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Second Annual National Environmental
Public Health Tracking Conference

Involving Environmental Justice Stakeholders in California's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

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Background

- Environmental justice stakeholders have demonstrated great interest and are very active participants.
- There is clearly a connection between EJ and EPHT and they are based on many shared principles.
- There are specific needs, issues, and perspectives related EPHT that are unique to EJ.
- Issues related to EJ is something that agencies cannot be insular about because EJ stakeholders bring to bear knowledge, expertise, influence, and relationships that agencies lack.

Efforts to Involve Environmental Justice Stakeholders

- Inclusion of EJ stakeholders in the Planning Consortium, workgroups, and demonstration project advisory groups.
- Various meetings to discuss EJ issues, needs, perspectives, and priorities.
- Capacity-building mini-grants to community-based organizations.
- 2-day Environmental Health Data Workshop for EJ leaders and advocates (UC Berkeley Center of Excellence/CEHTP collaboration).

Key Issues

- Meaningful participation/involvement:
 - ensure that EJ stakeholders are explicit and early stakeholders
- Meaningful data/information:
 - ensure relevant data (enable identification of environmental injustices)
 - ensure data does not invalidate community knowledge/expertise or hinder precautionary actions.
- Agency accountability, responsiveness, transparency, and competency:
 - ensure community/EJ competency among EPHT and other agencies

Lessons Learned

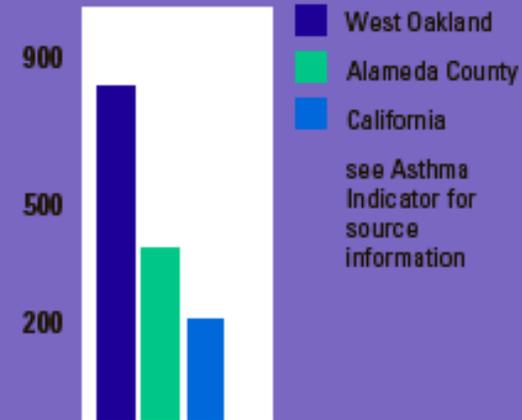
- It takes time and effort.
- Need to create shared knowledge and expectations among EJ and EPHT.
- EPHT must build community capacity (to understand, analyze, interpret, and use data).
- EJ stakeholders can contribute to shaping EPHT: data collection, analysis, dissemination, etc.
- They can play a prominent role in translating data/information into actions and policies.

– COMMUNITIES CREATE CHANGE

The Role of Data & Research in EJ

West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

Age-adjusted Asthma Hospitalization Rates for Children Under 15, 1998



How polluted is the air I breathe?
 Is my neighborhood getting cleaner or dirtier?
 Is it safe for my kids to play outdoors?

PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY IN DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND ENERGY



Neighborhood Knowledge for Change

The West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

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 Cover photograph by Nicholas Cole of children playing at a playground in West Oakland (left) and Campbell adjacent to a truck transfer and repair facility.
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The Role of Data & Research in EJ

Red Star
Yeast factory



Approaches to Engaging EJ Stakeholders

- First: simply get them to the table
- Build relationships and trust
- LISTEN (be willing to learn and except EJ stakeholders as experts)
- Find common ground
- Give something back
- Keep in mind:
 - There is no magic recipe
 - It takes time and effort
 - It's worth the time and effort

Comments & Questions

■ Discussion

- What approaches have other grantees used to engage EJ stakeholders?
- What are some lessons learned from working with EJ stakeholders?
- What are the next steps for addressing EJ issues in EPHT?
- How do we ensure EJ stakeholders have a place/voice at the national level of EPHT?