

Updates & Improvements to EPA's America's Children and the Environment

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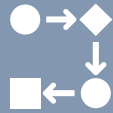
CHPAC's ACE Recommendations (Recap)

“Moving forward, ACE must distinguish itself from existing data platforms and reports, reframe itself as an authoritative source of timely and relevant information on children’s environmental health, and draw renewed attention to children’s environmental health issues.”

Since CHPAC’s February 2023 letter outlining recommendations to improve ACE, OCHP has...

- ✓ Responded formally to the letter outlining a plan of action
- ✓ Developed a detailed implementation plan
- ✓ Focused resources and secured contractors for support
- ✓ Hosted a virtual workshop to inform incorporation of Environmental Justice considerations
- ✓ Performed initial vetting of proposed new indicators and plans to expand demographics on existing indicators
- ✓ Created an internal EPA workgroup
- ✓ Coordinating with other EPA indicators and federal agencies to distinguish ACE from existing resources
- ✓ Developed a new communication plan

Overview of the ACE Improvement Process



Create Internal Process and Solicit Input



Select Core & Existing Indicators



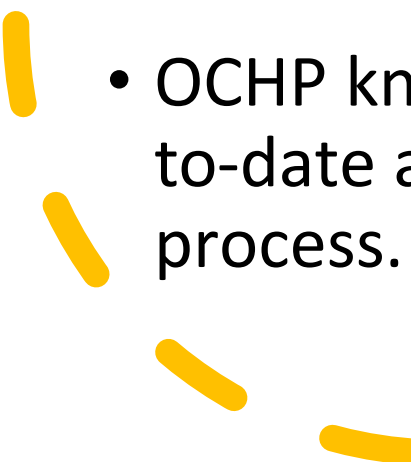
Review New Indicators



Implement New Communication Approaches



Create Internal Processes & Solicit Input

- OCHP has created an internal workgroup to review potential indicators and provide expert feedback.
 - OCHP is defining a new approach to messaging and coordination with other resources to improve the uniqueness of ACE in the future.
 - OCHP is working to develop a subset of “core” indicators per CHPAC’s recommendation.
 - OCHP knows that not all the current indicators are as essential or up-to-date and will look to retire several indicators as part of the review process.
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Create Internal Processes & Solicit Input

Environmental Justice Workshop

- Assembled experts from academia, NGOs and federal government to garner feedback on:
 - Improving EJ aspects of ACE
 - Identifying potential new indicators
- Key feedback in areas such as:
 - Choosing demographic characteristics on which to stratify indicators
 - How criteria should be evolved to include more quality data sources
 - New indicators or topics for special feature
- Going forward, adopted input for:
 - List of new indicators
 - Enhanced communications strategy

Select Core & Existing Indicators

- Include more granularity in existing indicators to better showcase impacts to children and subpopulations of children in vulnerable communities
- Establish a core portfolio of indicators that provide in depth analysis of a particular pollutant known to disproportionately impact children and children in underserved communities.
- Include more localized data using established EPA tools to improve ACE's utility as a policy informing resource.
- Improve the visualizations and presentation formats across all indicators to increase usability and deliver more value to stakeholder communities.

Environments and Contaminants

Discover trends related to air pollutants, drinking water contamination, and chemicals in food.

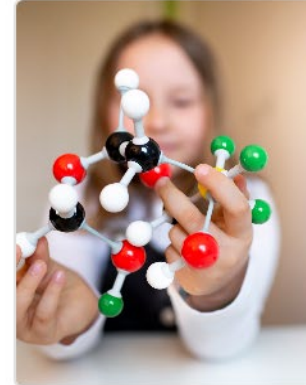
Environments and Contaminants



Biomonitoring

Learn about trends in pollutant levels like lead, mercury, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), and more in children and reproductive aged women.

Biomonitoring



Health

View trends in childhood cancer, adverse birth outcomes, respiratory diseases, and other health related topics.

Health



Supplementary Topics

Explore trends in birth defects observed in Texas and contaminants in Ohio, North Carolina and California schools and childcare settings.

Supplemental Topics



Review New Indicators

Review Criteria

1. Identification of a Quality Data Source that Can be Portrayed Over Time
2. Based on Important Issues in Children's Environmental Health
3. National in Scope and Representative of all U.S. Children
4. Value to Known Environmental Justice Priorities and Stratified by Demographics
5. Cost and Sustainability

Review New Indicators

Potential New Indicators

- *Heat Related Illnesses (Climate Change/Health)*
- *Select PFAS Monitoring Data from Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (Environments and Contaminants)*
- *Select Organophosphate pesticides metabolites in urine for children 6-21 years of age (Biomonitoring)*
- *Cadmium blood levels in children (Biomonitoring)*
- *Radon in Homes (Health)*
- *Infant Mortality (Health)*
- *Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy (Health/Supplemental)*
- *Healthy Homes Index (Supplemental)*
- *Children in Flood Zones (Climate Change)*



Implement New Communication Approaches

- **Build** new tools that will distinguish ACE from existing federal environmental indicators and will provide dynamic insights to children environmental health issues.
- **Improve** existing communication tools that have already been developed for ACE, specifically the website and connections between pollutants and health outcomes.
- **Increase** ACE's utility to the scientific community and key stakeholders such as PEHSUs, NGOs, federal, state, and local policymakers, and the public.
- **Develop** resources that emphasize ACE's mission and EPA priorities. Ensure that ACE can be used by EPA and the stakeholder community to further the reach and impact of children's environmental health indicators.
- **Raise** ACE program and resource awareness through targeted outreach and leveraging of EPA's position as a leader on children's environmental health issues.

Next Steps (6 Month Outlook)

