

E6=Enhancing Environmental Enterprises via e-Equity, Education and Empowerment



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Purpose

While Columbus, Ohio is considered one of the more prosperous, well-educated and progressive communities in the United States, it has one of the highest infant mortality (IM) rates in the country. The Stambaugh-Elwood (SE) community is one of seven such communities that constitute the Columbus Southern Gateway. In 2013, SE community leaders met with The Ohio State University (OSU) environmental health scientists to address concerns related to environmental contamination of air and soil in their community. SE representatives sought OSU scientists as partners through a pre-existing Columbus Public Health (CPH) structure.

Impact

Through the South Side Health Advisory Committee, a community-academic-local state agency partnership emerged that planned, designed, tested and analyzed SE residential soils. This preliminary study conducted over a 17-month period demonstrated that community led coalitions in collaboration with academia and local public health policy-making officials can effectively address the environmental concerns of residents in high-risk communities.

Although infant mortality is at the top of the pyramid, the SE community is faced with a plethora of environmental issues. SE is located in zip code 43207 where corresponding census tracks document an IM rate of 12.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Led by our local public health agency, an IM reduction implementation plan was initiated. Iterative input of the results from this project will inform the workflow and enhance the development of a viable population health improvement-exposure reduction plan to address health risks from potential environmental exposures in high-risk neighborhoods.

Our overarching hypothesis is that we can identify environmental variables of significance, and that these can be tested for association with disparate health outcomes in high-risk neighborhoods. For this effort, environmental variables of potential interest include proximity to locations such as Toxic Release Inventory [TRI] sites, facilities with risk management plans, retail tobacco outlets, high traffic related pollution roadways and residential soil metalloid levels.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

School of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Health Sciences
Division of Epidemiology
College of Public Health
Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Community Partners Involved

Columbus Public Health
Ohio-Environmental Protection Agency
Southside Health Advisory Committee
Stambaugh-Elwood Citizens for the Environment
VERTICES, LLC
Universities Space Research Association at NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center

How you can get involved:

- Participate with us in community mapping of Southern Gateway communities
- Provide funding to support community mapping projects
- Attend Southside Health Advisory Committee meetings
- Provide support for student projects
- Provide support for maintaining community PPGIS portal

To get involved, contact:

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