



Community Involvement Training Conference
Community Involvement in the 21st Century: Embracing Diversity,
Expanding Engagement, Utilizing Technology

## Questions for the speakers

- You will <u>NOT</u> be able to ask questions LIVE as a remote participant
- Instead, please refer to the conference agenda and materials to contact speakers with follow up questions AFTER the live broadcast



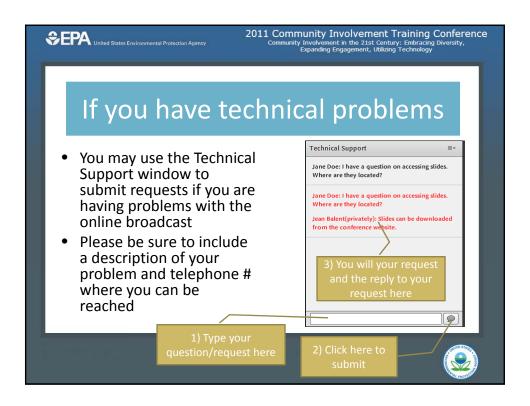
PEPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

2011 Community Involvement Training Conference
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## Feedback

- We will be collecting comments and feedback from remote participants
- Please visit
   <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ciconference/evaluations.htm">http://www.epa.gov/ciconference/evaluations.htm</a>
   to submit your feedback for this session







# Break the Cycle of Environmental Health Disparities in Vulnerable Children

A Leadership Development Program of

Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

**EMORY University** 

#### Leslie Rubin MD

Southeast PEHSU Emory University Morehouse School of Medicine Atlanta, Georgia, USA





## Children: Poverty & Vulnerability

	Risk for poor relative to non-	
Child Outcomes	poor children	
Child abuse and neglect	6.8	
Lead Poisoning	3.5	
Birth to unmarried teenager	3.1	
depression	2.3	
Experiencing violent crimes	2.2	
Short-stay hospital episode	2.0	
Grade repetition and high school		
dropout	2.0	
Substance abuse	1.9	
Low birth weight	1.7	
Mortality	1.7	
Learning disability	1.4	
Parent report of emotional or behavior		
problem that lasted 3 months or more	1.3	



## Asthma and Equity

- Asthma prevalence twice as high, and mortality three times as high, in blacks as in whites
- Asthma prevalence three times higher in Hispanic than non-Hispanic children
- Asthma hospitalization among Medicaid children:
  - 93% higher in black children
  - 34% higher in Hispanic children

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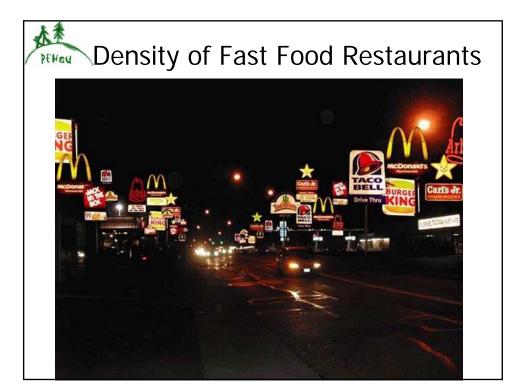
## Environmental Exposure to Tobacco Smoke

- The main site of exposure to Second Hand Smoke (SHS) for children is in the home
- 22% of children are exposed to SHS in their homes
- · Smokers are more likely to be
  - Poor
  - Minority
  - Less educated
  - More anxious & depressed



