

# EPA/CDC/ATSDR Community Collaboration

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# EPA/CDC/ATSDR Community Collaboration

- DeKalb County, GA
- Large urban county in metro Atlanta
- EH: traditional inspectional programs
- Increasing community requests on environmental issues
- Dr. Wiesner led combined community health assessment (MAPP/PACE EH)



# EPA/CDC/ATSDR Community Collaboration

- Couple of years later
- Successful application for EPA CARE grants
- Decided to do more intensive PACE EH process in two communities
  - Clarkston (large refugee population)
  - South DeKalb (predominantly African American community)



# Clarkston: Focus Groups and Town Hall Meeting

- Rental housing issues
- Sediment filling lake
- Litter
- Lack of sidewalks



# South DeKalb

- Several large active landfills with claimed health effects (respiratory, cancer)
- Contamination sites
- Large sewage spills
- Environmental justice



# EPA/CDC/ATSDR Community Collaboration: Common Goals and Values

- Coordination between EP and EH within local public health programs
- Responding to needs in community-driven process
- EH professional expands beyond just inspections (Essential Service beyond just #6)
- Addressing multiple public and ecologic health aspects of built and natural environments
- Reducing health disparities
- Improving environmental health literacy
- Promoting environmental justice



# EPA/CDC/ATSDR Community Collaboration

- NCEH contributions (in conjunction with EPA)
  - disseminating lessons-learned about community-based environmental health assessments
  - providing the evidence base for methodologies that promote community engagement
  - participating in work groups that define and organize the collaboration's activities
  - offering technical assistance in communities where both EPA and NCEH/ATSDR have relationships with local partners
  - awarding capacity-building grants
  - working with pilot projects (Boston, Cherokee Nation, Savannah, Grand Rapids)



## For More Information

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