COMMUNITY FORUM: HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND ACTION

Community Outreach and Engagement Core (COEC)
Stakeholder Advisory Board (Community Partners)
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HERCULES: Quick Overview

Health and Exposome Research Center: Understanding Lifetime Exposures

- A center to provide the infrastructure to support environmental health research
- HERCULES has experts in
  - Air pollution, pesticide exposures, clean water, toxicology
  - Laboratory techniques to measure toxins in the body and the environment
  - Complex mathematical modeling
- Goal: to better predict health
- Scientific theme: exposome

An “exposome” analogy…
Human body ≈ bucket

Each person has a bucket.
Everyone’s bucket is a different size.
When the bucket is full, the person becomes sick.

Human body ≈ bucket

Exposures/Challenges:

- Poverty
- Limited access to nutritious foods
- Limited access to healthcare
- Lack of exercise
- Safety threats / stress
- Air pollution/traffic emissions
- Exposure to pesticides
- Exposure to mold or lead
- Impaired waterways

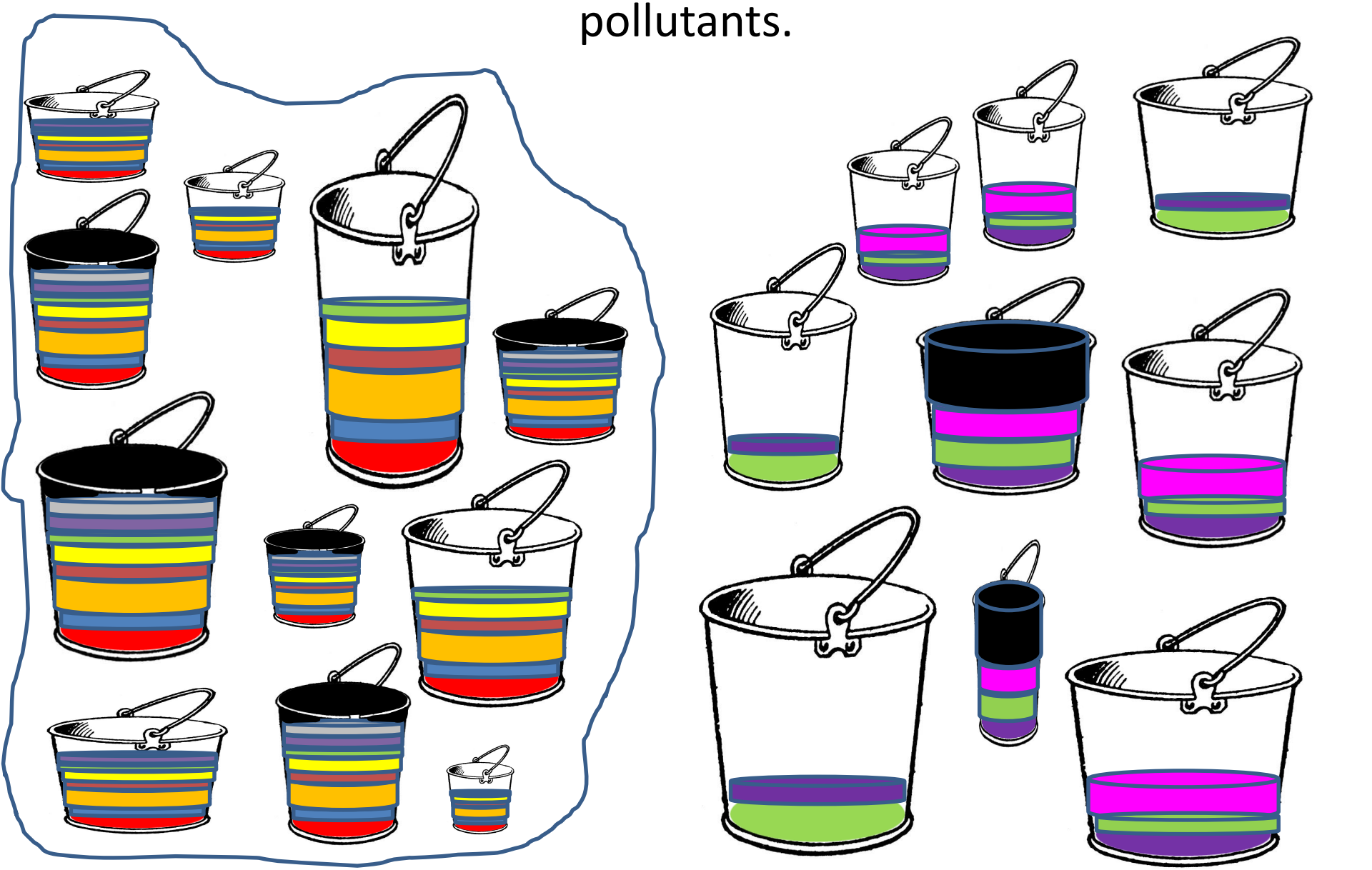
Human body ≈ bucket

Reality:

- Many exposures/challenges combine to influence a person's health.
- Historically, science only investigated one factor at a time.
  - Example: air pollution and asthma
- More recently, science has considered other factors that increase vulnerability to environmental exposures.
  - Children more vulnerable
  - Children who live or attend schools near busy roads are more likely to have asthma.

