



AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY (ATSDR) | ANNUAL REPORT 2017

# INVESTIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY HEALTH



40  
STATES

121  
INVESTIGATIONS

1.2  
MILLION LIVES

## ATSDR Improves the Quality of Life in Communities Across America

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) works to protect Americans from the dangerous health effects of toxic substances in the environment. ATSDR responds to requests from federal, state, and local governments to help **identify environmental hazards, recommend actions to reduce exposures, and educate the public** about how to prevent harmful exposures that can lead to harmful health effects in their communities.

### ATSDR IMPACTS OVER A MILLION LIVES NATIONWIDE

In 2017 alone, **we conducted health activities and investigations in nearly 40 states and territories.** Nearly 1.2 million people were potentially impacted by exposures at sites where ATSDR worked.



## **Respond**

We **collaborate with local, tribal, state, territorial and federal agencies** to address environmental emergencies across the country and **partnering with communities**. In 2017, ATSDR responded to **over 500 requests for assistance** across the United States.

## **Investigate**

**ATSDR investigates environmental hazards** that have the potential to affect anywhere from a few individuals to more than 100,000 people. Not every ATSDR investigation discovers harmful levels of contaminants. In fact, only about **44% of our investigations in 2017 discovered harmful levels of contaminants** (53 out of 121 investigations).

## **Protect**

ATSDR invests in protecting people and saving lives by ensuring clean air to breathe, water to drink, and food to eat. To accomplish this, **we evaluate exposure problems in communities, identify risk factors, develop prevention strategies, and support adoption of these strategies** by other federal, state, and/or local agencies, to prevent and reduce exposure to the health threat.

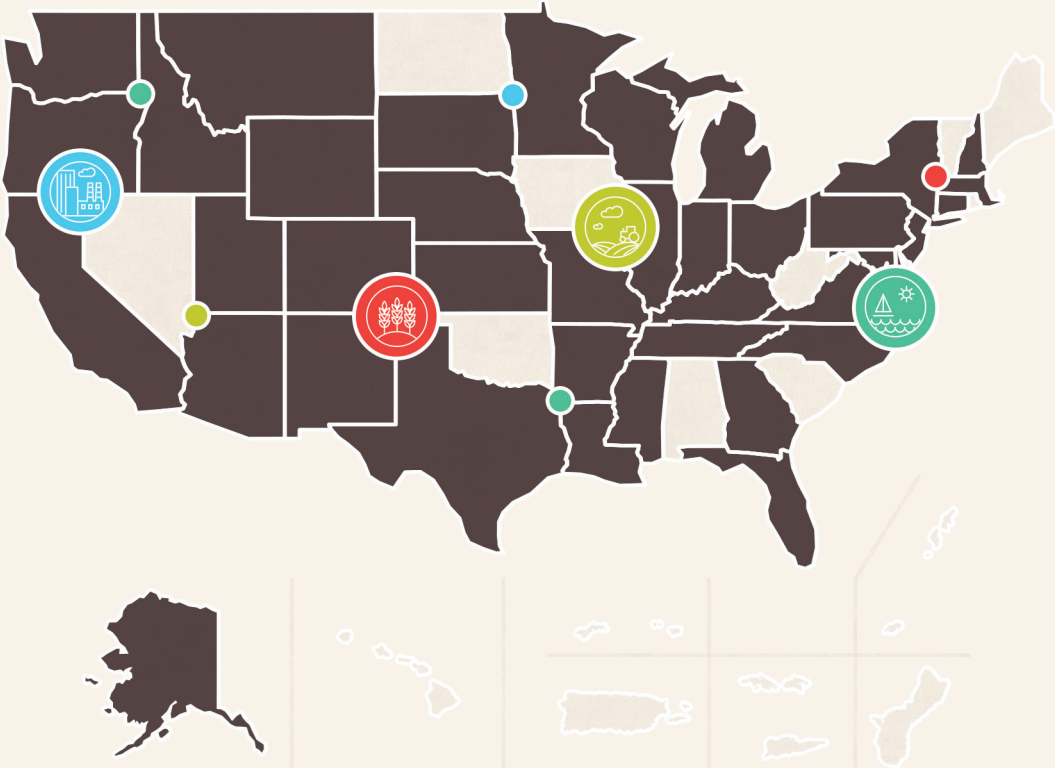
## **Prevent**

ATSDR cares for the communities it serves by making **long-term investments** that lead to **sustainable community impacts**.

# Investigations by Pathway

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Each pathway may carry different  
contaminants and negative  
health outcomes.





## AIR

Individuals can inhale **contaminants** when they're **released** in to the **air** from contaminated **sources**.

### BY THE NUMBERS

ATSDR CONDUCTED

**37**

INVESTIGATIONS

ACROSS

**16**

U.S. STATES  
and TERRITORIES

AND ASSESSED

**560K**

PEOPLE for  
POTENTIAL EXPOSURES



## WATER

Man-made **chemicals** and naturally occurring **elements** and **minerals** can get into **groundwater**, **surface water**, and **drinking water** in various ways. For example, **manufacturing** processes or **improper disposal** of chemicals can lead to them **leaching** into groundwater or surface water.

### BY THE NUMBERS

ATSDR CONDUCTED

**49**

INVESTIGATIONS

ACROSS

**20**

U.S. STATES  
and TERRITORIES

AND ASSESSED

**425K**

PEOPLE for  
POTENTIAL EXPOSURES



## SOIL

People may come into contact with contaminants when **natural elements** found in rocks and **fertilizer** as well as man-made chemical compounds make their way into the **soil**. Sometimes contaminants may also **naturally** occur in soil.

### BY THE NUMBERS

ATSDR CONDUCTED

**45**

INVESTIGATIONS

ACROSS

**24**

U.S. STATES  
and TERRITORIES

AND ASSESSED

**327K**

PEOPLE for  
POTENTIAL EXPOSURES



## FOOD

Contaminants can **accumulate** in **food sources** such as the tissue of animals, fish, fish eating birds, or **contaminated soil** where food is grown.

### BY THE NUMBERS

ATSDR CONDUCTED

**29**

INVESTIGATIONS

ACROSS

**13**

U.S. STATES  
and TERRITORIES

AND ASSESSED

**552K**

PEOPLE for  
POTENTIAL EXPOSURES

# Success Stories

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## **ATSDR Helps Harvey and Maria Survivors Get Much-Needed Disaster Relief**

In 2017, ATSDR was asked to help support the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and CDC's efforts in Hurricane affected areas. ATSDR staff worked with state and federal agencies to aid hurricane survivors and support recovery efforts in hurricane stricken areas including Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



## **ATSDR Leads Charge to Reduce PFAS Exposure**

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s. They have been used in non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, some firefighting foams, and products that resist grease, water, and oil.



# Summary

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In responding to concerns about the effect toxic substances have on at-risk populations, ATSDR successfully:



**Addresses issues**

found in air, water, soil, and food pathways.



**Increases awareness**

of environmental issues affecting public health.



**Customizes**

recommendations that can improve health in a specific community.



**Empowers residents**

to keep their communities safe from future exposures to environmental hazards.

Good health is the foundation upon which thriving communities are built, making them more productive, engaged, and resilient.

**ATSDR and its partners work to help communities that have been impacted by harmful chemical exposures to thrive again.**

**Learn more about what ATSDR does to make a positive health impact in communities all across the country**

## Learn More

Learn more about what ATSDR does to make a positive health impact in communities all across the country.

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)

**800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)**

**TTY 888-232-6348**

[WWW.CDC.GOV/CDC-INFO](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/CDC-INFO)