## Built Environment Factors and Health Disparities

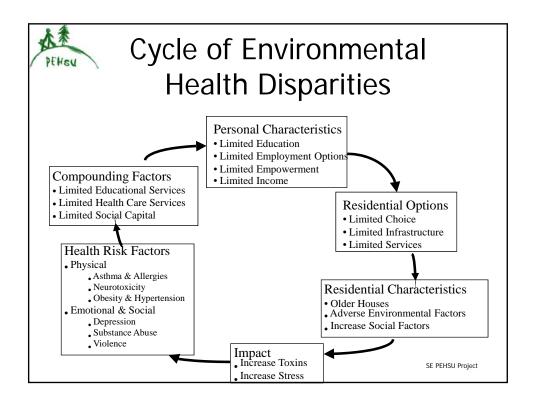
- Poor Neighborhoods are likely to have:
  - More Crime, Litter & Trash, Poor Lighting and increased Traffic Density with exhaust emissions
  - No Access to Parks or Playgrounds
  - No Access to Recreation or Community Centers
  - Fewer Health Amenities
- Children living in these neighborhoods are:
  - 50% more likely to be physically inactive
  - 52% more likely to watch television more than two hours per day
  - 55% more likely to be overweight
  - 104% more likely to be obese



## PEHSU Environn

## Environmental Living Conditions of Disadvantaged Children

 According to Grant Makers For Health (2007), environmental hazards are often located in or near poor communities because these areas are undesirable and inexpensive AND because they are politically disenfranchised.



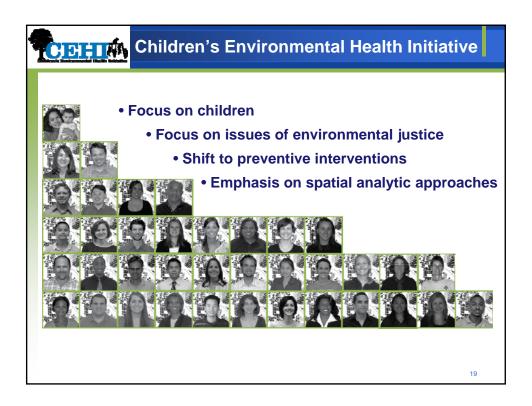


## Program

- The Built Environment
- Toxic Waste Sites in Duval County Florida: Reaching the Community
- Boom and Bust: Toxic Waste in Anniston Alabama

SE PEHSU Project



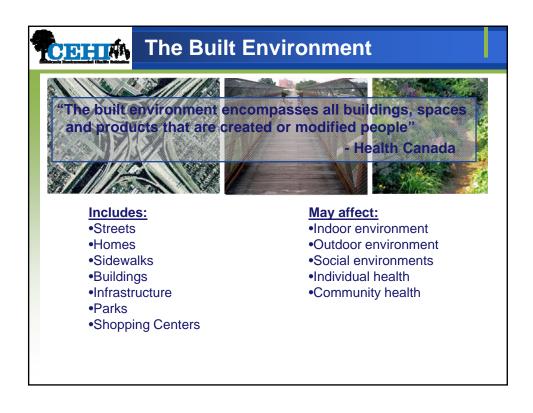


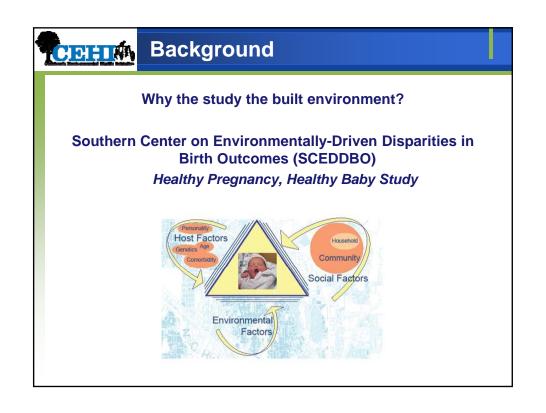


### The Built Environment and Health

#### With a focus on collaborations with community groups:

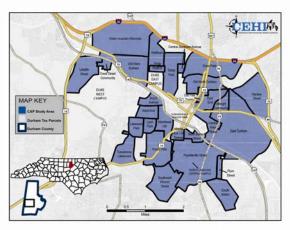
- Documenting and describing the built environment
- Mapping the collected data
- Identifying areas characterized by poor neighborhood conditions
- Training grassroots workers on the built environment and health
- Combining built environment data with individual-level data







