

**New York City**  
**Department of Health & Mental Hygiene**  
**Bureau of Environmental Disease Prevention**

**Some Lessons Learned from EPHT in NYC**

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And, a lot of graduate student interns

# Environmental Connections: the New York City EPHT Program

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- Environmental Public Health Tracking Part A Capacity Building Grant
  - Pilot Project – Housing Environmental Data Integration
- Environmental and Health Effects Tracking Demonstration Grant
  - Pesticides
  - Heavy Metals

# Some Major Achievements to Date

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- Stakeholder Advisory Panel and Workgroups
- Community Environmental Data Needs Assessment
- Citywide data inventory launched, priority datasets acquired
- Logical data model developed (see poster)
- Biomonitoring and NYC HANES

# Some Major Achievements to Date

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- Data enhancement projects at Poison Control, NYC Housing Authority
- Integration of childhood and adult lead data systems
- Integrated housing quality data warehouse
- Indicator development
- Integrated mold report & housing quality analysis (ISEE)

# Lesson 1

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Local Data Matters. Many Local Data Sources Were Heretofore Unknown or Unconsidered by Health Department

- Air emissions permits
- Right-to-Know chemical inventories
- Housing complaint and inspections data
- Various population surveys
- School system records, surveys
- Pesticide applications and sales

# Lessons 2,3,4

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Engineers Hate Uncertainty

Property Owners Prefer Dim Lighting

Epidemiologists Are More Likely to Engage  
in Self-Analysis

# Lesson 5

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## Agencies Can be Brought Along

EPHT Can Effectively Convince Data Owners, Generators, Holders that:

- Data exchange is in mutual self-interest
- New look has direct bearing on their mission

And When That Fails, There's Always

- Paying for data (improvements, systems enhancements, delivery, reporting)

