Welcome

Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director
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Part I: Introducing ATSDR
Dr. Patrick Breysse, PhD, CIH
Director
National Center for Environmental Health
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Love Canal Started It All

“I visited the canal area at that time. Corroding waste-disposal drums could be seen breaking up through the grounds of backyards. Trees and gardens were turning black and dying. One entire swimming pool had been popped up from its foundation, afloat now on a small sea of chemicals.... Everywhere the air had faint, choking smell. Children returned from play with burns on their hands and faces.”

-Eckardt C Beck
EPA Regional Administrator
CERCLA Legislation—a.k.a. Superfund Law

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Gave EPA responsibility for identifying, investigating and cleaning up hazardous waste sites

Created the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to:
  - Perform public health assessments at hazardous waste sites
  - Develop toxicological profiles on harmful substances
  - Conduct epidemiological health studies
  - Maintain registries of exposed persons and conduct medical surveillance
Serving Americans, Community by Community

ATSDR’s 30 Year History
Protecting Communities: What it takes

Extensive Staff Expertise:

- Toxicology
- Environmental Science
- Environmental Medicine
- Health Education and Community Engagement
- Public Health
- Physical Science and Engineering (radiation, hydrology, modeling, etc.)
- Epidemiology
The Ten EPA Regions
Protecting Communities: What it takes

States Funded by Cooperative Agreement

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs)