

Public Health Assessment Process

California Department of Public Health

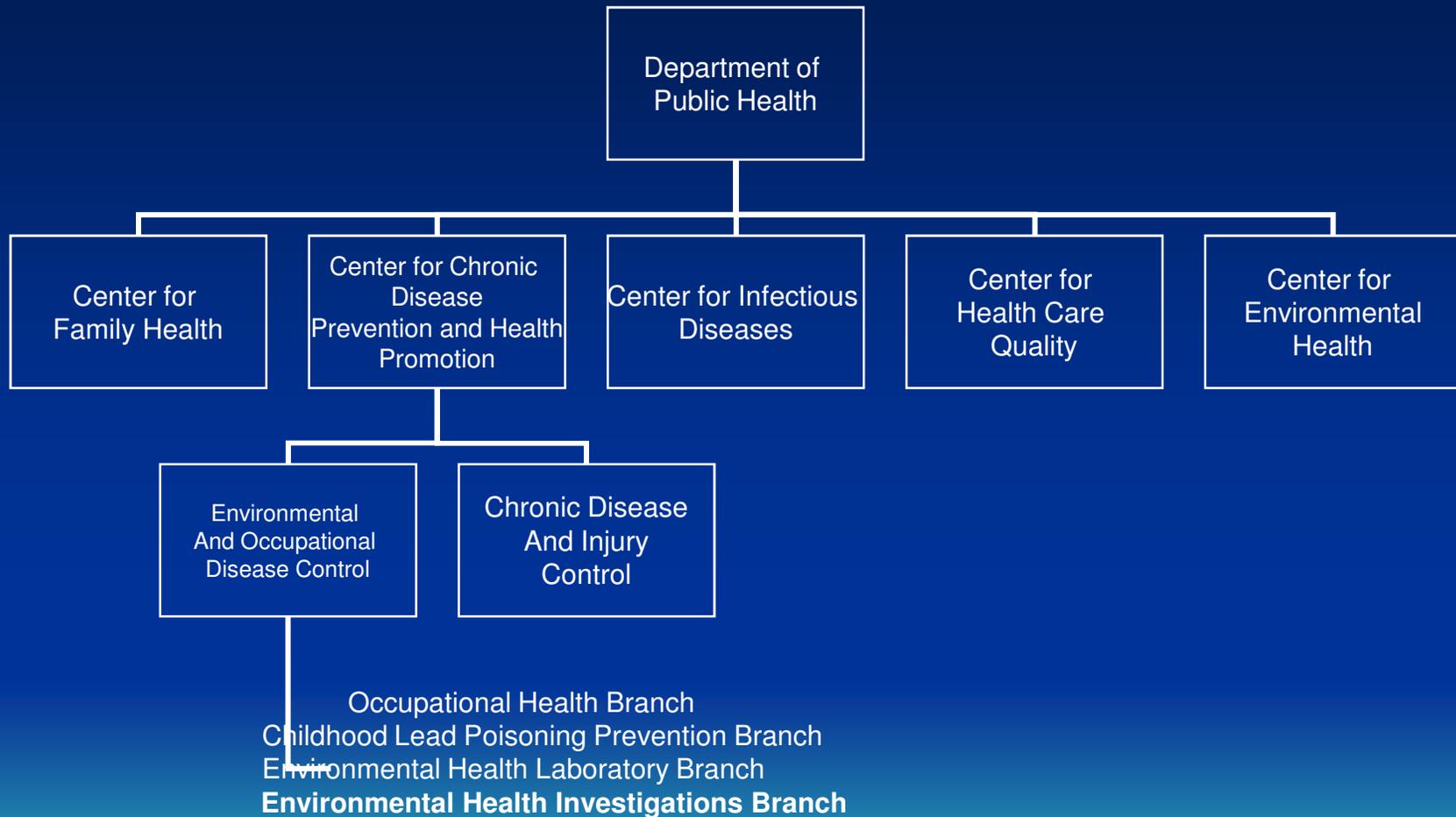


Overview

- Who we are
- Background and Mission
- Public Health Assessment
 - Definition
 - Process
 - Conclusion



What part of state government are we from?



Mission of the Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB)

To identify and work toward controlling harmful environmental factors, and to promote those that are healthful.



EHIB & the Public Health Assessment *Background*

Since 1990, the state health department has received funding from the federal agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), to investigate health impacts to communities living around hazardous waste sites.