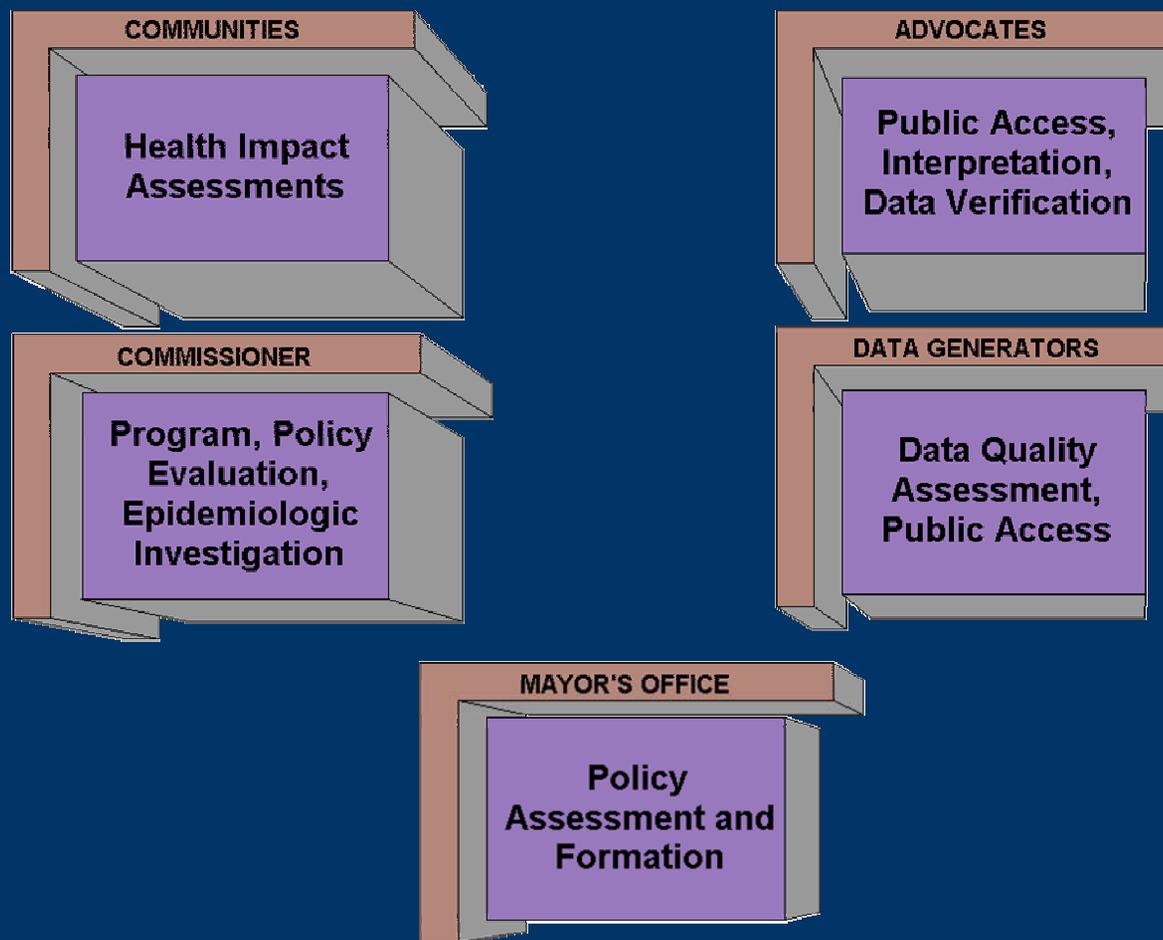
# Lesson 6

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- Communicating aims of Environmental Public Health Tracking needs to be mindful of the audience.

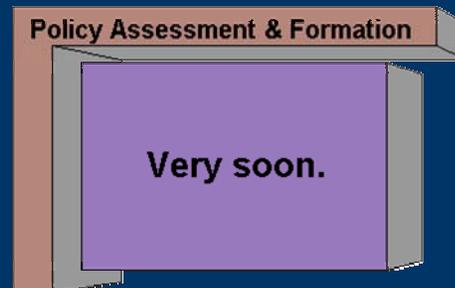
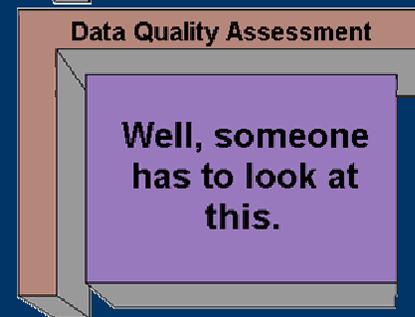
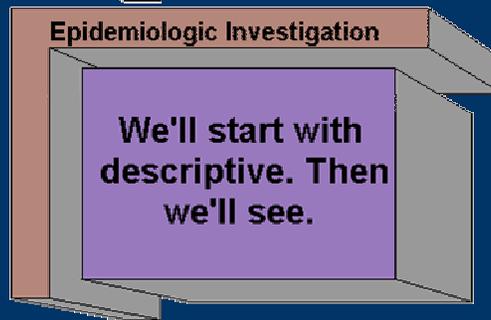
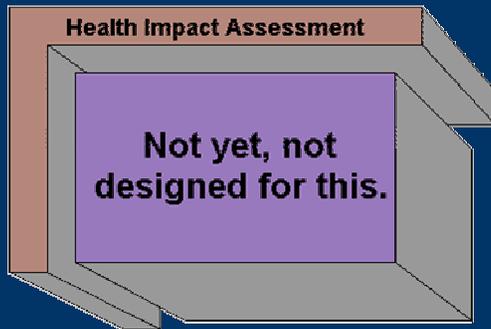
# When We Say “Environmental Health Surveillance” ... They May Think ...

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# When we describe our process, do they hear us say ...

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# Lesson 7

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To reconcile differing agendas, but to preserve the integrity of an EPHT program, a process is required that ...

- Proceeds deliberately, but slowly when necessary
- Balances stakeholder with health department needs
- Remains flexible with respect to its goals, given myriad competing demands
- Resists pressure to do it all
- Asserts its value and importance along the way

# Lesson 8

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To reconcile differing agendas, but to preserve the integrity of an EPHT program, multiple products are required

- Analytic reports – e.g., Pesticide Applications and Housing Quality in NYC. Metals exposure in NYC Residents
- Process reports – e.g., Stakeholder progress reports
- Policies, legislation – e.g., CO surveillance, data exchange with NYS
- Data delivery – e.g., Community Health Survey extracts, NYC HANES public dataset
- Custom analysis and querying – e.g., web-based community pesticide query tools.