



National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences

Your Environment. Your Health.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

For more than 50 years, NIEHS has built a solid scientific foundation for the environmental health sciences. This research improves societal understanding of how the environment affects health, and of benefits from reducing exposure to contaminants.

NIEHS research is unique because it offers hope for **preventing** disease and disability. You can change your environment to avoid harmful substances, even when you cannot change the genes you inherit from your family.

NIEHS Current Areas of Research

Preventing disease and disability

- Discovering connections between [genes and the environment](#) to determine why subtle differences in one person's genes can cause them to respond differently to the same environmental exposure as another person.
- Searching for environmental causes of breast cancer in the [Sister Study](#) and the [Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program](#). Preventing breast cancer is key to reducing its emotional, physical, and financial burden.
- Researching [PFAS](#) exposure sources to understand if and how these common chemicals may cause health problems.
- Studying disorders, such as [autism](#) and [obesity](#), to understand if there is a link to environmental factors that could be avoided.
- Supporting [children's environmental health](#) research focused on preconception, prenatal, and childhood exposures to certain chemicals, pollutants, nutrients, and activities. Investigating if chemical exposures during early life development are linked to diseases that occur in adults.

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Engaging communities

- The [Superfund Research Program](#) works to reduce or eliminate negative health effects from hazardous waste sites. Its grants aid in the creation of small businesses and “green” technologies, reuse of water and land in communities, and the formation of university–industry partnerships.
- NIEHS [Partnerships for Environmental Public Health \(PEPH\)](#) brings communities and scientists together.
- In the [Clinical Research Unit](#), NIEHS and local North Carolina universities collaborate to move laboratory science into disease prevention and treatment.
- NIEHS is developing innovative ways to explain and disseminate children’s environmental health research to health care professionals, educators, and communities.
- NIEHS addresses environmental health issues [globally](#).

Supporting new science

- Because people are exposed to many chemicals simultaneously, NIEHS and NTP are studying the health risks of [chemical mixtures](#).
- Developing innovative [data science](#) approaches is integral to the environmental health sciences and health initiatives.

Mission

Research to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives.

Vision

Provide global leadership for innovative research that improves public health by preventing disease and disability.

National Toxicology Program (NTP)

Headquartered at NIEHS, NTP is an interagency program that coordinates toxicology research and testing across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

NIEHS and NTP are co-located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Monthly Publications

The Environmental Factor is the NIEHS newsletter available online or by email. <https://factor.niehs.nih.gov>

Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by NIEHS. www.ehponline.org

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