Human Exposure and Health in EPA's Report on the Environment: An EPA Resource for Data and Indicators for Informing Environmental Justice Policy Discussions

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Background and Objectives: With five main chapters encompassing air, water, land, human exposure and health, and ecological condition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2008 Report on the Environment (ROE) compiles in one place the most reliable national-level indicators currently available to help answer 23 questions EPA believes are critically important to its mission. The data and indicators from the Human Exposure and Health Chapter—presented by population sub-groups and geographic regions—are particularly relevant resources for characterizing status and trends in conditions among populations that could be disproportionately impacted by various environmental policies.

Methods: The Human Exposure and Health Chapter addresses three questions using 19 indicators reflecting exposure biomonitoring; general health status; acute, chronic, and infectious diseases; and birth outcomes. Questions include: "What are the trends in human exposure to environmental contaminants?", "What are the trends in health status in the United States?", and "What are the trends in human disease and conditions for which environmental contaminants may be a risk factor?" The underlying indicator data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Results: The poster will present examples of exposure and health condition indicators that address each of the three stated ROE questions and display trends across age, race, and ethnic group. Envisioned linkages to CDC's Environmental Health Tracking Network as well as possible new measures of disease burden will be described and discussed.

Conclusion: The ROE Human Exposure and Health Chapter provides a valuable online information source for EPA policy and decision makers needing age- , race-, and ethnic-specific information to support informed environmental policy discussions.