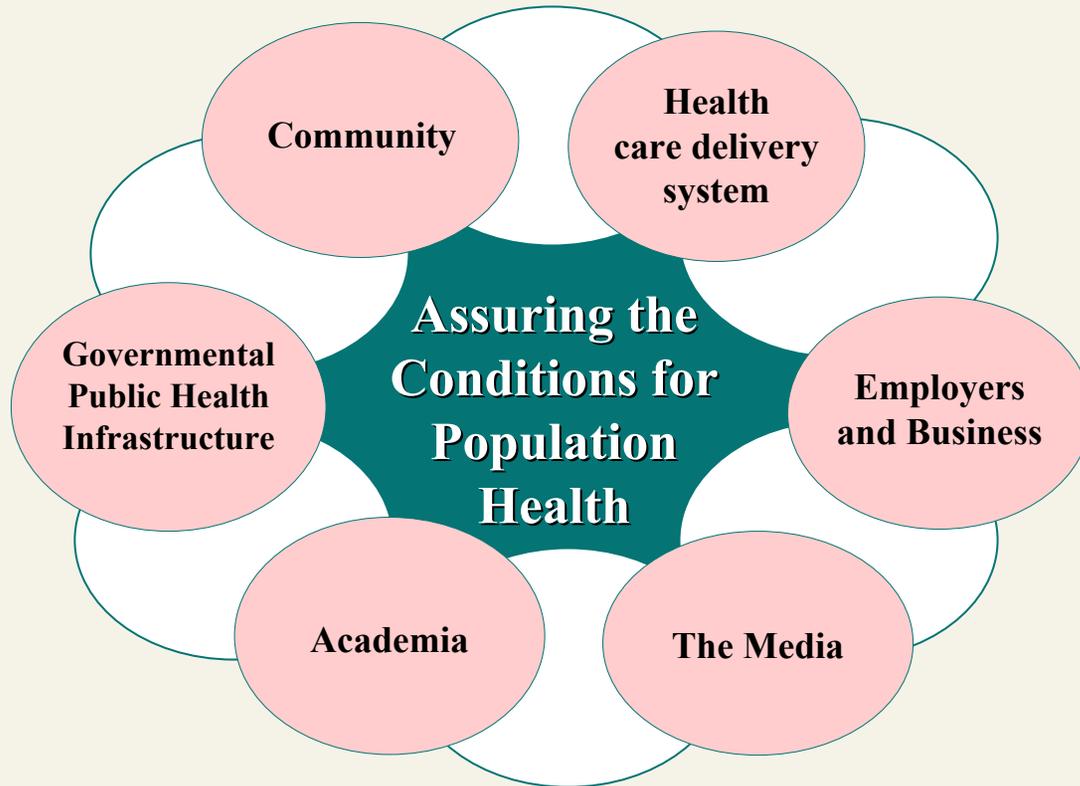


**THE FUTURE OF
THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH**
in the 21st Century

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Committee on Assuring the Health
of the Public in the 21st Century