#### **Community Assessment Project (CAP)**



Goals of the project:

- Better understand how neighborhood context affects birth outcomes
- Provide community residents and leaders with maps of Durham's built environment



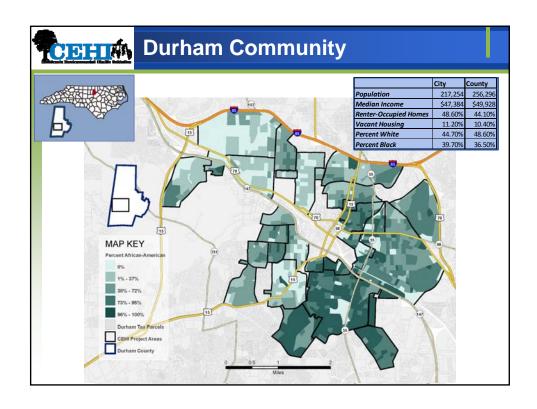
#### **Community Assessment Project (CAP)**





The CAP is a parcel by parcel visual assessment of Durham neighborhoods and communities using handheld GPS devices

- In 2008, over 17,000 parcels assessed
- In 2011, goal of assessing 39,000 parcels





#### What is it?

- A list of built environment features
- Stored on a handheld GPS unit

#### How was it developed?

- 1. Modeled after a community-based study conducted in San Diego
- 2. Community involvement
  - Heard from community groups neighborhoods, organizations, churches, etc.
  - Feedback on built environment features to be observed



### **During Assessment**

#### Communication is essential!

#### **Community Outreach:**

- Attendance at organization meetings
- Presentations to community leaders
- Emails with project details
- Alerting Durham Police Department



- Trained on how to communicate with residents
- Carried letters with project description and contact information





#### **Community Assessment Project Report**

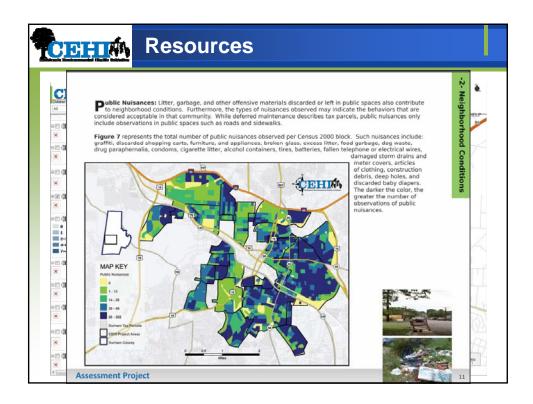
- Describes importance of the built environment
- Maps of summarized data are easily understood by community members with various backgrounds

#### Informational brochure

- General overview
- Provides link to online mapping tool

#### **Online**

• Interactive web application featuring a mapping interface where community members can explore the project





## Community Utility

#### Use of web-based resources by community groups

• Training for community health organizers and partner organizations

#### **Custom-made maps used for grassroots community efforts**

• Laminated maps of specific neighborhoods to aid community health organizers

#### City projects and strategies

• Data sharing agreement with Neighborhood Improvement Services



### Challenges

#### Reaching hard-to-reach populations

- Considering sensitivity of certain communities
- History of Duke-Durham relationship

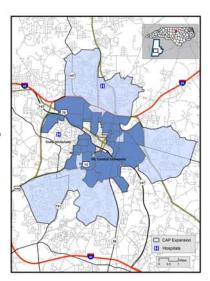
#### **Ensuring resources are used to full potential**

- Getting data and maps in the hands of those who are in the communities
- Training community workers on how to use resources and educate residents about the built environment and health
- Working with the City of Durham so results can be used to inform policy and programmatic decisions

## CEHIM

### **Next Steps**

- 1. CAP 2011
- 2. Continue to engage community partners
- 3. Track neighborhood change, improvement
- 4. Identify shifting concerns at the neighborhood level





