

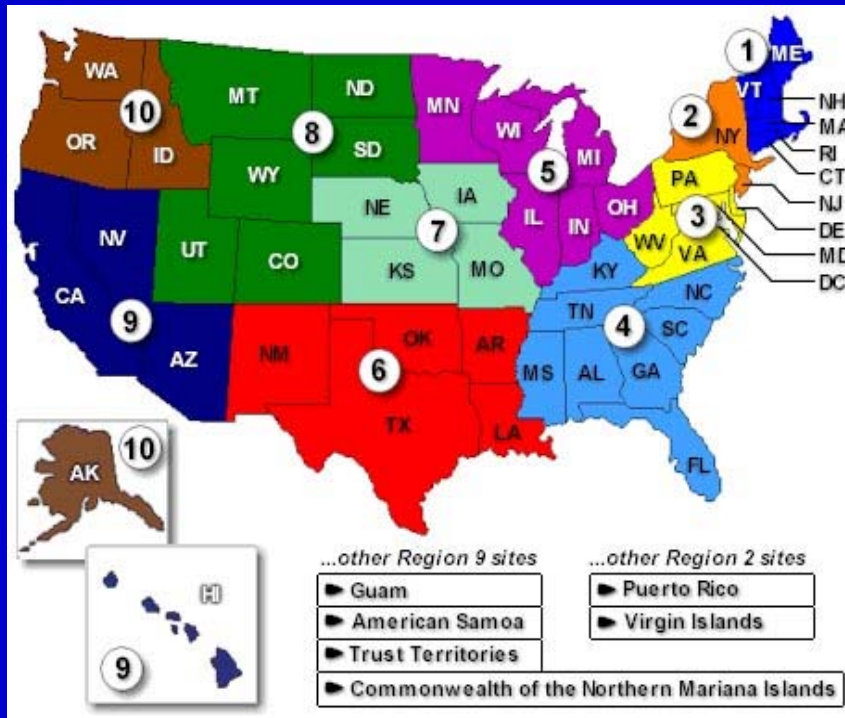
Role of EPA Regions In Community Health Collaborations

