

Environmental Health Indicators: A Collaborative State-Based Approach to Development and Testing



State Environmental Health
Indicators Collaborative (SEHIC)



Background

- CDC/CSTE EPHI Project (1999)
- NCEH EPHT Program (2000)
- EPA Draft Report on the Environment (ROE)- (2003)
- Occupational Health Indicators Project (2004)
- Saw need for pilot implementation of state level indicators for environmental health

What are we up to now ???

- Convene a group of willing collaborators to develop and compare indicators that:
 - Pertain to environmental health practice
 - Can be created at state and (hopefully) county level
 - Can be followed over time
 - Easily generated
 - Relatively consistent / comparable
 - Of modest scope

What we have done so far

- Had a meeting; Made a plan
- Clarified definitions
- Drafted a template for indicator development
- Selected pilot indicators based on interests of collaborators
- Engaged CDC and additional state partners interested in piloting the indicators

Ideas and Definitions (derived from CDC/CSTE)

- Suite – group of related indicators
- Indicator - general concept of what you want to measure
- Measure - a specific value or statistic (method) that is a measure of that concept
- Data element - specific piece of data needed to construct a measure; a measure may need more than one data element

Draft template

- Suite
 - Indicator
 - Measures
 - Data elements

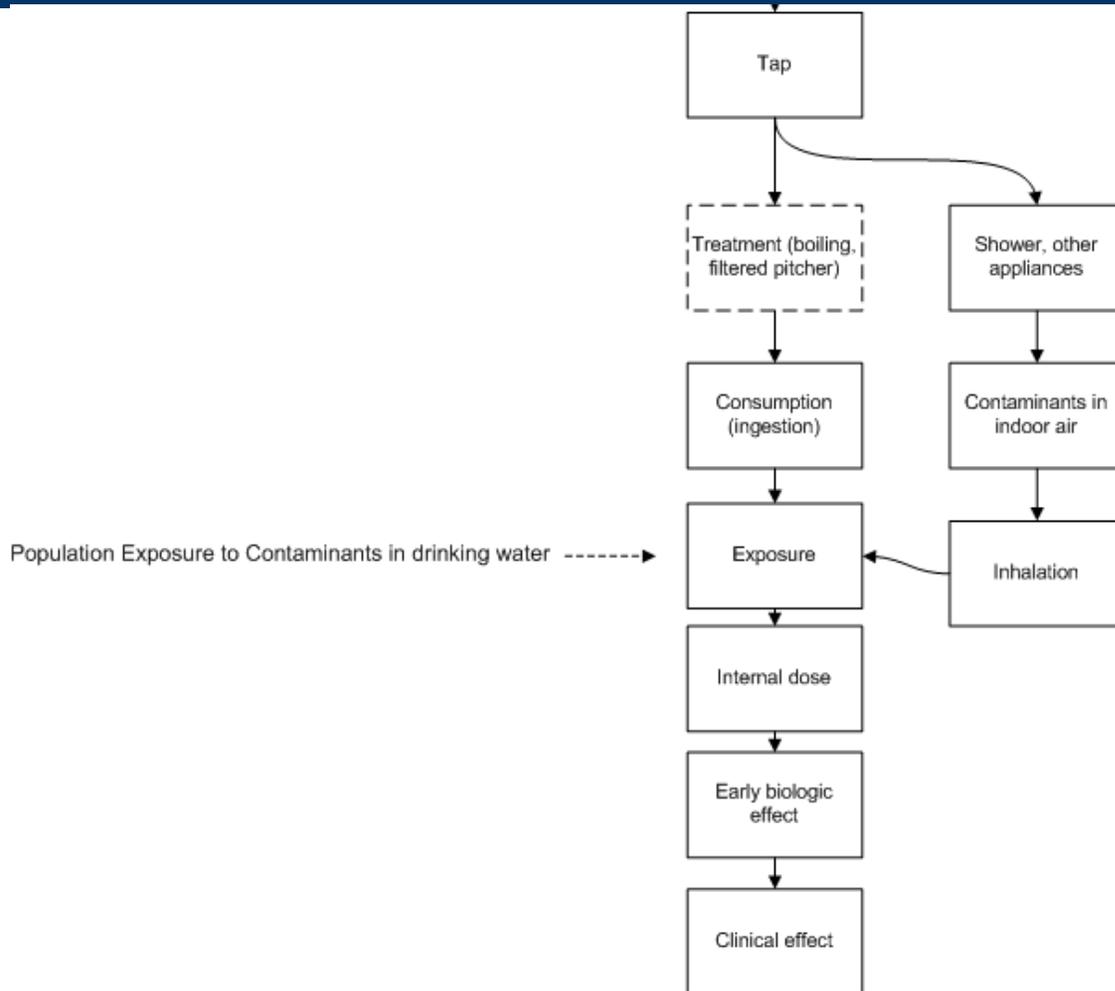
For each suite:

- Description of suite
- List of indicators, measures and history
- Conceptual model showing where each indicator fits into the 'hazard, exposure, health outcome' chain of events

