

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE GUIDE

Compiled by the Region V Great Lakes  
Public Health Training Collaborative



**GREAT LAKES**  
PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING  
COLLABORATIVE

A Member of the Nation's Network of Public Health Training Centers

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## Introduction and Background

The Region V Great Lakes Public Health Training Collaborative (GLPHTC) is part of a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded public health training program, created to improve the nation's public health by strengthening the competencies of the current and future public health workforce through the provision of education and training services. Region V GLPHTC is a six-state collaborative model including universities from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Region V GLPHTC is an unprecedented partnership to establish and implement a unified strategic approach to improving the workforce development infrastructure of the entire region. Each of the HRSA funded Regional Public Health Training Centers (RPHTC) have unique expertise, resources, and partnerships that together form a strong foundation for public health workforce development and capacity building. The Region V GLPHTC addresses a shared regional theme of capacity building for population health improvement and a special focus on the content area of Environmental Public Health.

Located in Schools of Public Health, the RPHTCs encompass the collective expertise to lead a network of educators committed to meeting the training needs of the nation's governmental public health professionals. The overall goal of the network is to assess nationwide needs for public health training and ensure public health professionals can access high-quality training, tools and resources. Each RPHTC has been assigned a key public health content area based on their identified expertise the following content areas:

Public Health Preparedness

Health Disparities, Health Equity, Social Determinants of Health

Health Informatics and Health Information Technology

Infectious Diseases

**Environmental Public Health**

Behavioral Health

Diabetes

Cancer

Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity

Violence and Injury Prevention

The Region V GLPHTC has gathered a list of existing resources available on the content area of Environmental Public Health. This list will be revised on a continual basis to provide the most recent national resources.

## Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR)

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/about/index.html>

ATSDR is directed by congressional mandate to perform specific functions concerning the effect of hazardous substances in the environment on public health. These functions include public health assessments of waste sites, health consultations concerning specific hazardous substances, health surveillance and registries, response to emergency releases of hazardous substances, applied research in support of public health assessments, information development and dissemination, and education and training concerning hazardous substances.

The website includes the following information.

- Guides and policies on:
  - Cancer Policy Framework
  - Environmental Data Needed for Public Health Assessments
  - Guidance Manual for ATSDR Public Health Assessments
  - Toxicological Profile Information
- Case examples of how ASTDR protected people from harmful chemical exposures in over 900 communities across the country.
- Information and resources on continuing education for health professionals.
- Partner and other environmental medicine resources that include a variety of environmental health databases from the National Library of Medicine Specialized Information Services.

## Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – Environmental Health Services (EHS)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/activities/index.htm>

CDC's Environmental Health Services Branch provides free tools and guidance, training, and research to:

- Prevent foodborne illnesses and outbreaks;
- Protect water, particularly recreational water and private wells; and
- Improve the performance of environmental health programs and practitioners.

The website includes an extensive index of environmental health topics from A-Z; list of publications by topic; and fact sheets.

## CDC – Healthy Homes

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyhomes/>

A healthy homes approach is a coordinated, comprehensive, and holistic approach to preventing diseases and injuries that result from housing-related hazards and deficiencies.

## CDC – National Environmental Public Health Tracking

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/tracking/>

A system of integrated exposure and hazard information data from a variety of national, state, and city courses. The website covers the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, and interpretation of data about the following factors:

- Environmental hazards
- Exposure to environmental hazards
- Health effects potentially related to exposure

Maps, tables, and charts can be viewed on:

- Chemicals and other substances found in the environment
- Some chronic diseases and conditions
- The area where you live

## Frameworks Institute – Environmental Health

<http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/environmental-health.html>

Three leading national nonprofit professional organizations engaged in environmental health work partnered with the FrameWorks Institute on a research project to develop and direct field communications capacities. The ultimate goal of the communications project is to provide a strategy and tools that can be used to build support for efforts that promote healthy environments and reduce harm associated with environmental hazards.

## Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce

<https://phpartners.org/index.html>

This website is the product of a collaboration between U.S. government agencies, public health organizations and health sciences libraries, whose mission it is to help the public health workforce find and use information effectively to improve and protect the public's health.

<https://phpartners.org/environmentalhealth.html>

Extensive information related to environmental health is provided and includes:

- Current environmental health news;
- Links to an extensive list of *federal, international, professional/research agencies and associations*;
- *Children's Environmental Health* resources;
- Information on *Hazardous Substances* including:
  - Dioxins
  - Lead
  - Mercury
  - Mold
  - Pesticides
- Resources and information that address *Air, Indoor Air and Water*;
- Resources and references that address *Toxicology*;
- *Literature and Reports*, including links to:
  - Journal article databases;
  - Journals;
  - Newsletters;
  - Reports and other publications; and
  - Data tools and statistics;
- *Legislation and Policy* resources; and

- Information and resources for *Education and Training*.