## **Acknowledgements**

#### **Durham Community and Partner Organizations**

#### **CEHI Team:**

Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda

Dr. Pamela Maxson

#### **CAP Field Team:**

Melvin Gaddy, Jim Davy, Kelly Henderson, Rebecca Ouyang, Kim Smith, Joshua Worthy, John Post, Cassie Robertson, Andy Holland, Jessica Laine, Ruth Joo, Matt Holsclaw

#### **Funding:**

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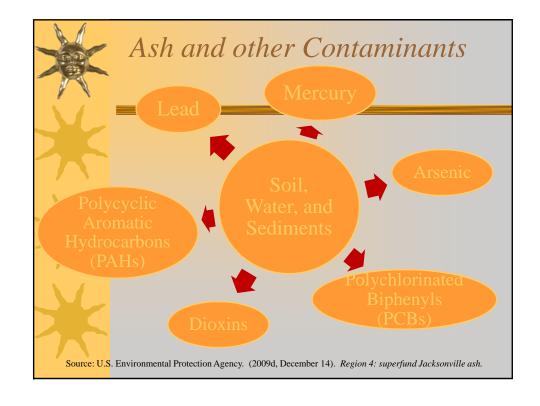
## **Community Action to Address Toxic Wastes**

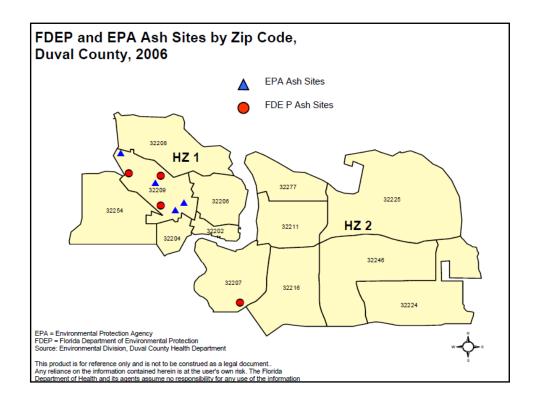
Aaron L. Hilliard, Ph.D. **Assistant CHD Director** Duval County Health Dept.

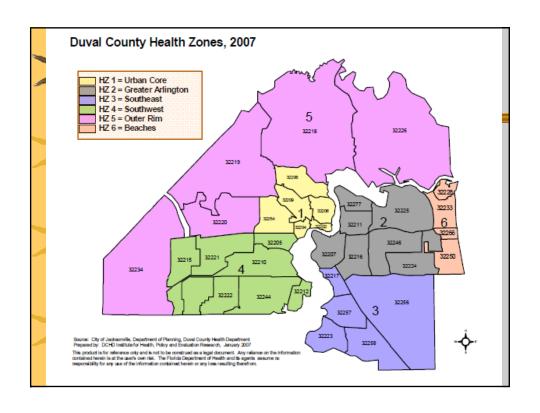


## History of Ash Disposal Sites

- \*1940's 1960's the City operated 3 incinerators.
- **★The ash from the incinerators** was felt to be beneficial to soil.
- **★The ash was disposed in many sites around**Duval County.
- ★The City has identified 5 primary ash disposal sites for evaluation.







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### Health Zone 1

4		HZ1	Health Zone 2	Health Zone 3	Health Zone 4	Health Zone 5	Health Zone 6	Duval County
Na and and and and and and and and and an	Poverty	28%	8.8%	5.3%	11.7%	10.8%	7.3%	11.9%
	Education level high school or greater	63.7%	87.2%	92.5%	82.6%	75.7%	89.6%	82.9%
	Children in poverty less than 18 y/o	38.4%	12%	6.4%	16.6%	14.5%	9.2%	16.4%
	Average median household income	21,185	44,509	53,972	39,610	42,040	44,765	41,118
	African American population	79.2%	19.8%	9.3%	21.4%	27.7%	10.8%	27.8%

Source: Duval County Health Department, Health Policy and Evaluation Research Institute. (2008, March). Health: place

Jacksonville Children's Commission. (2009). 2009 State of Jacksonville's children: racial and ethnic disparites report.



