Bloomberg American Health Initiative

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What is the Bloomberg American Health Initiative?
Overall Initiative

- Honor of the Centennial
- Five focus areas
- Fellows
- Impacting Policy & Practice
Building Healthy Community Environments: A Public Health Approach

Kirsten Koehler, PhD, Megan Latshaw, PhD, Thomas Matte, MD, MPH, Daniel Kass, MSPH, Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH, Mary Fox, PhD, Benjamin F. Hobbs, PhD, Marsha Wills-Karp, PhD, and Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH

Abstract
Environmental quality has a profound effect on health and the burden of disease. In the United States, the environment-related burden of disease is increasingly dominated by chronic diseases. At the local level, public health practitioners realize that many policy decisions affecting environmental quality and health transcend the authorities of traditional health department programs. Healthy decisions about the built environment, including housing, transportation, and energy, require broad collaborative efforts. Environmental health professionals have an opportunity to address the shift in public health burden toward chronic diseases and play an important role in the design of healthy communities by bringing data and tools to

Environmental Challenges Focus Area

- Community Design
- Transportation & health in a changing environment
- Energy & health in a changing environment
- Air pollution
Environmental Challenges working group
Activities

• Recruiting for two **Endowed Professorships**
• **Curriculum Committee** identified gaps
  • Environmental Justice (coming 2\textsuperscript{nd} term)
  • Air pollution (coming 2019)
  • Transportation & health (coming 2019)
  • Energy & public health (maybe use AAP course?)
• Other courses
  • One Health – animal, environment & human interface
  • Disease Clusters MOOC
Community Engagement

- **CASA de Maryland** gathered data on local business ownership in Hispanic communities
- **Living Classrooms** incorporated EH & food systems into a Cultural Cooking curriculum
- **Maryland New Directions** investigated transportation access and industrial redevelopment
- **Green and Healthy Homes** developed an Asthma Care Management Program to reduce triggers
- **Habitat for Humanity** analyzed housing conditions as related to economic and public health factors
- **Maryland Environmental Health Network** modeled resources, agency, community health & resiliency
Research

• Modeled **population growth** & climate change
• Looked at whether new **dietary standards** in child care centers impacted dietary intake & waste
• Exploring the potential of fungi to **sequester carbon dioxide**
• Mapping **air quality in Baltimore** using low-cost monitoring data
• Studying the effects of **rail transit**, air pollution, and noise on community health
• Investigating **inner-city schools** as a locus for health disparities in minority communities