

Partnerships for Environmental Public Health (PEPH)

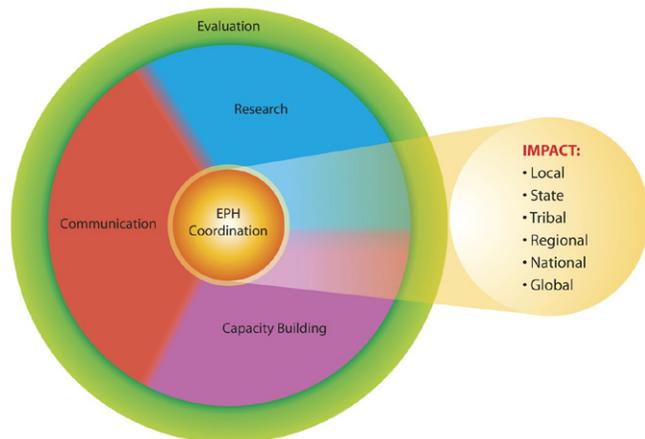
Environmental Public Health is the science of conducting and translating research into action to address environmental exposures and health risks of concern to the public.

Goals of Partnerships for Environmental Public Health (PEPH)

- Serve as an umbrella program. Coordinate and integrate various new and existing initiatives that involve communities and scientists working together.
- Develop and evaluate strategies to communicate environmental public health messages to a diversity of audiences.
- Create and provide materials to increase awareness and literacy about environmental health risks.
- Evaluate program contributions to the advancement of environmental public health.

Key Principles of PEPH

- Engage diverse communities at all stages
- Promote the best science
- Respond to current issues
- Focus on prevention
- Foster unified, integrated, and synergistic activities
- Support research to improve theories, methods, and practice
- Value scientific advances and translational efforts
- Promote research to action



PEPH Model—coordinated activities with local through global impact.

Federal Coordination in Environmental Public Health

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) works with other federal agencies with a shared commitment to environmental public health. This coordination helps address community concerns more effectively.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- National Center for Environmental Health
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Office of Research and Development
- Office of Environmental Justice



Examples of PEPH in Action

Promoting Research to Action

The first Funding Opportunity Announcement under the new PEPH program is specifically designed to insure that environmental health science research leads to public health action. The key elements of the Research to Action initiative are:

- Co-develop projects by scientists and community members
- Collect information on environmental or occupational exposure, or exposure-related disease of concern to the community
- Use this new information to support public health action
- Evaluate the project's processes or outcomes



"Neighborhood Assessment Team" members count truck volume and measure ultrafine particles in West Long Beach. Photo by Andrea Hricko

Building Skills to Strengthen Community-engaged Research

The Air Pollution Outreach, Education, and Research Capacity Building for Alaska Natives project between the University of Montana (UM) and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is working with seven rural Alaskan Native villages to teach community members about the importance of good air quality and the impact it can have on health.

The project is recruiting and training community residents, as well as teachers and students, to educate their communities about indoor air quality. By establishing this public health network, the project will support the understanding of air quality issues and, in turn, improve respiratory health.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this project will also create jobs at the ANTHC, the UM, and within the villages.

Fostering Bi-directional Communication

Several larger environmental health science research programs support integrated outreach offices, to establish and promote open communication between researchers and community residents.

For example, the San Francisco Bay Area Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Center Community Outreach and Translation Core (COTC) takes the community's concerns into account while conducting research and, in turn, translates and disseminates the research findings back to the communities so the results can be used to make informed personal decisions.

This bi-directional approach has led to research that addresses specific environmental exposures of concern to community groups and to the development of a video to improve the public's understanding about how and why mouse models are needed to study breast cancer.



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For more information on the PEPH program, visit <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/peph>