

Safeguarding Communities from Harmful Chemicals



ATSDR Fast Facts 2014

Worked in **600 communities** across the country.

Assessed whether **1 million people** were at risk because of harmful exposures to chemicals through **168 health consultations and assessments**.

Motivated EPA and other stakeholders to put **85% of our health protective recommendations into action**.

Responded to **57 emergency events**, including a tank train derailment and several industrial fires.

Updated or newly released **12 ToxProfiles™**, increasing the scope of this reference library to cover 172 chemicals and classes.



The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) – a.k.a., the "**Superfund**" Act – created ATSDR to be a science-based, public health agency working in communities with concerns about hazardous waste. For three decades, ATSDR has kept people in more than 6,000 communities across America safe from hazards in the environment.

Protecting Communities



ATSDR follows a standard process to prevent harmful exposures and promote healthy community environments, including:

- Assessing the available scientific data to determine whether or not people are at risk because of their exposures to harmful chemicals in the environment.
- Recommending that EPA and other stakeholders take action to prevent and stop exposures, for example by installing water filters or replacing soil in residents' backyards. We continue to engage with these stakeholders to ensure that our recommendations are adopted.
- Collecting additional data or conducting health studies to better answer a community's questions when needed.

ATSDR's work relies on a close relationship with local community members and stakeholders. Throughout the process, we talk with residents to better understand their concerns and to share information about chemicals in the environment, their exposures, and the steps they can take to protect themselves.