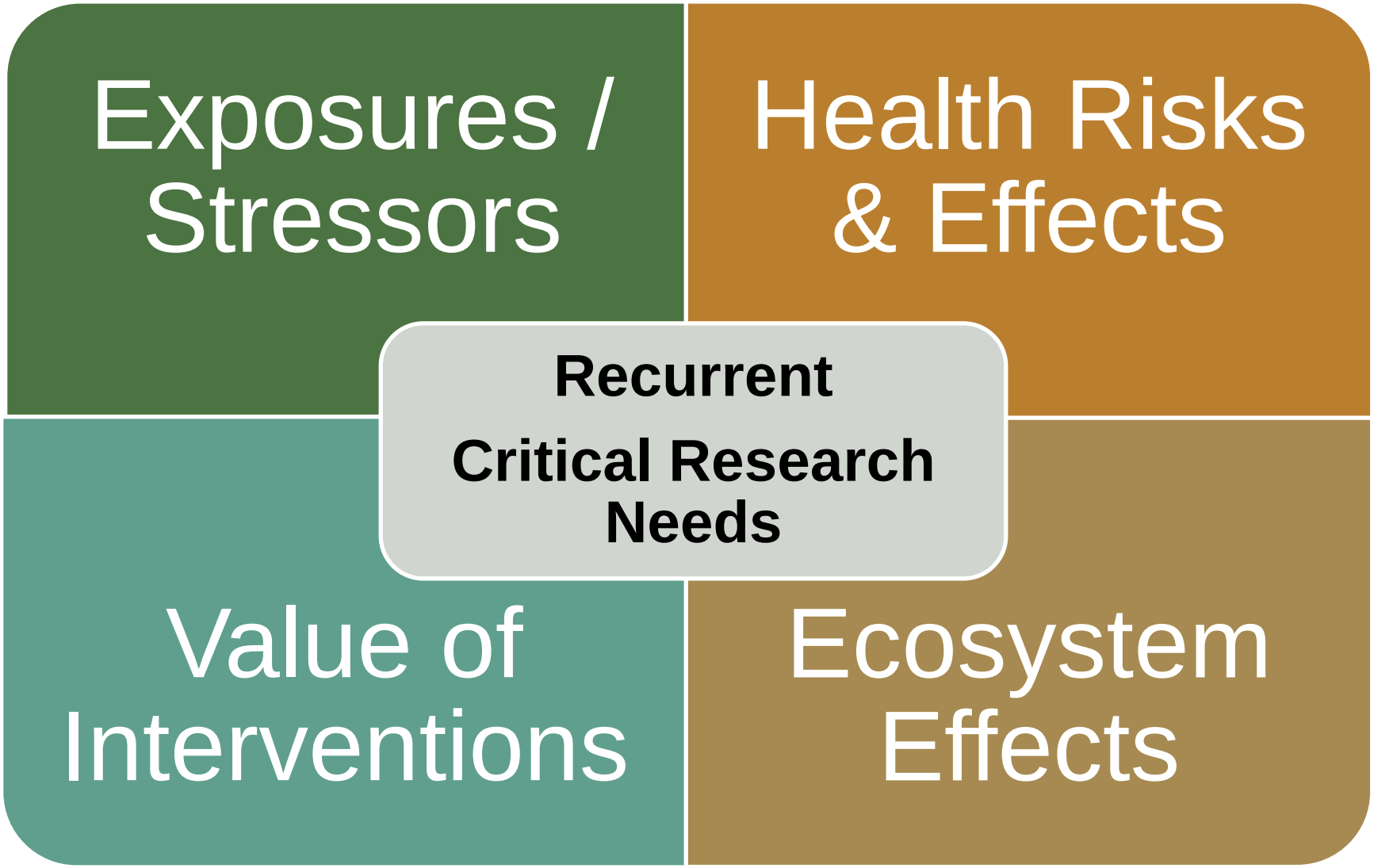
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Your Environment. Your Health.

NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Program

Regardless of the Disaster: Research is Vital!

"Timely research is critical to prevent injury & illness and support recovery"
Lurie, Manolio, Patterson, Collins, Frieden. NEJM Mar 2013



Need for Public Health & Earth Sciences Research

- **Is it safe?**
  - For whom, what, when, and where
  - Longer-term physical & mental health impacts
  - Safety of homes, residences, work places

- **Did our strategies work?**
  - Protect the public for the long-term
  - Restore the environment
  - Improve preparedness & recovery

