

**2004 ATSDR PARTNERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH MEETING  
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS  
ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED TOPICS RANKED BY NUMBER OF VOTES IN NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**Chemical Specific**

- Pesticides (37)
- Dioxins (35)
- Health implications of pharmaceuticals and personal-care products in the environment (32)
- Arsenic (30)
- PCBs (28)
- PAHs (25)
- Mercury (21)
- Contaminants from the disposal of electronic equipment (16)
- Brominated flame retardants (11)
- Perfluorooctane compounds (11)
- Perchlorate (3)
- Lead (2)
- TCE (2)
- Current listing of chemicals we still know nothing about (1)
- Environmental chemicals that may cause cancer (1)
- Fire smoke (1)
- Mold (1)
- Radionuclides (1)

**Development of Needs Assessments**

- What basic health education principles can be used to strengthen communities' ability to meet their own needs? (30)
- Expanding the boundaries of the environmental health education needs assessment (26)
- What are the components of a needs assessment? (24)
- Health assessor-assisted community-based needs assessments (23)
- Why do a needs assessment? (17)
- What is a windshield tour? (12)
- Who is responsible for collecting secondary data? (12)
- Who are the gatekeepers? (11)
- General information (5)
- EPA's revitalization efforts at Superfund sites (1)
- How to develop and implement health education interventions to promote behavior change in populations associated with sites (1)

**Health Professional Education**

- New strategies to reach the medical community (32)
- CDCynergy environmental health edition: partners training (20)
- The case studies in environmental medicine use profile (19)
- Chemical terrorism (18)
- Emergency preparedness (18)
- Formative research: reaching the target audience (17)
- Disaster planning (16)
- Current competencies and curricula (12)
- Are CMEs really effective in increasing knowledge? (1)
- Children's environmental health (1)
- RN training (1)
- Ways to show how local environmental health professionals are affected by terrorism (1)

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**Changes Within ATSDR**

- Future of cooperative agreement program with administrative consolidation, new directions, new opportunities, performance measures, new program announcement (45)
- ATSDR/NCEH administrative consolidation (40)
- Where we started, what we have learned, where we are now, where we are going (37)
- SCOPE sites (communication, team member roles, working in a team) (24)

**Risk Communication**

- Environmental justice and the health assessor/risk communicator (38)
- What do we hope communities gain as a result of our efforts? (36)
- What are the expected outcomes of risk communication? (33)
- How to communicate health risk and health preventive messages to a community affected by asbestos-related illness—a case study (21)
- Update (11)
- How to communicate risk from emergency situations (e.g., west Nile, suspected terrorist attacks including hoaxes) (1)

**Community Health Education**

- Strategies to promote increased awareness and behavior change (33)
- Design primer—how to improve health education materials (27)
- Development of a site health education plan (24)
- Mediation and negotiation: tips for site work (21)
- Social determinants and environmental health promotion (21)
- Environmental information to educate public (1)
- New strategies to reach community members (1)
- Strategies for helping underserved communities to obtain needed services (1)

**Health Education Emerging Issues and Initiatives**

- Competencies for health educators doing environmental health (29)
- The interface between health education and promotion and environmental health—emerging themes (28)
- Setting a scientific agenda for environmental health education (23)
- Performance indicators (19)
- Public policy (16)
- Scientific issues research (14)

**Ongoing Research**

- ATSDR (37)
- States and other cooperative agreement partners (28)
- NCEH (26)
- Local and community (15)
- University partners (15)
- Bridging the gap between research and practice (1)
- Grants/funding opportunities for states/partners (e.g., asthma grant from CDC) (1)
- EPA database in vapor intrusion? Lessons learned yet? (1)

**Public Health Assessment (PHA)**

- Factoring in “quality of life” when evaluating public health threat at sites (47)
- Status of the new PHA guidance manual (36)
- Community checklist (30)
- Action-oriented categories (proposed by two ATSDR working groups on this topic) vs. current decision categories (1)
- Factoring cultural impacts (1)
- PHA process: collecting data, evaluating data, document writing, preparing tables and figures (1)
- Releasing a PHA: initial, public, and final releases (1)

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**ATSDR Strategic and Performance Plans**

- ATSDR's strategic plan and how the partners fit in (28)
- GPRA and ATSDR strategic plan—how ATSDR reporting needs have changed; revised reporting requirements (27)
- DHHS/ATSDR strategic plan (21)
- Identifying realistic indicators that can be used to determine our effectiveness and a practical mechanism for capturing and measuring them, including reporting in STARS and for spontaneous requests, such as OMB PART audits (20)
- OMB PART audits (7)
- President's Management Plan (6)

**Plain Language**

- Communicating in a high-stress environment (Message Mapping) (41)
- Examples of alternative materials developed to communicate risk to low-literacy audiences (36)
- Working with the media (24)
- Communicating with other cultures (1)
- How to use readability formulas; strengths and weaknesses of different formulas (especially weaknesses with Word's built-in formula) (1)