APHA Annual Meeting
November 5, 2007

A. Stanley Meiburg, Ph.D.
National EPA Liaison to NCEH/ATSDR

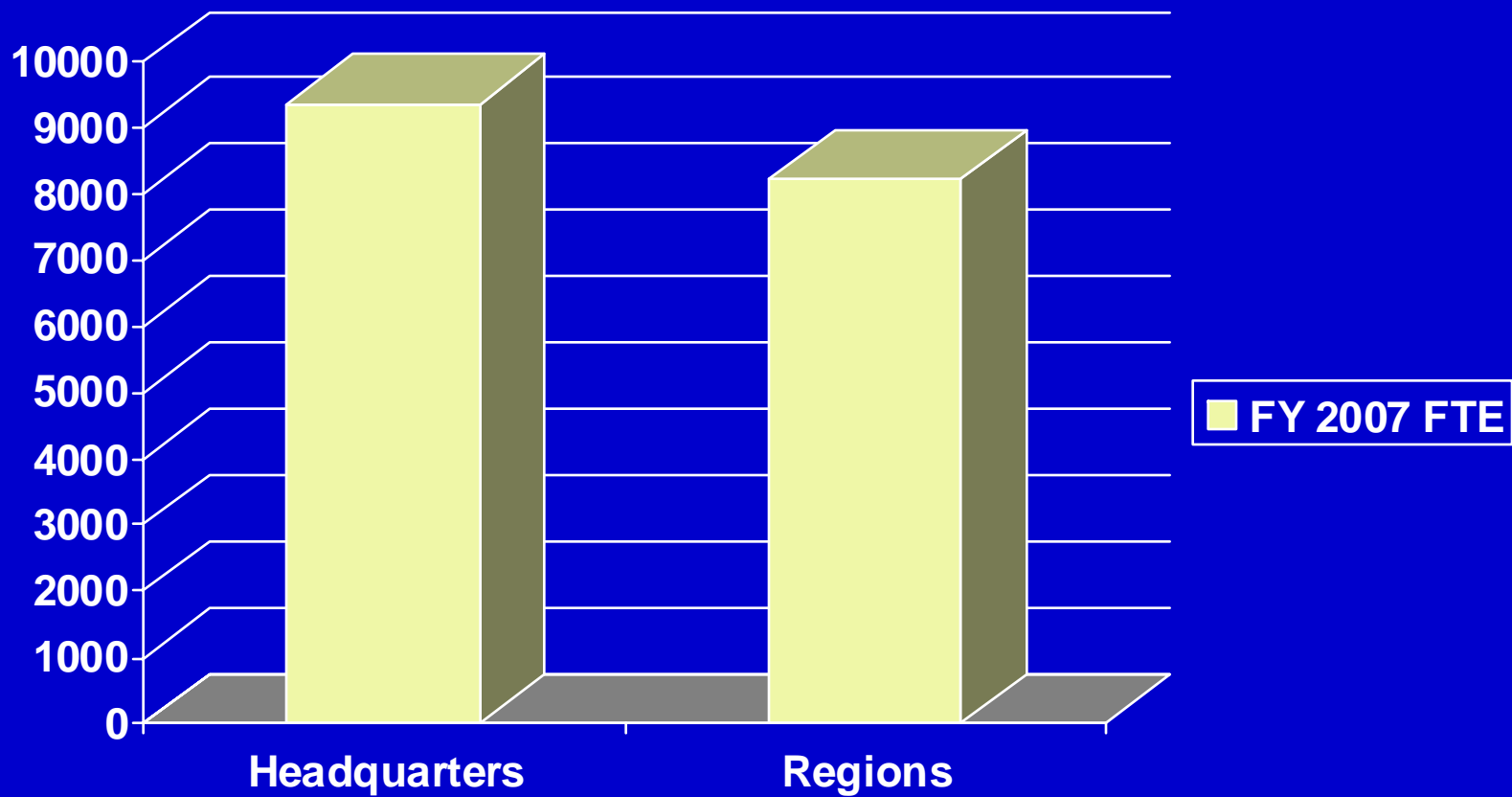


EPA Regions—Balancing Consistency and Flexibility

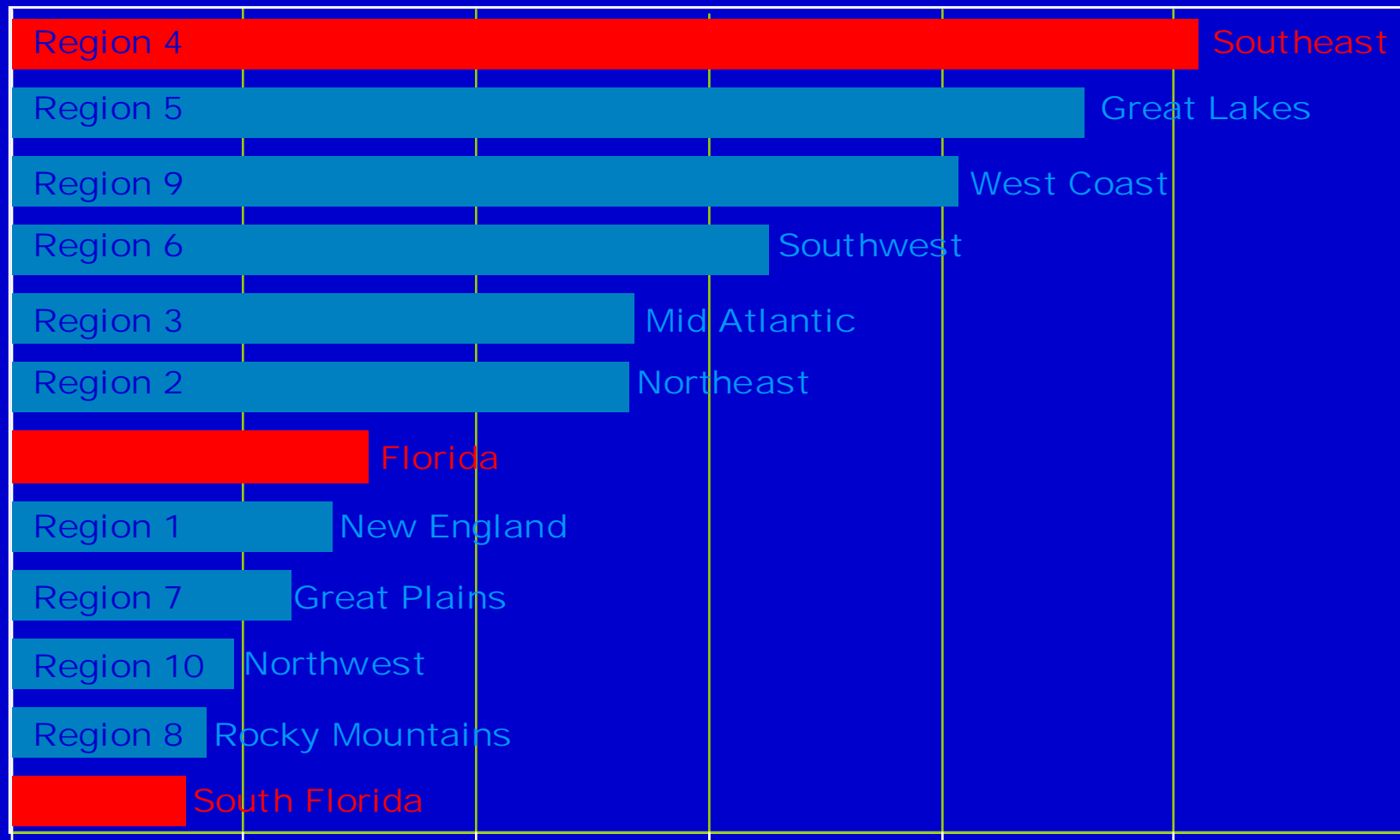


- Disseminate national rules and guidance
- Technical assistance
- Grants to States
- Emergency Response
- Superfund cleanup and community relations
- Permitting (when not delegated)—air, water, hazardous waste
- SIP review and approval
- State oversight and support
- Federal inspections, field investigations and enforcement
- NEPA Reviews
- Non-delegable authorities (TSCA)

Location of EPA Employees



EPA Regions Vary in Scope



Population in Millions
(for the year 2000)

Regional Organizations Vary

- Regional Administrators are political appointees reporting directly to the Administrator
- FTE ranges from 555 (Region 7) to 1241 (Region 5)*
- Most Regions are organized by programs
 - Example: Region 4 Divisions: Air, Water, RCRA, Superfund, Science and Ecosystems, Environmental Accountability, Planning and Management
 - Some have more cross-cutting structures (esp. Regions 1 and 8)
 - Region 10 has State Operations Offices

*FY 2007 data



EPA Works Closely With the States

- States can obtain delegation of air, water, waste permitting and enforcement
- To obtain delegation, States must:
 - Pass their own adequate laws
 - Commit sufficient resources
 - Request approval from EPA
- Most States took delegation 20-30 years ago
 - *Major exception: wetlands permitting and enforcement*