World Trade Center 9/11/01

Widespread Contamination

Complex Mixed Exposures

Study: 27,500 Responders*

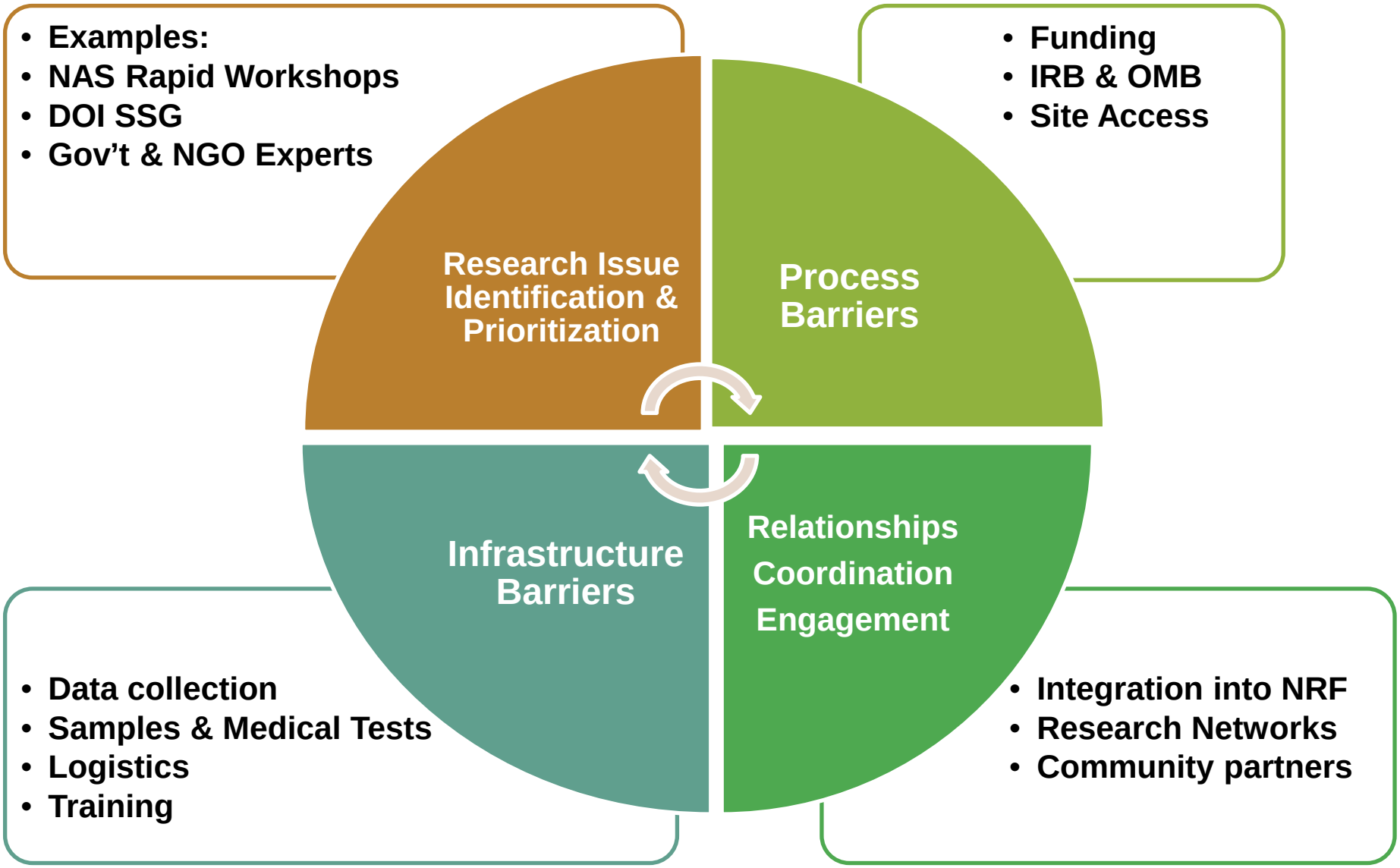
- **Asthma 28 %**
- **Sinusitis 42 %**
- **Lung Tests 42 %**
- **PTSD 9 %**
- **Panic 8 %**
- **Depression 28 %**

*Wisnivesky et al, 2011. Lancet. 378:9794:888-897

NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Project

Objectives

1. Identification of important research questions and priorities
2. Improved access to data collection tools for researchers
3. Improved NIEHS & partner capability to quickly collect data
4. Trained researchers versed in disaster tools and issues
5. Integration into planning and emergency response systems
6. Research process including public health, academia, and impacted workers and communities


• Examples:
• NAS Rapid Workshops
• DOI SSG
• Gov't & NGO Experts
• Funding
• IRB & OMB
• Site Access
Research Issue Identification & Prioritization
Process Barriers
Infrastructure Barriers
Relationships Coordination Engagement
• Data collection
• Samples & Medical Tests
• Logistics
• Training
• Integration into NRF
• Research Networks
• Community partners

NIH Disaster Research Response Program

New

Tools & Resources

Training & Exercises

Protocols

Networks

Collaborations & Projects

News & Events

http://dr2.nlm.nih.gov

Research Responder Training & Education

- **Training & Education** **"those involved in research/data collection"**

1. National response plans and HHS mechanisms
2. Training to use DR2 and other data collections tools, protocols, etc.
3. Site/Situation Specific Health and Safety Issues

- **Training Exercises** on identified scenarios and issues

Training Exercises

- **2014 Los Angeles & 2015 Houston**
- **Participants: federal, state, local, academia and community, industry**
- **Evaluate State and partner research capabilities & DR2 concepts & training tools**
- **Discussion: integration & issues of concern**

DR2 Outreach, Implementation, & Integration with Partners

Environmental Health Science (EHS) Network

What: working with our partners to…

- Help develop and prioritize DR2 concepts, tools, website, training materials
- Build off acute response "Public Health Practice" (surveillance, x-sectional surveys)
- Get timely environmental exposure and toxicology data to support health research

Who:

- ***New* EHS Network Workgroup**
  - NIEHS Training Program, Academic Centers, & Grantees
- **Federal Partners (HHS Agencies and Others)**
- **Other Stakeholders**
  - Public Health, Responders, & Community (incl. "citizen science")

THANK YOU!

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DR2 Project Webpage
http://dr2.nlm.nih.gov