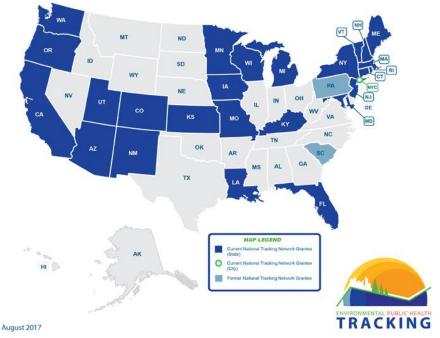


## National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

## National Center for Environmental Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) FY 2023 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill

	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023 President's Budget	FY2023 TFAH
National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program	\$34,000,000	\$34,000,000	\$34,000,000	\$54,000,000

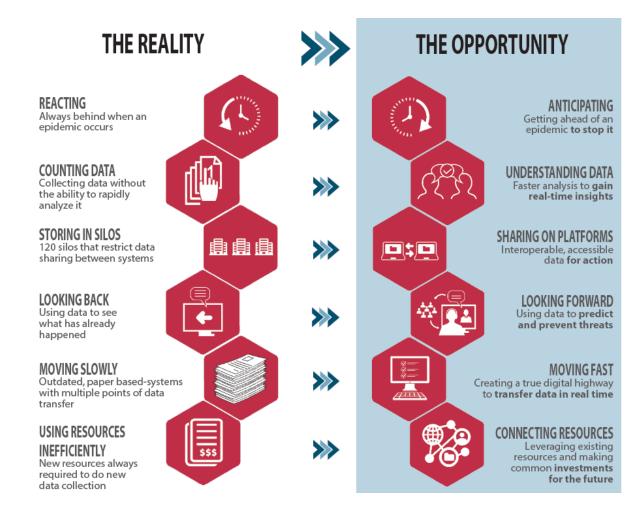
**Background:** Where we are born, live, work, learn, play, and age has an enormous impact on our health, and yet communities historically have lacked adequate data to both help understand these impacts and deploy scarce public health resources to address them. From addressing air quality to radon to lead to harmful algal blooms to chemical exposures, environmental factors contribute to a range of serious health effects. CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program works with a network of partners to collect, integrate and analyze disease and environmental data to help public health and other practitioners identify and target health risks.



**Impact:** Since 2002, the Tracking Program contains data points for environmental factors such as outdoor air quality, drinking water quality, and toxic substance releases and tracks related health effects such as cancer, reproductive health outcomes, birth defects, hospitalizations for asthma, cardiovascular disease, carbon monoxide poisoning, childhood lead poisoning, and developmental disabilities. By connecting the dots between exposures and health effects, grantees can work to stop these exposures and protect the health of communities. To date, Tracking grantees have taken over 700 data-driven actions to improve health.

The tracking program's data system identifies demographic factors, environmental burdens, socioeconomic conditions, and public health concerns related to environmental justice. Via the tracking program's unique tools, data can be shared in meaningful ways that highlight the disproportionate burden that certain communities face via its <u>Environmental Justice Dashboard</u>. In addition, data from the Tracking Program is utilized to guide other programs at the National Center for Environmental Health including the Climate and Health Program as well as the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

The program is undergoing a new competitive process in FY2023. In order to keep existing grantees funded and expand the program to additional states, additional resources are needed. A Public Health Foundation study estimated that every dollar invested in the tracking program results in a <u>\$1.44 return</u> in the form of health care savings.



**Recommendation:** As of FY2022, CDC is still only able to fund half the states in the U.S. to participate in the Tracking Network. CDC has estimated that roughly \$75 million will be needed to expand the program to all 50 states, D.C. and U.S. territories. As such, TFAH recommends that Congress provide \$54 million in FY 2023 to continue building this network. CDC estimates that fifteen currently unfunded states have laid the groundwork to begin full-scale programs. Additional levels of funding could also allow the program to continue to expand the type of health data available to policymakers, public health professionals, and the public.