Major ATSDR Responsibilities at Sites

- Health Assessments
- Health Education
- Health Investigations
- Health Surveillance and Registry Programs

www.atsdr.cdc.gov



ATSDR Health Assessment Definition

- Evaluate data
- Assess any past, current, or future impact on public health,
- Make health recommendations and develop health advisories
- Identify studies or actions needed to prevent human health effects.



Health Assessment and Risk Assessment

- **Site-specific focused**
- **Identification of site related health problems and community concerns**
- **Recommendations to stop or prevent human exposures**
- **Focuses on past, current, and future exposures**

- **Clean-up focused**
- **Identification of health risk number**
- **Calculation of site clean-up levels**
- **Establishment of remediation alternatives list**
- **Focuses on current and probability of future exposures**
- **www.epa.gov/risk**

Health Assessment Process

- Evaluate site characteristics
- Determine community concerns
- Decide what chemicals to be concerned with: “contaminants of concern”
- Identify “exposure pathways”
- Conclusions and recommendations



Sources of Information for the Health Assessment



Environmental Data

- Sampling data: government and industry
- Identification of contaminants
- On-site and off-site contamination
- “Exposure pathway”



Exposure Pathways

Source of Chemicals

Contaminated Media

- Air
- Water
- Soil
- Food

Contact with the Media

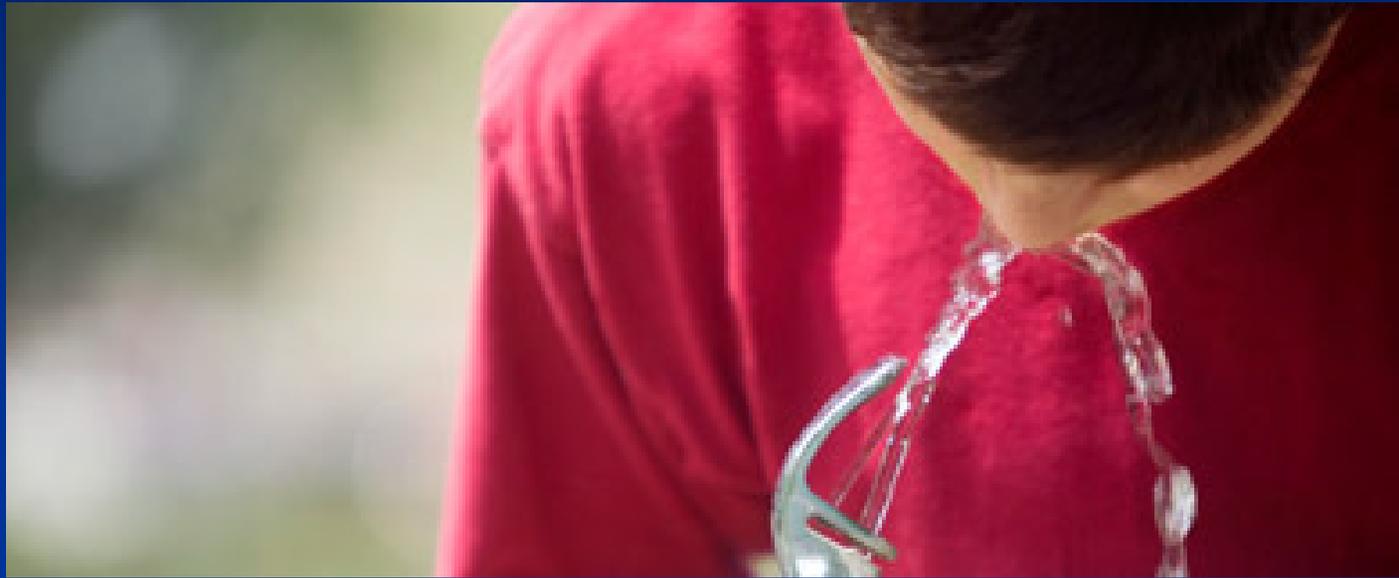
- Ingestion
- Skin Contact
- Breathing

Exposure Assessment

- Exposure Amount
- Chemical Toxicity

Health Impact

Your Community Water Is Safe



Community Health Concerns

- Gather health concerns
- Respond to health concerns



Public Health Assessments



A flowchart illustrating the components of Public Health Assessments. At the top is a large blue box with the title 'Public Health Assessments'. Below it, four smaller white boxes with blue borders are arranged in a descending staircase pattern. Each box is connected to the one above it by a large blue arrow pointing downwards. The boxes contain the following text: 1. 'Health Consultations' and 'Health Advisories'. 2. 'Health Education-Community and Health Care'. 3. 'Toxicological Profiles', 'Toxicological Research', and 'Case Studies'. 4. 'Health Studies', 'National Exposure Registry', and 'Medical Evaluation Program'. The background of the slide features a dark blue gradient at the top, transitioning to a lighter blue and then a brown mountain range silhouette at the bottom.

