Practical Solutions to Protect Human Health and the Environment From Toxic Chemicals

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Superfund Research Program (SRP) supports research that helps protect people and the environment from hazardous substances.

The NIEHS SRP provides grants to research universities and small businesses to solve complex environmental health problems, with the goals of:

- Reducing hazardous contaminant cleanup costs.
- Decreasing exposure to contaminants.
- Improving human health.

SRP-funded researchers develop, test, and implement unique approaches to:

- Identify and evaluate health effects of exposures. (Photo credit Duke University SRP Center)
- Assess health risks. (Photo credit University of Kentucky SRP Center)
- Detect contaminants in air, water, and soil. (Photo credit University of Arizona SRP Center)
- Reduce the amount and toxicity of contaminants. (Photo credit University of Iowa SRP Center)

Their efforts have resulted in significant human health, economic, and other wide-ranging benefits to communities and the environment.

SRP’s Multidisciplinary Systems Approach

- Community Engagement and Research Translation
- Biomedical Research
- Environmental Science and Engineering
- Data Science
- Training

What SRP Grantees Are Learning

- How to Prevent Disease: Interventions, nutrition, therapies
- How to Reduce Exposures: Remove and degrade contaminants
- How Exposures Affect Health: Cardiovascular disease, metabolic outcomes, neurological outcomes, cancer
- How People Are Exposed: Air, water, soil, food
- What People Are Exposed to: Organic and inorganic contaminants, metals, PFAS, emerging contaminants
- Other Contributing Factors: Microbiome, stress, built environment, complex exposures

PO Box 12233 • Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: 919-541-3345 • https://www.niehs.nih.gov
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National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
To learn more about these grant recipients, visit the SRP Who We Fund page at https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/programs.

Benefits of SRP-Funded Research

Exploring Adaptation
Revealed insight into how fish adapt to contaminated water

Promoting Health
Revealed the role of nutrition in reducing harmful effects of exposures

Novel Therapeutic Targets
Identified target for promising new therapies for wide-ranging diseases

Sustainable Cleanup
Developed innovative approaches to enhance the ability of trees to degrade pollutants

Informing Policies
Informed a drinking water health advisory for PFAS, issued by the U.S. Environment Protection Agency

Reducing Toxicity
Developed a technology that can bind to contaminants in the body and reduce exposures

Helping Assessors Predict Risk
Developed new approach to predict toxicity of chemicals based on shared chemical characteristics

Making Remediation More Efficient
Deployed a technology that uses activated carbon and bacteria to clean up contaminated sediments

To learn more about these and other projects, please visit the SRP Public Health Impacts page: https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/centers/srp/phi

To learn more about the Superfund Research Program, please visit the SRP website: https://www.niehs.nih.gov/srp

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