**Statistical Issues**

- Small-number analysis (36)
- GIS (31)
- Sampling issues (30)
- Update on epi studies for small communities (1)

**Health Outcome Data (HOD)**

- How does HIPAA apply to our work with individuals at our sites who share medical information with us? (36)
- Strengths and limitations of HOD; what is available and when to use HOD (30)
- How does HIPAA apply to the work we do? (25)
- Availability of resources for state HOD (e.g., some states have asthma HOD) (1)
- HIPAA is very important, as HIPAA training in MI seems to indicate that the ATSDR work we do is exempt from most of HIPAA's regs (1)

**Disease Specific**

- Birth defects and reproductive outcomes (23)
- Asthma (18)
- Cancer (17)
- MS and ALS (15)
- Lupus (12)
- Central nervous system disease (1)
- Dermal diseases (1)
- Diabetes (1)
- How contamination can affect immunologic response (1)
- Multiple chemical sensitivities (1)
- Other environmental exposure relationships to autoimmune diseases (1)
- SARS (1)

**STARS**

- Migration to HazDat (23)
- STARS database training (20)
- Critical fields (18)
- QA/QC (17)
- New Windows-based HazDat (1)
- Q&A session on problem areas, clarification on what info goes where (1)

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- SCOPE and STARS (1)
- “What’s New/Tips” (1)

**Community Involvement/Community Evaluation**

- Precautionary principles surrounding health assessment and community evaluation (43)
- Community HANES as a functional activity of environmental health assessment (28)
- Disease/exposure prevention strategies (1)
- How to provide communities with knowledge of contaminants in basic terms (1)

**Emerging Issues in Human Biomonitoring**

- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) (24)
- New chemicals (e.g., brominated flame retardants) (19)
- Retrospective time trends for chemicals (17)
- New or appropriate human matrices (14)
- Children’s environmental health (1)
- Perchlorate (1)

**Breakout Session(s) To Network and To Discuss New and Trendy Topics in the Field**

- Environmental health scientists and other related professions (27)
- Health educators, health communicators, community involvement specialists, and other related professions (25)
- Epidemiologists, statisticians, and other related professions (16)
- Behavioral scientists and other related professions (6)

**Breakout Session(s) To Network and To Discuss Program-Specific Issues**

- 1043 Cooperative Agreement Program (28)
- Tribal programs (15)
- Community/Tribal Subcommittee (11)
- Cooperative agreements with universities (9)
- National organizations (7)
- PEHSU reps (1)

**Fish Consumption**

- Fish and exposure pathways (25)
- Advisories (20)
- Subsistence fishing (20)
- Establishing trigger levels for dioxins in fish (1)
- Overall quality of fish available on the market (1)
- Sediment contamination and fish (1)

**Using Technology**

- Using the Internet to find environmental health information and databases (24)
- ATSDR as a Web-based toolbox for risk communication, health education, and community involvement (23)
- Evidence-based guidelines for Web design (13)
- Web evaluation methods 101 (9)

**Brownfields**

- Presentation of draft ATSDR brownfields strategy (38)
- Discussion of next steps in the ATSDR brownfields program (17)
- General information (6)

**Communication and Outreach—New Strategies and Developments**

- The differing voices of science, education, and communication (30)
- Focus panel: when scientists and communicators collide (18)
- Listserv/e-mail discussion groups (10)

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- General information (3)
- What Listservs are currently available? What Listservs are recommended for health assessors? For health educators? For community involvement specialists? (1)

**Risk Assessment**

- How can the different approaches to risk assessment between ATSDR and EPA be productively coordinated when working together at a site? (54)
- Community participation (1)
- How risk assessment for ATSDR's new OMB mandate for verifying outcomes is to be implemented (1)
- Incorporating communities' risk perceptions with the equation (1)

**Epidemiology 101**

- Disease cluster investigations (37)
- Overview of health studies that may be recommended in a health assessment with real-world examples (1)
- No case studies, just how epi is done, the terms, how to distinguish a good study from a bad, etc. (1)

**Exposure Investigations**

- Funding (19)
- OMB clearance (16)
- General information (3)
- Combining several exposure investigations and health consultations when done at same site or sites; combined risk (1)
- Community input (1)
- Difference between OMB and IRB clearances, how can human subject research be exempted by IRB (1)

**Health Disparities**

- Hard-to-reach or hardly reached: communication strategies to address disparities (38)
- Communities at risk: the role of the environment in health disparities (1)
- Including hard-to-reach environmental health professionals (1)
- Strategies to address Native American disparities (1)
- Strategies to increase access and capacity of affected populations (1)

**Chemical Mixtures**

- DT's new guidelines (32)
- General information (5)
- Actual use of DT's guidance in a PHA or HC (1)
- Cumulative risk assessment (1)
- PCB and lead (1)

