

Environmental Justice: Informing a new strategy with an environmental public health lens

Date: June 30th, 2011

Description: In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, which called for each Federal agency to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission. Many Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, developed environmental justice strategies at that time. Under the leadership of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) has been reinvigorated with a renewed commitment to addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental burdens in minority and low-income populations.



As initial steps, the Federal partners are reviewing their environmental justice strategies, and the EJ IWG is hosting meetings across the country to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss best practices and model programs. The PEPH webinar on June 30 will serve as a virtual listening session to seek input from the broader environmental public health community on key issues to consider when updating the HHS EJ strategy.

For the webinar, we will have two presenters. The first will be Dr. J. Nadine Gracia (Chief Medical Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health), who will outline the process for updating the HHS EJ strategy. The second presenter will be Dr. Robert Bullard (Professor, Clark Atlanta University), who has recently published a book outlining both the accomplishments and challenges that remain in addressing the disproportionate environmental and human health burdens faced by many communities in America. The presentations will set the stage for a virtual Q&A session.



J. Nadine Gracia, MD, MSCE

Bio: Dr. Gracia is the Chief Medical Officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A pediatrician with epidemiology training, Dr. Gracia provides policy and program guidance on a range of topics. Her portfolio includes child and adolescent health, climate change, disaster response, environmental health, global health, and the White House Council on Women and Girls.

Presentation title: Environmental Justice: Informing a new strategy with an environmental public health lens

Abstract: This presentation describes the relationship between human health and the environment and provides a brief historical background on the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice. An overview of the 1995 Health and Human Services's (HHS) Environmental Justice Strategy will be highlighted to facilitate audience comments on current and emerging issues in environmental justice from a public health perspective.



Robert D. Bullard, Ph.D.

Bio: Dr. Bullard has been described as the [father of environmental justice](#). He received his Ph.D. degree from Iowa State University. He is the author of seventeen books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, emergency response, smart growth, and regional equity. Professor Bullard was featured in the July 2007 CNN People You Should Know, [Bullard: Green Issue is Black and White](#). In 2008, *Newsweek* named him one of 13 [Environmental Leaders of the Century](#). And that same year, Co-op America honored him with its

Building Economic Alternatives Award (BEA). In 2010, *The Grio* named him one of the “[100 Black History Makers in the Making](#)” and *Planet Harmony* named him one of [Ten African American Green Heroes](#).”

Presentation title: Environmental Justice Challenges and Opportunities for Creating Healthy People and Healthy Places for All

Presentation abstract: The environmental justice frame has proven to be a powerful lens for examining environmental health disparities and framing equitable strategies and solutions. The presenter lays out the socio-historical context of three decades of environmental justice research findings, lessons learned, strengths and accomplishment of the environmental justice and health equity movements, institutionalization of programs, effective decision making models, near and long-term needs, and opportunities collaboration and partnerships that address environmental health disparities that disproportionately impact low-income and minority populations in the United States.

If you have any questions about this webinar please feel free to call or email Justin Crane (cranej2@niehs.nih.gov, 919 794-4702). [Website/registration](#)

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