The Exposome is a scientific approach to measuring the “whole” bucket.

The Exposome can help identify communities that face multiple pollutants and/or are more vulnerable to these pollutants.



Important bucket tidbits...

- The size of a person's bucket can change over time.
- Parental exposures can change the size of future children & grandchildren's buckets.
- Healthy interventions can "remove" stressors from a bucket.

Exposome and the community.

- New scientific approach
  - Want it to become useful, meaningful.
- To make sure it is useful and matters, we need community input!

Stakeholder Advisory Board

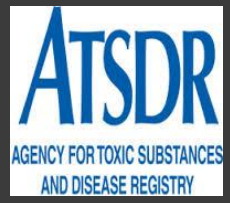
Oversee community outreach.

Determine the focus and format of the outreach.

Inform HERCULES of local environmental health concerns.

Stakeholders reflect the local EH community

Environmental
EAF
Awareness
Foundation



HERCULES Stakeholders said…

- Great approach to science – takes our reality into account.
- BUT, while your figuring out HOW to do measure the EXPOSOME, do something to benefit the local community now!
- Share the scientific knowledge with the community.
- Provide technical assistance to community organizations to help them address their EH concerns.
- Provide small grants to support the community organizations

HERCULES
Technical Assistance Program

- Provide practical support and mentoring to help strengthen local organizations' ability to address environmental health concerns.

  - Five applications, two selected
    - Georgia Food Policy Council
    - Georgia Tenant Advocacy Group

  - Modifications to future TA program in consideration

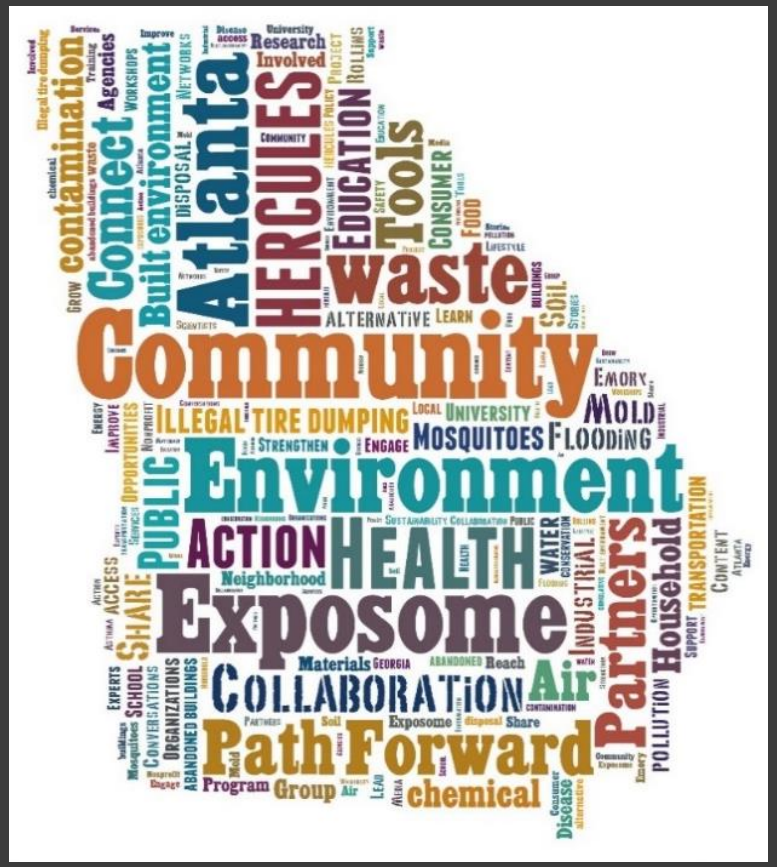
Service Learning Opportunities

- Rollins Earn and Learn program
  - funding for graduate students to work in government agencies and non-profit organizations (501c3)
- Community Needs Assessment
  - Student groups partner with organization to conduct community needs assessment
- Curriculum Development for Health Education
  - Student groups works with organization to develop health curriculum

HERCULES mini-Grant Program

- $2500 for one-year project
- Funding to organizations (501c3)
- Goal: **Build capacity** in the community.
- Applications due: October 20, 2014
  - Details in handout (meeting folder)

HERCULES Community Forum



- Start the conversation between scientists and local community.
  - Share science.
  - Share local concerns & knowledge.
- Demonstrate action models that can help community members work together to address concerns.

Meeting structure - **Understanding the Science**

- Each person will participate in 3 small group discussions with an expert.
  - 20 minutes
  - Expert is allotted 3 minutes!
  - Rest of the time is for you to ask questions and conversation!
- Topics and room locations listed on back of agenda.
- If room is at capacity, please go to next topic choice.
  - Household chemical exposures
- Each topic is available during all three sessions.

Meeting structure – Initiating Action

- Demonstrating community action models.
  - For demonstration purposes, models will focus on a specific topic.
  - Only participate in one of two models.

- Not solving a problem today, but hope there are aspects of the models or tools within these models that you will find helpful.
  - PARTICIPATE
  - Think of action step can take in your community.
  - Action cards in folder.

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

EPA
United States Environmental Protection Agency

Meeting structure – Lunch and Keynote

Before the conversations begin…

- Student volunteers and staff help
  - green name tags
- Students and discussion leaders please go to your assigned rooms
- Bathrooms on each floor