The Public Health System

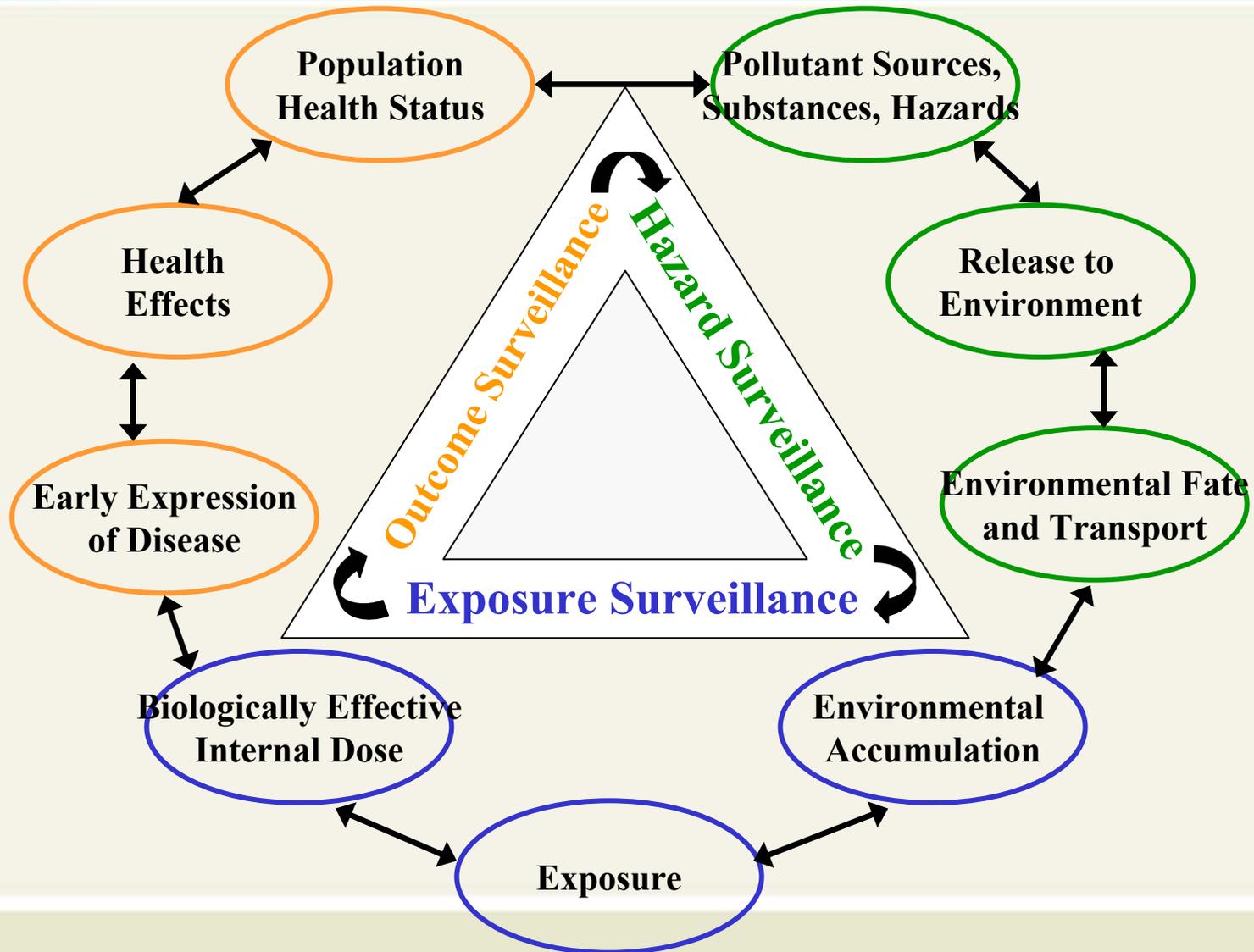


From the 2002 IOM Report

- Infrastructure recommendations to the federal, state and local government public health agencies:

“Recognize communication as a critical core competency of public health practice, and implement steps to enhance communication activities and technologies.”

