

Characterization of the Problem

- Increased pressure to address environmental health concerns
- Current response is “reactive”
- Limited resources and capacity
- Federal priorities vs local priorities



Planning Tool Needed to Address Myriad of Environmental Health Issues

In the early 1990's, local health and environmental officials across the United States were faced with **increasing** public pressure to find ways to address environmental health concerns. In addition, many local health agencies found themselves responding to “hazards of the week” or working on priorities set by state and federal authorities. Functioning with limited resources and capacity, local officials needed a planning tool that would allow them to address environmental health issues in a pro-active, comprehensive manner, which incorporated the local community's points of view.

PACE-EH: *What's It All About?*

- Protocol
- Assessing
- Community
- Excellence
- Environmental
- Health



The Tool

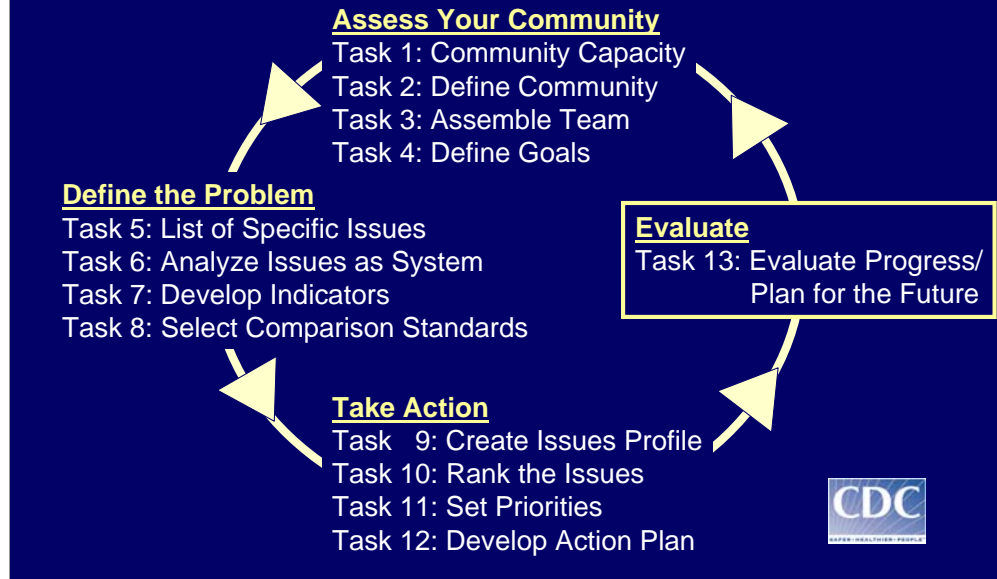


To answer this need, CDC gave funds to NACCHO to develop *the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health* or *PACE-EH*. PACE-EH consists of a 13-step process to take community members and local officials through an iterative process to 1) characterize and evaluate local environmental health concerns; 2) prioritize those concerns; 3) identify population at risk of environmental exposure; and then 4) translate those priorities into a plan for action.

A couple of PACE-EH's key features:

- a) PACE-EH requires that scientific data is collected and made available during all decision-making sessions.
- b) The idea of PACE is to involve as many of the community leaders as possible to create public health partnerships that work to share institutional strengths. (As we well know, work is much more effective when done in **collaboration** with organizations and individuals in their communities)

Evaluation in PACE-EH 13 Task Process



PACE-EH has built into it, a feedback mechanism, which allows a continuous flow of 1) assessing the community 2) defining the problem 3) taking action 4) evaluation. (Evaluation feeds back into the problem-identification process and interventions used.

...talk about indicators, here

There have been immediate tangible results, including 1) stopping the use of an abandoned well for a latrine that had been contaminating other water supply wells, and 2) a project to cover and clean up this open air food market.

Evaluation: Longer Term Results

- Sensitizing authorities to community priorities
- Sustaining community workgroups



**“Developing new relationships
with community stakeholders”**



The results, however, go beyond those immediate tangible achievements. Other subtle, but probably even more important ones include those mentioned by our United States users:

- 1) Sensitizing authorities to the environmental health problems prioritized by the community,
- 2) Creation of sustainable and active community workgroups capable of working together with local authorities