

Notes: EJ EPHT Training
Walnut Creek, CA
October 15 & 16, 2004

PERSPECTIVES ON USE OF DATA.

The data is a tool for the community, not a goal.

By improving conditions for low-income people of color (EJ), this improves conditions for all people.

Need to advocate for precaution. Data to help take action, not wait to know everything before action.

Goal to integrate EJ principles.

HOW CAN TRACKING BENEFIT THE WORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

Localized information at the neighborhood level.

It will demonstrate the disproportionate effects of cumulative exposure on EJ communities instead of diluting the numbers by averaging them with affluent communities.

Type of tracking needs includes:

Collect data at the localized level, neighborhood level.

Track farm worker children, exposure to vaccinations and health impact.

Schools need health tracking data to verify effectiveness of programs implemented under Health Schools Act and identify children at risk.

Identify high rates of disease and miscarriage rates and compare to pollution sites.

Tribal Land

Address risk related impact of contamination, and risks related to cultural and subsistence life styles in Native American communities.

- 1) Health- human, plant, animal
 - 2) Environmental - ecological, natural resources
 - 3) Land base use - cultural sites, economic/social, subsistence
 - Protection
 - Management
- Sacred and cultural sites
 - Natural resources
 - Sig. sps.

Gathering information to make it available for grassroots groups to present the issues they are working on.

EPHT CAN HELP ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IF.....

Q: Is this pie in the sky or can we make this a reality.

A: We want to.

- Be involved
- Trust
- Responsibility
- Accountability- FOIA, Fed., State, Interagency

Data is collected at the local level.

Includes occupational exposures and health data.

Data on blood lead levels - intra-agency sharing.

Includes tracking of social and economic justice issues and impact. Employment, jobs, housing, education, income, displacement, jails.

Issues like obesity, diabetes, etc., conduct research on food access.

CDC and legislators to track chemical tests and information of their effects on human life.

Sponsor more pilot projects in CA. and broaden focus area.

EJ community based organizations with grassroots base of community members need to be at the table early on.

Tribes, Tribal University, grassroots leaders can contribute to the development of PHPT programs tailored to meet tribal needs including: subsistence, land, water, tribal relations, contaminant issues.

- 1) Tribes can develop capacity to effectively utilize EPHT systems
- 2) Stated Federal agencies can commit to contributing to Tribal capacity building efforts (training, training material, funding for programs and efforts)
- 3) Tailor database systems to meet tribal needs (subsistence, land, water, contaminant issues)
- 4) Access to historic and current information (Fed., State, Local)
- 5) Be involved in Partners (not just subjects) in developing programs to address Tribal needs.
- 6) Tribal empowerment, sov. rights, EJ Law, State Regs

Tribal trust concerns:

- Strategies and mechanisms to protect political conflict resolution
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EJ as a consistent and explicit and primary stakeholder in any further tracking efforts.
Have someone work only with EJ groups at CDC.

This would be a good project for Federal EJ Interagency working group and CA EJ IWG to contribute to and support, like having target meetings, brainstorming sessions with Tribal Reps.

EJ community groups are involved in identifying what data to collect.

Needs to be involved in the CA regional diesel convening.

It can track and combine surveys from different cbo's.

Includes community driven data collection.

Use community generated data.

Connects data to direct experience and legitimize local stories.

Data does no harm.

Data related to displacement and gentrification impacts on communities of color.

Present tracking data in a "popular education way." Make it understandable to communities.

Participatory action techniques are used. Communities need to be engaged in the design, implementation, analysis and dissemination of info. They need to use the info to develop and implement action plans. They need ownership.

If information and tools are presented in a way grassroots can use it.

Provide information to communities in a way so people can carry this by themselves:
build leadership within.

We need a Train the Trainers workshop on EPHT, us, grassroots EJ.

Fund the trainers to build capacity.

Provide regular publication so that residents can access information.

Community decides how to use data, what action is needed.

Timeliness and availability of data. Campaigns are happening now.

Local, state, Federal Policy Makers to attend EPHT training.

Annual conference for local, state and national.

OUR COMMUNITIES NEED THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY USE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE EPHT INITIATIVE.

Funding and resources to collaboratively develop Tribally oriented training materials to meet Tribal data needs.

- 1) Development of tribally oriented training material
 - Development and distribution of education material to meet (tribal) data needs
 - Work-based, outreach, materials, data-base systems, mechanisms to protect prop. info.
 - Money for tribal programs (national?)
 - Other agencies: coordinated state and fed positions
 - personal resources: State-wide (what level can be obtained?
How does Pie in the Sky work? In God's Laboratory.)
- 2) Access to Data

EPHT needs on-going TOT in impacted communities.

Space to discuss make up of EJ representation on advisory groups. Define, what is an EJ group? An EJ group is a group with a membership base of impacted members, low-income people of color organization.

On-going information from the ground up.

Information that is clear and simple so that all may understand.

More funding for actions.

Funding for pilot projects.

Co-ownership of data so community has equal access.

Ongoing implementation and evaluation with community participation.

Allow community to develop research questions.

Goals to integrate EJ principles.

If...

- Tribal College, organizations, developing capacity
- Tribal web page development to set input
- Involved in initiatives to develop Tribal oriented tracking systems, components to tracking systems, access and use to other data systems
- Developing tribally oriented training materials
- Contribution toward assisting tribes to define needs, goals, strategies toward management of tribal database systems AND developing technical Assistance.

: We Need...

- A tribal liaison - Mobilize leadership and outreach at state level
- To incorporate Cultural Values and Belief systems into Tribal-oriented outreach
- To look closely at broadening scope of EPHT needs to include more rural and subsistence lifestyle needs

WE NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FOLLOWING WAY....

Help to influence agency program assessment for resident need.

We need medial campaign, like the anti-tobacco, cancers and other ..

Break down to smaller geographic areas for meaningful stakeholder participation.

Involve communities for data gathering.

Help organize communities for data gathering.

Education

- outreach to schools

- outreach to communities at the beginning not in the end

Influence what type of data needs to be collected

Diesel convening to advance the work on regional diesel issues needs to meet with the EPHT.

Get centers of research at HBO, Latino and Native serving colleges involved

EJ orgs with grassroots base of community members need to be at table early on.

Design, implementation, analysis, action.....

Do the outreach and take information to people at community level.

Local people must be paired with people of technical expertise to produce data that is the most accurate as to the details of a community.

Tribal resources

- 1) Move towards Tribally oriented training

- 2) Tribal-based program development- tribal community, college, government and tribal office, EPA, natural resource needs

Tribe needs access to existing databases!

- Historical records- plant, animals, land, water use and rights

- IHS records

- BIA Records (DOI)

- State Records

- Intra-agency records

- inter-agency records

- Env. data

- Federal

- State

- Research (University)

- Local level

WE NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

Local, regional, state, national decision makers, CA/EPA to understand our perspectives on EPHT.

CDC to understand how tribal lands will be affected by health tracking and interact with CDC thru sovereignty.

Our communities and allies such as the researchers involved in this project.
EJ researchers working in CA we need you to match your EJ & E health work with the EPHT program.

BAAQMD Care Program.

CDC and legislators to track chemical tests and information of their effects on human life.

Funding foundations and EPA to channel money to communities cleaning the community.

President, we need reparations and EPHT is a first step in that direction using PAR and community organizing strategies.