Tracking Data Paradigm

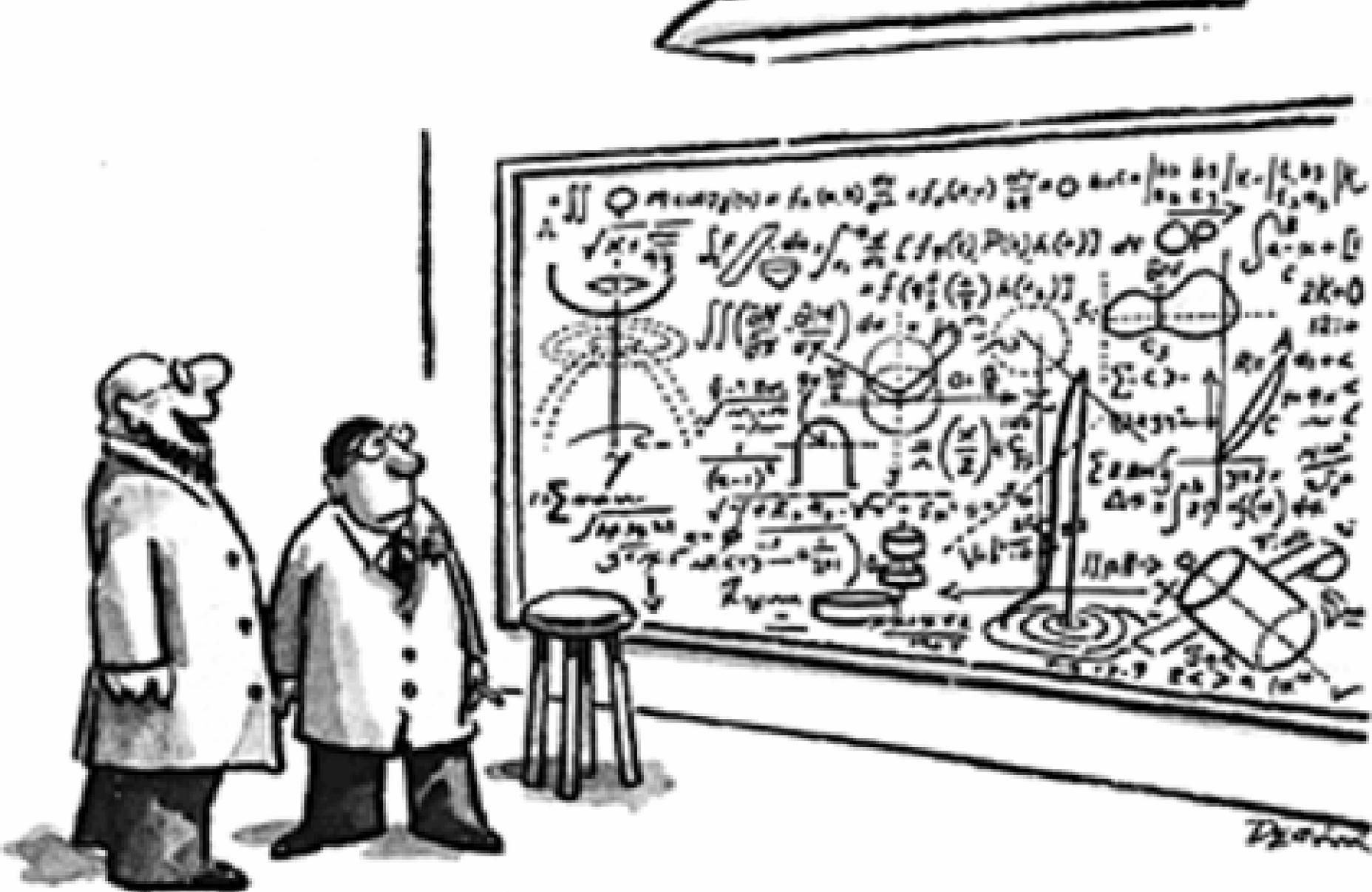


Tracking Successes

- Established a new, strong network of environmental public health professionals
- Examined the national data/information resources
- Establishing environmental public health priorities
- Starting a training pipeline
- Extending the application of NCEH science

Challenges Ahead

- What do we Track?
- Reporting requirements?
- Sustainability
- Communication of Findings
- Applications to Prevention?
- Research



"Hey, no problem!"

Solutions

- Political Support
- Leadership
- Partnerships
- Infrastructure
- Resources

Tracking Leadership

“The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the EPA Administrator, should by 2001:

- Designate a national lead authority for environmental health tracking to oversee development of a nationwide network and coordinate all related health and exposure monitoring activities, including those of EPA, CDC and the ATSDR; and
- Establish a Council on Environmental Health Tracking to work with the HHS, EPA and state tracking leadership to set up science-based criteria, minimum state standards and privacy and confidentiality guidelines for a tiered approach that supports both national priorities and state flexibility.”

Tracking Opportunities

These times bring unprecedented opportunity

- **To redefine the national approach to environmental protection**
- **Enhance our understanding of environment and health link**
- **Develop more effective, defensible environmental and public health policies**



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