Health Consultations
Health Advisories

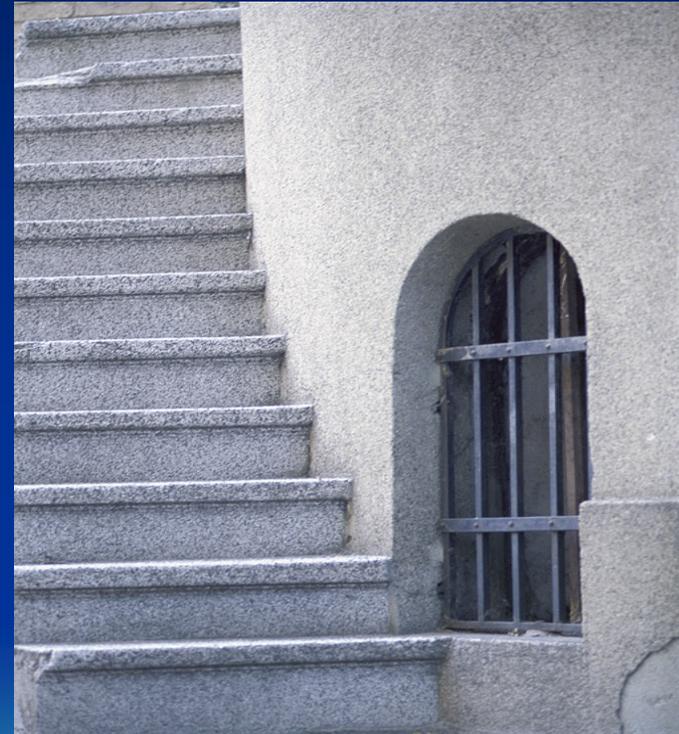
Health Education-
Community and
Health Care

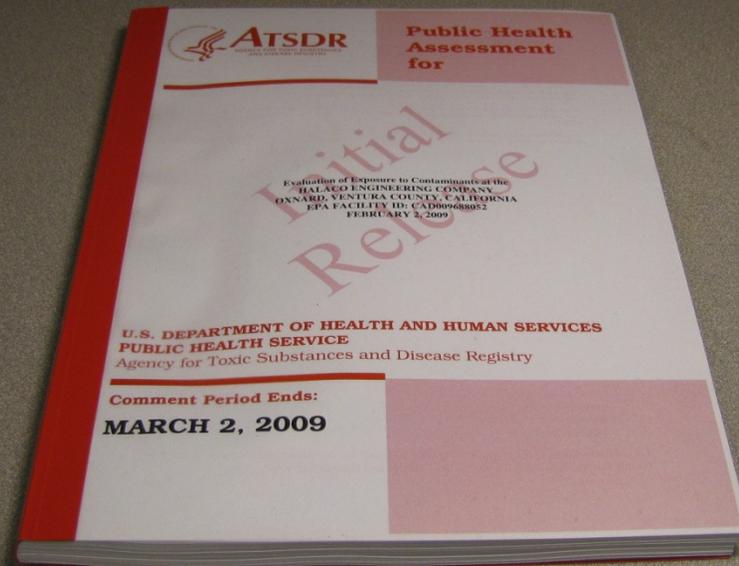
Toxicological Profiles
Toxicological Research
Case Studies

Health Studies
National Exposure Registry
Medical Evaluation Program

Final Steps

- Public health assessment are first reviewed by both the CDPH and ATSDR.
- After reviews are completed, the document is released and for 30 days, public comments can be provided.
- Once 30 days have passed, comments are added and the document is final.





Contacts

Russell Bartlett, *Health Assessor*
(510) 620-3671

Russell.Bartlett@cdph.ca.gov

Nancy Palate, *Community Health Educator*
(510) 620-5845

Nancy.Palate@cdph.ca.gov

Dr. Marilyn Underwood, *Toxicologist*
(510) 620-3610

Marilyn.Underwood@cdph.ca.gov





FROM EXPOSURE TO ILLNESS: COMMUNITY HEALTH STUDIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

basics about
**CONTAMINANTS
& HEALTH**

WELCOME

health study
ESSENTIALS

basic information
about health studies in
communities exposed to
contaminants

when is a
health study
APPROPRIATE?



can a study
MAKE THE LINK?

health study
EXAMPLES

**EXPLORING
OPTIONS:**
a case study

**ALTERNATIVES
to health studies**