



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

CDC protects people from environmental hazards in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the world that surrounds us. We investigate the relationship between environmental factors and health, conduct scientific investigations, develop guidance, and build partnerships to support healthy decision making. CDC's world-class scientists in the laboratory and out in the field investigate the effects of the environment on health. We track and evaluate related health problems, and we help U.S. and international organizations respond to natural, technological, and terrorism-related environmental emergencies. Our vision is healthy people in a healthy environment.



1 IN 12

1 in 12 Americans has asthma.



36 HOURS

CDC can now identify human exposure to 150 chemical threat agents within 36 hours.



CDC works to protect people who are most vulnerable to harmful smoke from wildfires.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched first national Model Aquatic Health Code guidelines to help state and local authorities make swimming in public pools and other aquatic facilities healthy and safe. Pool chemicals account for almost 5,000 emergency department visits each year, nearly half involving children.
- Released biomonitoring results for 51 chemicals as part of the *National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals*, the most comprehensive assessment of Americans' exposure to environmental chemicals. The report's findings led to changes in municipal water systems to reduce exposures.
- Released the first report from the National Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Registry, which works to identify all ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) cases in the U.S. The report estimates about four cases of ALS per 100,000 Americans.
- Launched an interactive e-learning course and monitoring system to capture environmental data about foodborne illness outbreaks, which helps state and local food programs prevent outbreaks.
- Expanded the award-winning website and educational campaign "Don't Mess with Mercury" to more than 3,000 partners in education and childhood health. The website teaches children about the risks of playing with mercury, provides resources for school officials, and explains how to prevent and clean mercury spills.



165 COMMUNITIES EVALUATED

Evaluated 165 communities, impacting more than 1 million people, on the health risks of exposure to harmful chemicals.



\$5,600

On average, Americans spend more than \$5,600 in medical and special education costs when a child is severely poisoned from lead.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE... AND A WAY TO STAY SAFE

Prolonged exposure to smoke is harmful to people of all ages but especially to young children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with heart and lung disease. More and more people make their homes in areas prone to wildfires. In support of the New Mexico Department of Health's decision to prepare for wildfire season, the New Mexico Tracking Program created a number of resources to educate residents about ways to protect their health during wildfires.

Tracking program staff developed the 5-3-1 Visibility Method to help residents more easily judge smoke danger and decide when to head indoors. The method is based on whether a wildfire and smoke are 5 miles, 3 miles, or 1 mile away. In addition, staff devised an interactive mapping tool to help residents determine when wildfire smoke is near enough to cause them harm. Because the tracking program's method and resources are available, New Mexico residents do not have to wait for official smoke alerts to make decisions about how to protect their health during wildfires. Now they can monitor their community and move more quickly if needed. The tracking program can be a model in national wildfire forest management. Already, two other states have adopted the program's visibility tool for use in their forest management programs.