## Community Response

- **★ 1997- 1998 EPA environmental site** investigation
- \* 1999 State of Florida Health risk assessment of Brown's Dump
- \* 1999 State of Florida Contracted ATSDR to perform Health risk assessments of the other 3 sites
- **★** Provided Informational Exchanges
- **★** Created Environmental Toxicology Program



## Community Response cont....

- \* Developed a Citizens Health Advisory Committee
- **★ Issued a Health Advisory** to prevent fish consumption from Doeboys dump
- \* City of Jacksonville signed Administrative order.
- \* EPA/COJ initiated Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.
- **★** CDC Funded Pregnant Women Study.
- \* CDC/EPA/DCHD Pesticide Exposure study in children.



## Community Response cont....

- ★ Partnering with Fresh Ministries (Faith Based Organization) and the University of North Florida on an Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem solving Grant
- **\* UNF College of Health Nursing Program** 
  - Introduce students to community environmental health and outreach.
- **★** High Schools lectures
  - Allows students to see the real world application of the scientific principals they are currently studying.



## Citizens Health Advisory Committee



Back from Left to Right: Antonio Nichols, Dr. Aaron Hilliard, Frank Priestly, Jimmy Orth, Hastings Williams, David Jones

Front from Left to Right: Kathryn Kehoe, Jean Downing, Angie Vannatter Diane Kerr, Helen Jackson

- The Citizens Health Advisory Committee (CHAC) was formed by the mayor in august of 1999.
- The CHAC which includes CPAC's, neighborhood groups, NAACP and various academic institutions works very closely with the health department.
- The committee participates in providing education to the community as well as increasing community involvement.



## Citizens Health Advisory Committee cont..

- \*This is accomplished through community outreaches, information exchanges, and local ministries.
- ★The committee continues to provide an invaluable resource for identifying potential concerns in the community.



## Importance of Community Partners

- **★In Environmental Health community** partners play an important role.
  - They provide frontline insight to potential hazards
  - They work as partners to accomplish community environmental health goals
  - They are advocates for public health
  - They assist in our assessment, assurance, and policy development role.



## Information Exchange

- \*Meeting types
  - Town hall
  - Information Exchange
  - International Café
  - Etc
- \*Benefits
  - Permits expression of diverse viewpoints
  - Encourages group dynamics
  - Small group discussions are more comfortable
  - Creates dialogue



## Message

- \*Topic;1,2,3
  - Communicate clearly
    - Positive conclusion; what it is instead of not
    - At least 2 supporting facts; 3<sup>rd</sup> party best
    - Future Action; what we will do
  - Poster Stations
    - Central main point flanked by supporting points
    - One message on each panel
    - As you go down it gets more detailed
    - Technical handouts on adjacent table



## Children's Environmental Health

- \*Educate
  - Knowledge will guide practice
  - Knowledge will empower
- \* Advocate
  - Prevention is the key to protection!
  - Policy development at Local, State, and Federal levels.



## Children's Environmental Health

- \* Environmental health is an ongoing concern within the pediatric clinical practice.
- \* Children live in a very different environment today than previous generations.
- \* It is our job to protect our children and the future
- **★** Thank you.....



