

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Community Public Health & Well-being – SHC 2.62

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Problem Summary & Decision Context

- Health benefits/impacts resulting from community actions are often not well understood
- Communities need convenient access to high quality tools and information to:
 - Evaluate development choices
 - Define problems
 - Prioritize interventions
 - Identify local environmental issues
 - Find solutions

How does a decision impact...



...and result in changes in our health and well-being?

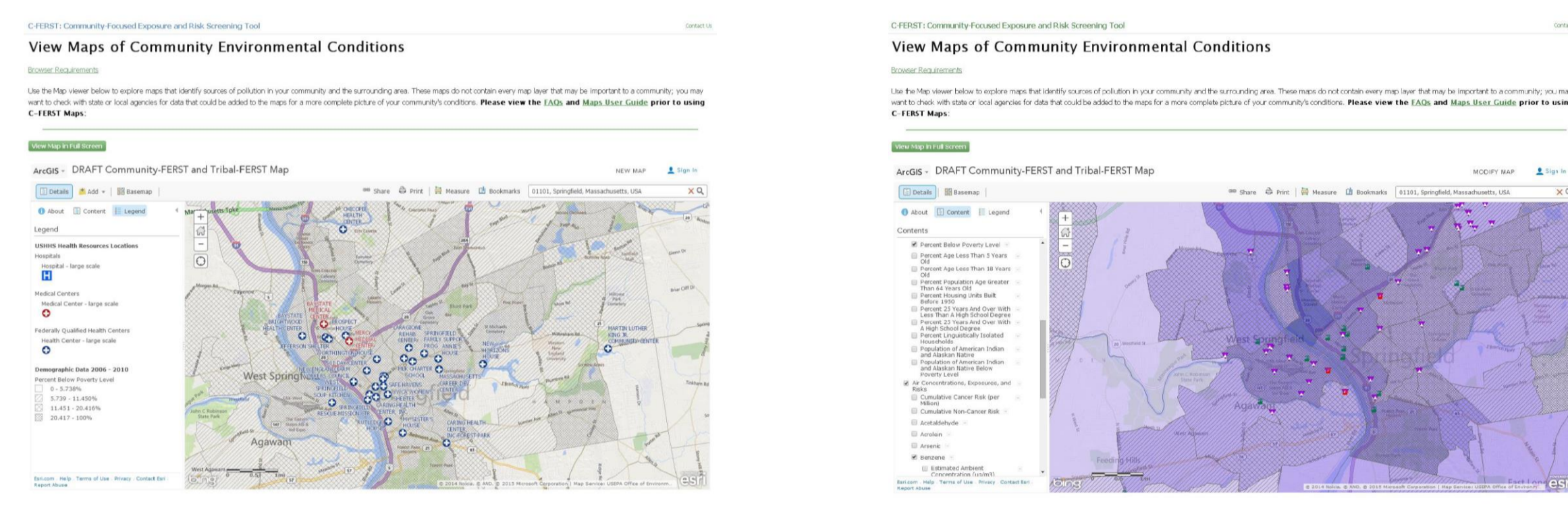
Utility to Agency?

- Community tools: Tribes and Regions, OEJ, communities
- Benefit/Impact assessment: OW, OAR
- Health Impact Assessment: Regions, communities
- Community engagement: Regions, communities
- Cumulative impact assessment: Regions/NCEA/communities
- Bioavailability: OSWER, Regions, communities

Future Directions

Community engagement, assessment and decision support tools

- Agency and public release and training provided for the *Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST)* and *Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (T-FERST)*, including integration of *Community Cumulative Assessment Tool (CCAT)*. Upgrades and additional data layers to include public health, well-being, environmental modeling
- Training, tools, data and best practices will be developed and expanded for *Health Impact Assessments (HIA)*. Additional HIA case studies
- Community engagement and regional support through *Regional and Applied Research Efforts (RARE)* and *Regional Sustainable Environmental Science (RESES)*.



Environmental drivers of community health and well being

- Evaluate educational methods to help reduce health risks
- Role of Race, ethnicity, neighborhood conditions and socioeconomic status for *environmentally-driven health outcomes* (e.g., asthma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes).
- Cumulative risks and impacts* such as the impact of diet and obesity, chronic stress and degraded ecosystems
- NCEC *Cumulative risk research grants*

Improving community health, well-being and exposure assessments.

- Rapid, reliable, and inexpensive methods for assessing the *bioavailability of metals* from contaminated soils and other exposure matrices.
- Health and well-being *data acquisition and descriptions* such as local and regional level morbidity and mortality rates for environmentally associated health outcomes (birth defects, asthma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes)
- Community vulnerability index for wildfire exposure
- Integrate near-source modeling with community based health assessments
- NCEC *Healthy Schools RFA*



Accomplishments

- Completed Proctor Creek's Boone Boulevard Green Street Project HIA in collaboration with Region 4
- Region 2/ORD collaboration on urban garden soil study
- Partner and community engagement, feedback and beta testing for C/T FERST
- Cumulative risk assessment
- Key publications on: walkability, health burden of wildfire, bioavailability, community stress, social factors and health (see handout)



Partner Engagement Opportunities

- What are the challenges and needs for cumulative risk assessment? (OPP, OSWER, OAR, RSLs)
- Integrate/collaborate/complement NCEC, NCEA cumulative risk research programs agency wide CRA guidelines
- How can Program Offices and Regions utilize decision support tools (OSWER, OEJ, OAR, OW, RSLs)
- How can we partner with programs and regions on updating community assessment tools, and community outreach and engagement?
- What interventions or actions are important to consider for impacts/benefit evaluation (OAR, OSWER, OW, RSLs)
- How can the HIA contribute to or integrate with Program and Regional needs? (RSLs)