ACAT Protecting Arctic Communities

1997

Community activists created ACAT to work closely with Alaska Native tribes, health care professionals, students, teachers, and scientists to conduct community-based participatory research and protect health.

1997-Present

Informed cleanup efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the abandoned military sites in Alaska.

2000

Informed a policy to prevent the use of harmful pesticides in the Anchorage School District.[1]

2008-2012

Researchers mapped contamination in more than 2,000 locations around Alaska.[2]

2004-Present

Supported negotiation and implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to ban some of the most hazardous chemicals in 182 countries.

2005-2012

Confirmed that communities in Sivuqaq are disproportionately exposed to POPs, including PCBs, from Formerly Used Defense Sites.[3,4]

2009

Launched the community-based Environmental Health Research: A Field Sampling Institute.

2011

Discovered that environmental contamination in traditional foods affects cultural practices, such as hunting and fishing for subsistence.[5]

2016

Helped inform changes to the federal Toxic Substances Control Act with passage of The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.[6]

2017

Informed a city of Anchorage ordinance to prevent the use of harmful pesticides in parks and public lands.[7]

2017-2018

Linked exposure to POPs, including PCBs and semi-volatile organic contaminants, to endocrine effects and hormone disruption.[8,9]

2017-2023

Uncovered the extent of flame-retardant contamination, including PBDEs and PFAS, in water, dust, and traditional foods.[10, 11, 12, 13]

2018-2022

Linked flame-retardant exposure to hormone disruption.[14, 15]

2019

Achieved passage of a city of Anchorage ordinance banning four classes of toxic flame-retardant chemicals from children's products, furniture, and mattresses.[16]

2022

Informed new clinical guidelines by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for PFAS biomonitoring in Alaskan communities, including pairing biomonitoring with exposure assessments from water, dust, and food sources.[17]

NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

NIEHS supported research for all of the milestones highlighted above.