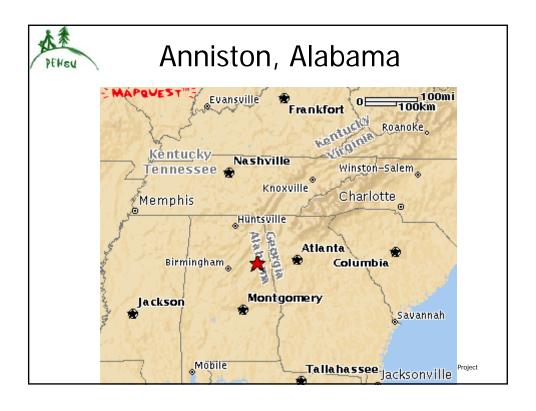


## Boom and Bust: the Story of Toxic Wastes in Anniston Alabama



Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

**EMORY University** 





## Anniston, Alabama

- Anniston city: 26,000 (54% white)
- Calhoun County: 116,000 (80% white)
- 1872: Anniston founded as a company town for the Woodstock Iron Company
- · By 1929: 117 foundries, mostly in west Anniston
- Late 1920s: Biphenyl manufacturing began
- 1935: Monsanto purchased the facility, began manufacturing PCBs, parathion, phosphorous pentasulfide, para-nitrophenol, and polyphenols one of two U.S. PCB manufacturing sites



## Exposure history

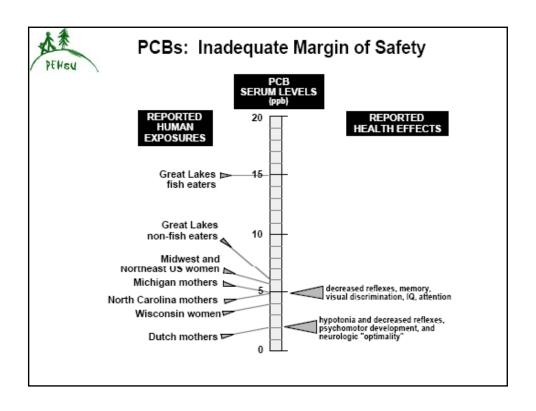
- Two large landfills were used throughout the plant's operation, one (west) until 1961, the other (south) until 1988
- Some product was given to local people for termite control, fencepost treatment, etc.
- 1970s-80s: Intermittent PCB detection in downstream fish and sediment
- Early 1990s: Recognition of downstream fish contamination; ADPH fish advisory.

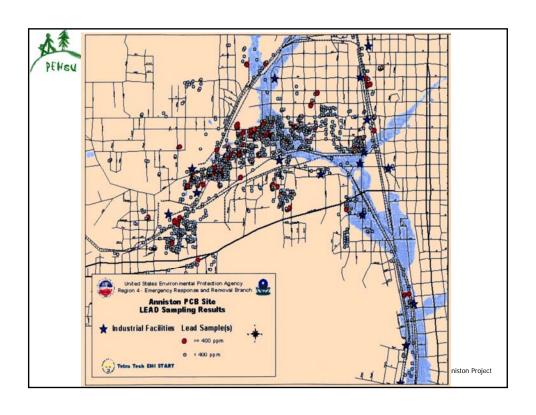
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## Anniston, Alabama PCB levels in blood

- 1995 ATSDR sampling of 103 people:
  - 46 (45%) with serum PCBs >10 ppb
  - 28 (27%) with serum PCBs >20 ppb
  - -5 (5%) with serum PCBs > 100 ppb
- 1999 Plaintiff sampling of ≈ 2,970 people:
  - -1,037 (35%) with serum PCBs > 10 ppb
  - 521 (17.5%) with serum PCBs >20 ppb
  - 41 (1.4%) with serum PCBs >100 ppb







## Revised History of Anniston

- Factories brought jobs, people and prosperity
- · Factories brought pollution
- · Pollution made people ill
- · Factories left
- People were out of work
- The people became poor
- The community lost tax base and resources
- People were trapped by poverty and unemployment

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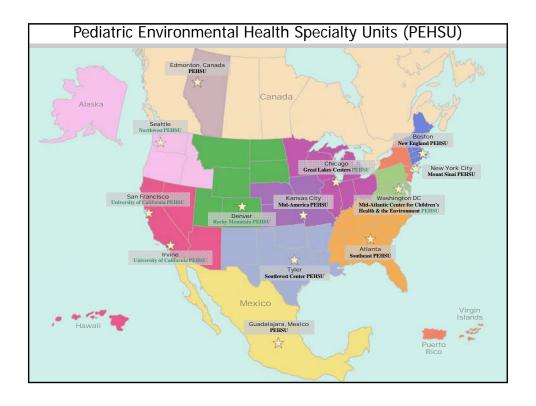
## Community Response to Contamination

- Mid-1990s
  - First citizens group started, litigation began
- 1998-2000
  - Broader contamination recognized, new citizens groups started, EPA involvement sought, further litigation launched.
- 2000-2004
  - Superfund designation being considered.



