



# **Community Profiles: Using State-Local Partnerships to Build the EPHT Infrastructure in Maryland**

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Maryland EPHT

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# Indicator Project – Goals:

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- A set of local health and environmental indicators, available statewide
- A means of presenting the indicators to communities



# Multiple Applications

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- Starting point for dialogue
- Community priorities and initiatives
- Regulatory siting and permitting
- State-level planning



# Indicator Criteria

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- Meaningful to community
- Reflect general health conditions, with emphasis on environmental health
- Appropriate for use throughout the state
- Rely on existing electronic data streams
- Solutions to confidentiality



# Health Indicators

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- Age distribution of population
- All cause mortality (age and sex adjusted)
- Cancer mortality (selected sites)
- Infant mortality
- Top causes of morbidity
- Low birth weight
- Blood lead levels



# Additional Health Indicators

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- Medicaid encounters for adult population
- Disabilities (SSDI claims rate)
- Asthma
- Birth defects
- Neurological disease
- Cardiovascular disease
- Obesity
- Mental Health
- Chemical poisonings
- Exposures (e.g., mercury, PCBs)



# Environmental Indicators

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- Land use
- Number & type of permits
- History of permit compliance
- TRI releases
- Abandoned industrial sites
- Transportation corridors
- Ambient environmental quality



# Social and Demographic Indicators

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- Population density, race, income, education, housing, language, employment, etc.

# Challenges

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- A single set of indicators that is relevant to diverse communities and easy to understand
- Jumping to conclusions
- Data quality, scale, standards, transferability



# Challenges, continued

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- Mechanism for statewide data integration
  - Interagency collaboration
  - Resources
- Easily available

Community and stakeholder input

## Next Steps:

Refine indicators and presentation

Pilot test profiles in communities and agencies

Define system of data collection, analysis, and presentation

Develop prototype system, assess feasibility, obtain approval

Create profile system

Work with communities & stakeholders to develop next generation of indicators and functionality



# Questions for Discussion:

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- What indicators should be included in a standardized profile for EJ?
- How best to present a standardized profile to a community?



# Work Group Members

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