

Safeguarding Communities from Harmful Chemicals

ATSDR in Action to Protect Communities Across the Nation

San Antonio, TX

ATSDR provided a grant to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) that allowed them to hire community organizers to conduct grassroots outreach and implement an ATSDR action model for brownfields redevelopment. As a result, the city was able to develop a list of brownfields sites by category, increase trust between the health district and its residents, and establish a strong partnership between its departments on how to begin the brownfields redevelopment process.

Ft Valley, GA

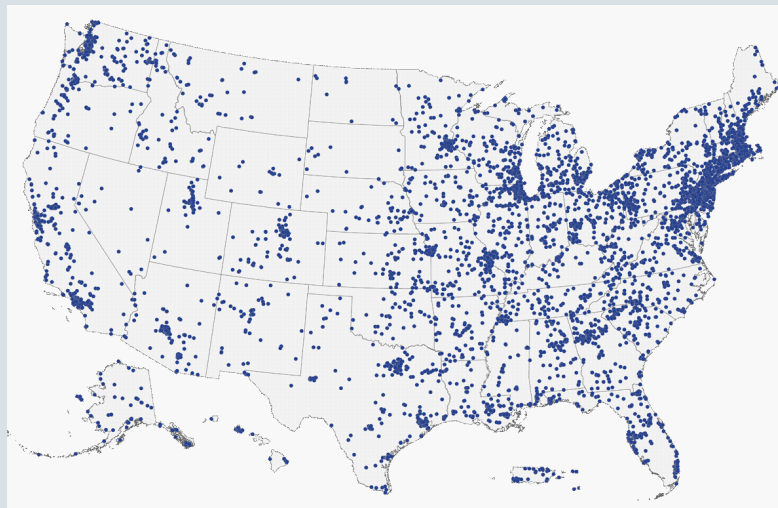
ATSDR conducted a science-based evaluation to help determine the health risk to residents in Fort Valley where pesticides had contaminated drinking wells and surface soil. To protect public health, the water supply was discontinued and alternate drinking water sources (e.g. bottle water) were provided by the Environmental Protection Agency. ATSDR worked with the state health department to provide health education to the community on ways to protect themselves while gardening and ways to connect with local physicians.

Chicago, IL

ATSDR evaluated the levels of lead in a Chicago community and their potential impact on health. Using ATSDR's findings that lead levels were too high, EPA leveraged a local company to install a state-of-the-art filtration system for the community.

For the past thirty years ATSDR has provided resources, tools, expert responders, and technical assistance to address health concerns posed by chemical exposures.

ATSDR plays a critical role in protecting the public's health by identifying hazardous contaminants, assessing potential contamination in a community, and monitoring exposure levels.



ATSDR has worked with over 6,000 communities across the United States to understand pollution sources, exposure routes, and communicate known risks to the public.

How does ATSDR help communities?

- 10 Regional Offices – Disseminate information to local residents, community organizations, and health care providers. Partner with federal and state agencies to conduct exposure assessments and to identify community concerns, provide updates, and offer trainings. http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/DRO/dro_org.html
- 25 Partnerships with State Health Departments – Build capacity to assess and respond to site-specific issues involving human exposure to hazardous substances in the environment. <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/states/states.html>
- 11 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) – Educate and consult with health professionals and healthcare providers on how best to address known or suspected exposures to toxics hazards on kids. Identify ways to prevent, reduce and/or medically manage an exposure. <http://www.pehsu.net/serviceareas.html>

ATSDR Activities at Brownfield Sites

Legend

- ATSDR Assessment Sites
- ATSDR City Health Projects
- Brownfield Sites

DATA SOURCES:
 • ATSDR
 • EPA
 • U.S. Census Bureau
 • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 • U.S. Department of the Interior
 • U.S. Department of Justice
 • U.S. Department of Transportation
 • U.S. Department of the Treasury
 • U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 • U.S. Department of War
 • U.S. Department of the Navy
 • U.S. Department of the Army
 • U.S. Department of the Air Force
 • U.S. Department of the Coast Guard
 • U.S. Department of the Marine Corps
 • U.S. Department of the Navy
 • U.S. Department of the Army
 • U.S. Department of the Air Force
 • U.S. Department of the Coast Guard
 • U.S. Department of the Marine Corps

ATSDR
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

GRSF
 Geographic Research, Analysis & Services Program

- ➡ ATSDR's Brownfield and Land Reuse program examines and evaluates contaminated sites planned for commercial and/or residential reuse.
- ➡ ATSDR created an Action Model to engage multiple stakeholders in Land Reuse Planning activities to understand community needs. Site tools and a dose calculator are used to gather data and assess estimated exposure levels.
- ➡ Project funding is available for assessment along with community health projects at these sites.



Environmental Odors

The Environmental Odors site is an on-line guide that offers a check-list and advice on how to deal with issues linked to environmental odors.

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/odors



Soil Shops Toolkit

The Soil Shops Toolkit allows residents to screen their soil for lead and learn how to protect kids from lead exposure.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/yourhealthyenvironment/2013/12/19/soil-kitchens-reducing-lead-exposure-among-urban-residents/>



ToxProfiles™

The *ToxProfiles* serve as an in-depth inventory covering 350 substances. Summaries of contaminants and hazardous substances have been cataloged in a series of ToxFQAQs about exposures to hazardous substances.

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp#bookmark01>



Don't Mess with Mercury

Don't Mess with Mercury is an on-line site dedicated to supporting communities and schools to understand the dangers of mercury, identify sources of mercury, dispose safely, respond to a spill and learn about mercury free products available on the market.

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dontmesswithmercury/>