

# National Center for Environmental Health



## Our Mission

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) serves the public through responsive public health actions to promote healthy and safe environments and prevent harmful exposures.

NCEH's work and activities falls into one of the following categories

- Public health surveillance
- Applied research
  - Epidemiologic studies
  - Laboratory analyses
  - Statistical analyses
  - Behavioral interventions
  - Operations and systems research
- Communication and education
- Standards, guidelines, and recommendations
- Training and technical assistance for officials of state, local, and tribal environmental health agencies in preventing and responding to environmental public health challenges

## Activity Snapshot

- Public laws 91-121 (1970), 91-441 (1971), and 99-145 (1986) required that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provide public health review and oversight of the Department of Defense's plans and activities to test, transport, and dispose of chemical and biological weapons. Specifically, U.S. Code 50, Section 1512 requires DHHS "... review particulars with respect to any hazards to public health and safety which transportation, testing, or disposal may pose and to recommend what precautionary measures are necessary to protect the public health and safety." Through NCEH, CDC assists the U.S. Army by providing technical assistance in the safe handling and destruction of outdated chemical weapons at all U.S. stockpile disposal facilities.
- NCEH oversees the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network). The Tracking Network is a system of integrated health, exposure, and hazard information and data from a variety of national, state, and city sources. On the Tracking Network, you can view maps, tables, and charts with data about chemicals and other substances found in the environment, some chronic diseases and conditions, and the area where you live.
- Given the importance of laboratory test results, NCEH has programs to help assure the quality of these data so patients and healthcare providers (as well as researchers and public health officials) can be confident that laboratory test results they receive are accurate. These CDC programs focus specifically on laboratory tests that are related to chronic diseases, newborn screening disorders, nutritional status, and environmental exposures.





## **NCEH Divisions**

In order for NCEH to carry out its statutory responsibilities, NCEH has three program-specific divisions to support and implement program activities, such as CDC's Climate Change and Public Health Program.

### **Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services**

The Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services (EEHS) provides national leadership in the development of environmental and emergency public health policy and prevention programs to improve public health practice nationwide. EEHS provides consultation and technical and resource assistance, including training, to state and local health departments and to other agencies at the federal, state, local, and international levels.

### **Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects**

The Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects promotes health and quality of life by preventing or controlling diseases or deaths that result from interactions between people and their environment. The Division investigates the relation between human health and the environment in order to increase knowledge; develop, implement, and evaluate policies; and programs to prevent and control disease.

### **Division of Laboratory Sciences**

The Division of Laboratory Sciences works to improve laboratory methods to diagnose and prevent disease using advanced laboratory science and innovative techniques. CDC scientists collaborate with U.S. government agencies, state and local health departments, academic institutions, community organizations, philanthropic foundations, and international organizations.

### **Climate Change and Public Health**

CDC's Climate Change Program leads efforts to prevent and adapt to the anticipated health impacts associated with climate change. The Program seeks to identify populations most vulnerable to these impacts, anticipate future trends, assures that systems are in place to detect and respond to emerging health threats, and takes steps to assure that these health risks can be managed now and in the future.

#### **NCEH Atlanta:**

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