## Summary of the Situation

- History of Pollution in Anniston
- An Affronted Citizenry
- Litigation
- · Fractious situation
- EPA & ATSDR involvement
- · Need for information and education





### PEHSU in Anniston

- Late 2000
  - Preliminary work
- Jan 2001
  - Presentations to Pediatricians
  - Meetings with Community representatives
- Spring 2001
  - Developing a Vision
- 2001-2004
  - Community Forums and Health Fairs

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## **Community Partners**

- Community Representatives
- Alabama Early Intervention Services
- Anniston School Systems
- Local Pediatricians
- Local Business
- Academic Institutions



### Vision for Anniston

- · Defocus from litigation and conflict
- · Focus energy and efforts on Children
- Develop a program to identify infants and children at risk for developmental, behavioral and learning problems and provide early intervention to improve health and well-being
- Develop a research project based on findings

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## Formation of a Steering Committee

- · Gather information on status of children
- Gather information on existing resources
- Develop ways of improving availability and access to services for the children and their families
- Explore potential funding sources for improving services and developing research project initiatives
- · Reaching out to the Community at large



## Vision 2020: for the Children of Anniston

- Establish a Community-based Collaborative Partnership focusing on the education of children
- So that.... by the year 2020 there will be academic success in High Schools with pride and shared prosperity for all
- To serve as a model for other cities and towns around the country

SE PEHSU Anniston Project

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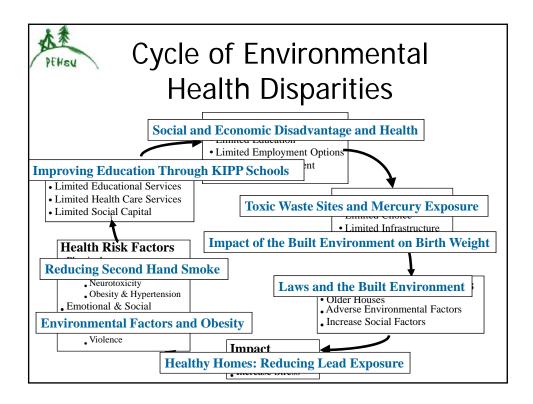
### Can we make a Difference?

- Break the Cycle is a collaborative interdisciplinary research and training program with University faculty who mentor graduate students in academic tracks that focus on the environmental impact on children's health.
- The target populations are communities where the environmental and children's health hazards are related to circumstances of social and economic disadvantage.



### Students' Role

- Each student is be required to develop a project that focuses on reducing or preventing environmental health related illnesses and disorders for children who live in adverse circumstances.
- At the end of the project period the students will present their studies and their findings in a conference.
- The reports of their studies are compiled and published in a monograph & scientific journal that will be available for distribution and dissemination.





### **Desired Outcomes**

- Inspire students from a variety of academic disciplines to explore the relationship between the environment and children's health and to develop strategies to address the challenges,
- Collaborate with an interdisciplinary team of academic leaders at major universities to creatively examine the broader issues in these topic areas,
- Promote leadership among the students and faculty of the university partners
- Encourage the development of curriculum changes that address social awareness of children's environmental health,
- Cultivate future leaders and advocates in children's environmental health.



### To Date...

- We have had 6 "Cycles"
- 52 Student projects
- 20 Universities
- 28 Departments
- 6 States
- 2 published monographs, 1 in press and 1 in preparation

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 We may not be required to complete a task but we are not allowed to desist from undertaking the challenge