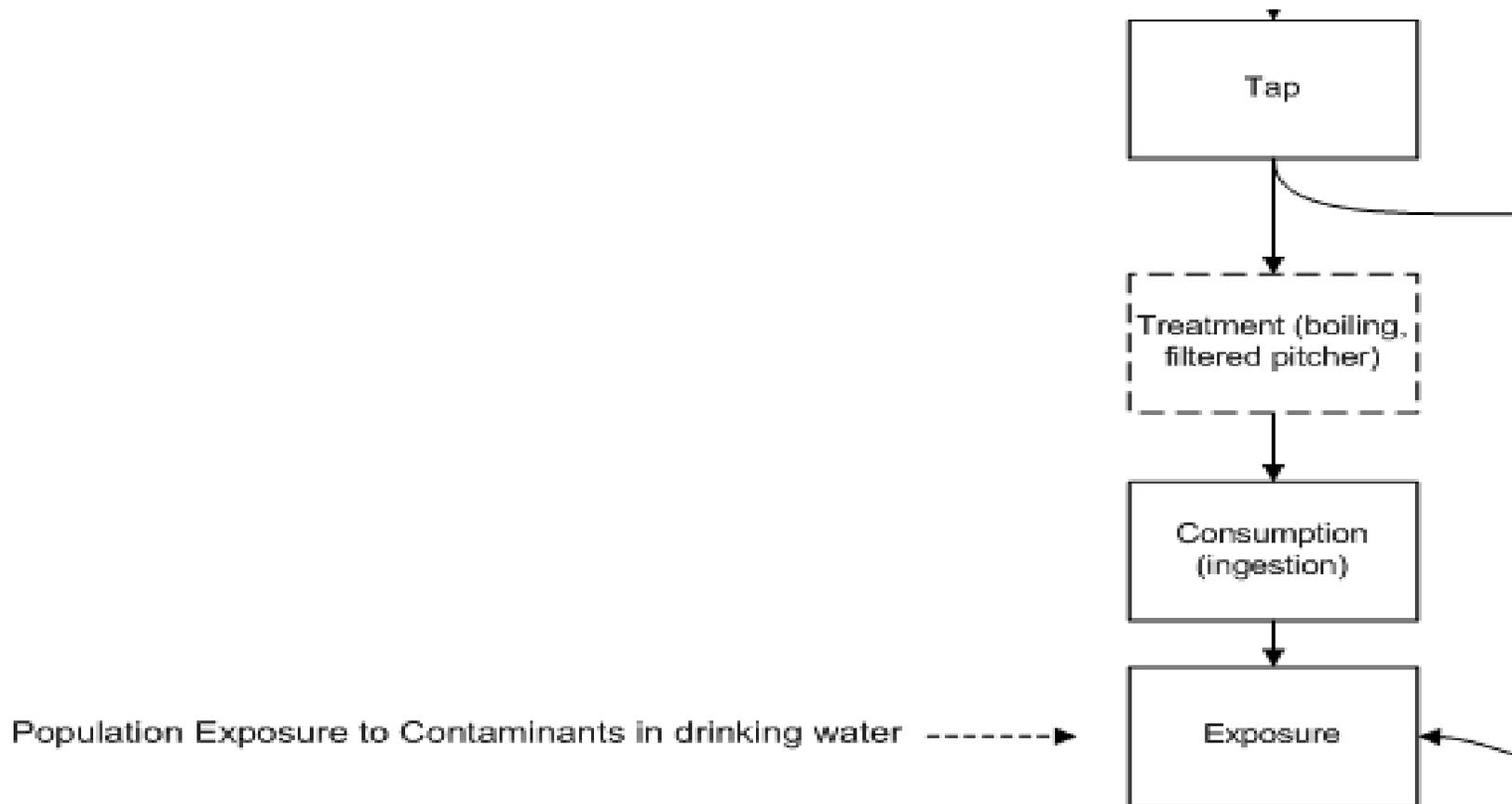
List of indicators, measures and history

Indicator	Measure	History
<p>Population Exposure to Contaminants in drinking water</p>	<p><i>Percent of state population served by PWS which had, in the past three years, at least once exceedence of a NPDWS MCLG for any chemical contaminant which is known or suspected carcinogen, stratified by race and ethnicity.</i></p>	<p>Developed 3/05; revised 6/05;</p>
	<p><i>Percent of state population served by PWS which had, in the past three years, at least once exceedence of a NPDWS for fecal coliforms or E. coli, stratified by race and ethnicity.</i></p>	

Conceptual model



Conceptual model



For each indicator

- Description of indicator –

WHAT do you want to capture?

- Use –

WHY do you want to capture it?

For each measure

- Rationale: in what way does this measure capture the idea behind the indicator?
- Data elements (next slide)
- How to: step by step
- Limitations and data quality considerations
- Issues of validity and interpretation

Data elements

Data Element	Sources and contact	Quality Issues
Block-level population count by race and ethnicity	US Census web site >">www.census.gov/v/>>	From 2000, may not represent current populations
GIS layer of block groups	US Census	

Where are we going...

- Find others who are interested in participating
- Refine background materials for framing the project
- Revise the template; including “how to” guide
- Individual state partners try-out indicators – using tools and template
- Revise and expand as desired

Timeline

- April 28: follow-up conference call
- May: Try out template
- June 5 – 8: Update and preliminary data for cross-indicators session at the CSTE Annual Conference
- Summer: develop favorite indicators
- Late September (22nd???) Reverse site visit at CDC

Other considerations

- We are a 'collaborative'
 - not a 'working group'
- Cooperative effort, try for friendly consensus
- Strict 'no recrimination' policy

Why are we doing this?

- We want to
- Indicators can be useful
- Consistent indicators can be more useful
- Tools to help states create such indicators will lead to more states having consistent indicators

Why a group effort?

- Learn from each other
- Develop tools
- Maximize consistency – compare indicators
- Clarify uses
- Have some fun

If you are (at all) interested.....

Join (or eavesdrop) on the conference call
next Thursday

For the call-in number, leave your card or write
your name on the list,

OR contact

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