## PublicHealth Resources – Environmental Health

<http://www.publichealth.org/resources/environmental-health/>

PublicHealth is dedicated to connecting patients, students and professionals to the latest and most useful healthcare information and resources available. The mission is to provide a comprehensive look into the expanding field of public health; health policy updates and recommendations; and information for emerging and current public health professionals.

Website provides information to health professionals and researchers to stay up-to-date on the latest developments in environmental health and to keep patients/others aware and healthy.

Includes links to:

- Reputable open access journals;
- Open courseware of “materials that help you better understand the air, water, and chemicals in your everyday surroundings”;
- Research organizations dedicated to “unravelling the mystery and creating healthier places to live”;
- Professional organizations that “support health professionals who seek to understand the relationship between sickness and the environment”; and,
- Public awareness organizations “dedicated to quickly spreading the latest scientific knowledge on environmental dangers to human health”.

## National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

<http://www.neha.org/>

NEHA currently serves 5,000 members to advance the environmental health and protection professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all. NEHA offers Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Registered Sanitarian credentials. In addition to maintaining high standards of practice and testing for its credentialing programs, NEHA provides training and resources for continuing education through online courses and an online bookstore; holds an annual conference; fosters networking and career growth; and publishes the widely-respected peer-reviewed *Journal of Environmental Health*.

## National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/index.cfm>

NIEHS is a research institute with the mission to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives.

The NIEHS website provides information on an extensive list of specific environmental health topics. Sections focus on Research and Health and Education. The Health and Education section addresses environmental health topics that include:

- Common diseases and conditions linked to environmental exposures;
- Environmental agents;

- Population research, which addresses *Agricultural Health; Children's Health; Emergency Response; Occupational Health and Women's Health.*

The website also provides information about hazardous substances, from the National Toxicology Program, which generates information that helps health agencies and members of the public make informed decisions about public health; and brochures and fact sheets.

## United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa>

The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment. Their purpose is to ensure that all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment; to reduce environmental risk based on the best available scientific information; and to provide access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks.

<http://www.epa.gov/learn-issues>

Information on what you can do to protect the environment in your home, workplace, and community. Learn more information about:

- Air
- Chemicals and Toxics
- Climate Change
- Emergencies
- Greener Living
- Health and Safety
- Land and Cleanup
- Pesticides
- Waste
- Water

<http://www.epa.gov/communityhealth>

Information and resources that can help identify and address environmental issues and health concerns, in your community. Includes:

- Environmental Data on Your Community
- Methods for Addressing Community Health Concerns
- Environmental Health Issues and Solutions

<http://www.epa.gov/science-and-technology>

Provides information on cutting-edge research to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment. Topics include:

- Air
- Climate Change
- Ecosystems
- Health
- Land, Waste and Cleanup
- Pesticides
- Substances and Toxics

- Sustainable Practices
- Water

<http://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations>

Provides regulatory information by *topic* and *sector*.

The section on regulatory information by *topic* addresses a range of topics from acid rain reduction to wetlands restoration. Each topic listed below may include related laws and regulations, compliance and enforcement information, and policies and guidance.

- Air
- Cross-cutting Issues
- Emergency Management
- Land & Cleanup
- Pesticides
- Toxic Substances
- Waste
- Water

The section on regulatory information by *sector* provides compliance assistance on a sector-by-sector basis in order to efficiently reach facilities with similar operations, processes or practices. The sectors addressed include:

- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Construction
- Electric Utilities
- Oil & Gas
- Transportation





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# Environmental Health



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Environmental Health is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health supportive environments. Healthy People 2020 focuses on six themes of environmental health that include outdoor air quality, surface and ground water quality, toxic substances and hazardous wastes, home and communities, infrastructure and surveillance, and global environmental health. Maintaining a healthy environment is important in increasing the quality and years of a healthy life.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.greatlakesphtc.com](http://www.greatlakesphtc.com)

### Illinois

*Illinois Department of Public Health*

*Climate Change and*

*Public Health in Illinois*

The objective of this program is to increase awareness and knowledge about the connection between climate change and the public health impacts. Climate change and public health provides an overview of climate change nationally and regionally and described the relationship between increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide and climate instability. The focus of the course is on the public health impacts from climate change that are of most concern to Illinois and what local health departments can do to mitigate and prevent them. This course will be provided as an online training including pre and post tests and assessment.



### Ohio

*Environmental Health Science*

*Applied to the One Health Approach*

An introduction to the Environmental Health Science model; an overview of the One Health Approach; Application of source characterization and exposure assessment principles to address human health and animal health interface with the environment. This course will be offered as a series of four 20 minute asynchronous distance-based teaching and learning modules.



### Michigan

*Environmental Public Health*

*Tracking and Informatics*

Introduction to environmental health tracking basics with focus on a) how it relates to the work of clinical professionals (issues of testing and reporting to health departments for population health impact, example of good or water borne illness), b) how it can be useful to public health professionals in daily job. This course will be offered as a webcast.



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