- After delegation, EPA continues to:
 - Support States with technical and grant assistance
 - Work together with States on projects/cases
 - Review State performance

Continuing Regional Roles With States

- Regional staff and State staff meet regularly
- EPA negotiates annual agreements and workplans with States
- EPA reviews State performance
- EPA retains authority to:
 - Independently enforce Federal law
 - Limit or withhold Federal grants for poor performance
 - Withdraw delegation
- Joint planning and priorities

EPA Regions and Communities

- Regions add value:
 - Cross cutting environmental expertise
 - Peer matching with other States/locals
 - Environmental data and geographic overlays
 - Experience with environmental sampling and analysis
 - Connections to other Federal agencies
 - Connecting local problems to national EPA assets
- Superfund sites and removals are special cases
 - Very community-specific
 - Direct Federal authority → more visible EPA community presence

Challenges for EPA Regions in Communities

- Maintaining close contact with State/local agencies
- Regulatory and non-regulatory roles
 - Public perceptions
 - Legal authorities
- Resources
 - Travel funds (most Regional staff are in one city)
 - Start up grants/cooperative agreements
- Focusing on communities vs. programs
- Balancing national consistency with local flexibility

EPA and CDC Leadership Support Community Collaborations



Thank you!

A. Stanley Meiburg, Ph.D.
National EPA Liaison to NCEH/ATSDR

meiburg.stan@epa.gov

or

SMeiburg@cdc.gov

(404) 498-0825

