

Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects

Strategic Plan – 2015 - 2020

Vision: Healthy people in a healthy environment

Mission: Protect people from environmentally-related illness, disability, and death through surveillance, research, and action.

Division Priorities:

- Reduce the burden of asthma through improved asthma management and control
- Expand content, capabilities and use of Tracking data/expertise to increase the number of public health actions that reduce potential adverse health effects from environmental exposure
- Protect children and adults from health risks related to short- and long-term exposure to air pollutants
- Reduce exposure to and disease from non-infectious waterborne contaminants in federally unregulated drinking water sources
- Reduce morbidity and mortality from natural, chemical and radiologic disasters/incidents
- Strengthen our nation's ability to reduce negative health impacts and maximize health benefits associated with a changing climate
- Protect children and adults from health risks related to emerging radiation-related health threats

Cross-cutting Activities (coordinated by Division, occurring across all Branches):

- Communications
- Evaluation

Goal 1: Expand the availability, quality, accessibility and use of environmental public health tracking and other surveillance data to inform decision-making

- 1.1: Enhance the content (including timeliness) and capabilities of the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to meet emerging environmental public health requirements and needs.
- 1.2: Fill key environmental health data and information gaps through application of novel and non-traditional data, technologies, tools and methods.
- 1.3: Expand use and dissemination of surveillance/tracking data and information to drive public health policy and actions.
- 1.4: Harmonize surveillance activities across EHHE to provide opportunities for data integration, reduce redundancies, and improve data utility.

Goal 2: Improve our understanding of the link between health and the environment through applied research

- 2.1: Identify and explore emerging products, processes and technologies for their potential public health impacts and determine the need for research.
- 2.2: Conduct and/or support substantive research studies on environment and health issues in line with Division priorities.

2.3: Respond to requests for assistance, including investigations of outbreaks and ad hoc queries from domestic and international partners.

2.4: Expand development and use of analytic methods and tools to support environmental health research and response.

2.5: Communicate to key stakeholders the results of research and investigations to inform public health practice.

Goal 3: Expand implementation of evidence-based interventions

3.1: Reduce asthma morbidity and mortality through comprehensive asthma management and control activities.

3.2: Identify gaps, pilot strategies, and evaluate the effectiveness and return on investment of new and existing interventions for environmental health problems and identify strategies for carrying out those interventions at a population level.

3.3: Create innovative and compelling audience-based communication programs and products to influence and inform behavior of at risk audiences, stakeholders, and other environmental health partners.

3.4: Advance methodologies for assessing health impacts of policy and regulatory actions that reduce exposure to environmental hazards.

3.5: Expand collaboration between environmental public health programs and clinical care to implement interventions.

Goal 4: Strengthen environmental public health capacity and competencies at the federal, state, local, territorial, tribal, and global levels.

4.1: Support workforce development through training and fellowship opportunities in environmental public health.

4.2: Establish communities of practice to share lessons learned/best practices.

4.3: Provide guidance and technical/scientific resources to support public health practice.

4.4: Work with professional organizations/NGOs to assess needs, raise awareness, and evaluate impacts.

Goal 5: Strengthen the ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters and to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

5.1: Integrate applied epidemiology into disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities.

5.2: Provide technical assistance and comprehensive preparedness and response training for natural disasters and nuclear, radiological, and chemical incidents.

5.3: Enhance state and local capacity to implement adaptation strategies that address the health consequences of a changing climate.