**Sampling Issues**

- New analytical techniques and laboratory issues (LODs, etc.) (24)
- Specimen banking for future studies (9)
- How do various states use and interpret surface soil data from x-ray fluorescence instruments? (1)
- Understanding validity of sample data in terms of assessing exposure and health impact (1)

**Vapor Intrusion (VI)**

- General information (14)
- EPA methodology, EPA's latest memo (2)
- Case study with community involvement at VI sites (1)
- Communication of vapor risk (1)
- Groundwater contaminated with VOCs migrating into houses via vapor intrusion—how to assess risk, and how to sample (i.e., quarterly for seasonal functions etc.) (1)
- Hartford, IL, case study? (1)
- How/when? (1)
- Soil gas modeling (1)
- TCE (1)
- Testing clarification (1)

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- Update on ATSDR guidance development (1)
- Update on ATSDR method development (1)
- Update on EPA database of VI sites (1)
- What's background in indoor air? (1)
- When to suspect vapor intrusion (1)
- Where are we with TCE toxicology? (1)

**Bioterrorism**

- Panel discussion with NCEH, ATSDR/DHAC, and ATSDR/DT (24)
- General information (3)
- Chemical and radiologic preparedness activities (1)
- Presentation of strategies and agency protocols (1)
- Where is ATSDR going with funding for next cooperative agreement cycle? (1)

**Environmental Health Tracking (EHT)**

- General information (13)
- ATSDR progress in EHT (1)
- ATSDR/CDC involvement with Trust for America's Health initiatives (1)
- ATSDR's role in environmental health tracking grant (1)
- Chronic diseases (1)
- Examples from states (1)
- Future such as using EPA Envirofacts (1)
- Industry-specific EHT (1)
- Lead screening (1)
- Neurodegenerative diseases (1)
- Practical linkages to health assessment data needs (1)
- Some states that have implemented EHT: overview of their program (1)
- Understanding the difference between correlation, association, and causation (1)
- Update from ongoing projects (1)
- Update on state demonstration projects (1)
- Updates from Centers of Excellence (1)
- Weakness, pitfalls such as using TRI (1)

**Biomarkers**

- General information (15)
- Arsenic (1)
- Bone lead (1)
- Breast milk burdens (1)
- Coordination with NCEH exposure lab (1)
- Fat as storage receptors (1)
- Interpreting results from different biomarker tests (which test is most sensitive, which is most accurate) (1)
- Lead (1)
- Pros and cons of chelation based on biomarker results (1)
- Status of funding for state lab expansion in area of biomonitoring (1)
- TCE (1)
- The use/abuse of biomarker tests by environmental physicians (1)

**Electronic Health Consultation Format**

- Consult checklist (13)
- General information (7)
- How to use Word's Track Changes feature (1)

**Emergency Response and Preparedness**

- Tribal concerns (16)
- Chemical releases (1)

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**New Trends in Health Assessment Activities**

- General information (6)
- Air permits (1)
- Background levels and sources (household and outside) and the attributable risk due to site contaminant exposures above background (1)
- Community input (1)
- Community representatives as part of the site team—the norm, not the exception (1)
- Dealing with electronic media (1)
- Environmental data QA/QC concerns (1)
- GIS and spatial analysis (1)
- Impacts of potential exposure in noncategory 1 or 2 sites on community health (1)
- Precautionary principle (1)
- Site visits (1)
- Soil gas monitoring (1)
- Synergism effects (1)
- The public health implications of ATSDR focus on regulatory risk methods/criteria, rather than disease/exposure prevention (1)

**Protocol Development/Peer Review Policy**

- General information (6)
- Go to the source to find out what is needed in the communities (1)
- Guidance document for developing exposure investigations and health studies (1)
- Health consultations (1)
- How does one get a paper published through ATSDR? (1)
- Overview of new PR policy (1)
- Protocol development within CDC/ATSDR (1)
- Public health assessments (1)
- Working with the Community/Tribal Subcommittee (1)

**Capacity Building and Partnership Development**

- Opportunities for health educators to link up with each other and network/exchange ideas (29)
- Social marketing for environmental health promotion (29)
- New collaborations and partnerships (24)
- How to build relationships with state departments of health (21)
- Pointers on working well with university partners, either when you invite them in or when someone else does (21)
- Developing and nurturing relationships with grass-roots organizations (1)
- How to build relationships with impacted communities (1)
- Partnering with community groups, universities, and health departments (1)
- Relationship with the medical community (1)
- TOSC (Technical Outreach Services for Communities) program as an ATSDR partner (1)
- Working with/involving local health agencies when they don't want help or don't want to be involved (1)

**Common Misconceptions About ATSDR**

- General information (3)
- How we are SIMILAR to EPA/regulatory agencies (screening values, etc.) as well as how we differ (1)
- How we are different from NCEH, besides being formed via Superfund legislation (1)
- Their [ATSDR's] effectiveness quantified (1)

**Genomics**

- General information (6)
- Links to environmental disease (1)
- Microarray technology (1)