ATSDR and Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Initiative

Improving Community Health through Land Reuse and Development
Strong Cities, Strong Communities, Strong Northwest Indiana
Gary, IN
July 22-23, 2014

The findings and conclusions in this report have not been formally disseminated by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.
Agenda

• Overview: ATSDR Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Initiative
• Role of public health in redevelopment projects
• Key steps to healthy redevelopment
• ATSDR approach to sites
• Where healthy redevelopment is successful
• What can you do?
Brownfields/ Land Reuse Sites

• Potentially contaminated sites that are slated for reuse
  – EPA “Brownfields” – EPA funding
  – Landfills
  – Commercial or residential
  – Underutilized
What does ATSDR Do and Why Do We Do It?

• Encourage communities to include and promote community health in brownfield and land reuse projects

• Protect community members’ health when redeveloping brownfields and land reuse sites
Health Conclusion Categories for Brownfield / Land Reuse Sites

- Public health hazard: 39%
- Urgent public health hazard: 3%
- Public health hazard is not expected: 47%
- Cannot currently conclude a public health hazard: 11%
Contaminated sites were and are being reused without careful assessment.
ATSDR Approach

- Measure success: environmental and health change
- Organize the Development Community
- Evaluate environmental and health issues
- Communicate risk or health issues to Development Community
- Redesign community with health in mind
Key Steps to Healthy Redevelopment

- Form a “coalition” – a Development Community
- Implement a plan
  - Use available frameworks to identify redevelopment issues
  - Use available tools and resources to collect data
- Stewards of the process for the long term
ATSDR APPROACH TO BROWNFIELDS/LAND REUSE SITES
10% Health Monitoring in Brownfields Assessment Grants
ATSDR Action Model

Step 1: What are the issues in the community?

Step 2: How can development address these issues?

Step 3: What are the corresponding community health benefits?

Step 4: What data are needed to measure change?
Action Model Goals

- **Grass roots:** KEY
- Measurable public health endpoints (great for funding)
  - Crime rate
  - Housing value, ownership, repair
  - Contaminated sites and exposures
  - Number of parks, access to food outlets, access to medical care

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**15th Avenue Target Areas: Crime Statistics 2001-2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Crime Statistics (2001-2005)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>150</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Crime rate decreased

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**15th Avenue Target Area: Property Values 2001 and 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2006</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Assessed Value</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of All Property</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Assessed Value</td>
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<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Residential Property</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Property values increased
ATSDR Brownfields/Land Reuse Site Tool

Brownfield /Land Reuse
Community Health Videos

City of Jacksonville, Florida: Brownfields/Land Revitalization Program

Squim, Washington: Jamestown S’Kallam

Baraboo, Wisconsin: Baraboo Ringling Riverfront Redevelopment

Tahlequah, Oklahoma: Cherokee Nation

Postville, Iowa: Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission
Best Practices
Community Health Guidebook

- The Brass Site, Kenosha, Wisconsin
- Clearwater Brownfields Area, Clearwater, Florida
- Five Mile Creek, Jefferson County, Alabama
- Highland Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Menomonee River Valley, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Treasure Valley Institute for Children’s Arts, Boise, Idaho
- Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, Alaska and Yukon
- Moore Square Museums Magnet School, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, L’Anse Indian Reservation, Michigan
Community Health Projects

- Bridgeport, CT
- Pleasantville, NJ
- Hudson/Mohawk River Corridor, NY
- Buffalo, NY
- Rochester Falls, NY
- Niagara Falls, NY
- Tallassee, AL
- Atlanta Brownfield Project, GA
- Tampa, FL
- Clearwater, FL
- Jacksonville, FL
- Baraboo, WI
- Detroit, MI
- Milwaukee, WI
- Rock County, WI
- Indianapolis, IN
- Cedar, MI
- Blue Island, IL
- East Cleveland, OH
- City of Piqua, OH
- Central Corridor, MN
- Elkhart, IN
- Tribal Brownfields Video (4&6)
- Clinton, IA
- Upper Explorerland, IA
- Perry, IA
- Missouri Lead Mining
- Saipan UXO
- Tucson, AZ
- Lummi Nation, WA
- Portland, OR
- Tribal Brownfields, AK
- Highway to Health and Healthcare
- *Some similarities to Gary
ATSDR and Partners Creating Change

- School siting guidelines
- Urban gardening and soil kitchens
- Day care siting
- Lead exposures
- National experts: Steering Committee
  - Book
  - Community Partnerships
Where Health Makes a Difference

All over the country, people are creating “healthy” redevelopment
Rutland, VT: A Creative Economy

Photos: ATSDR Rutland Case Examples, in Preparation (2014)
NOTE: The Blood in this Town film clips.
Blue Island, IL

- Chicago “collar” suburb
- Industrial past
- Crossed by highways
- Action Model project – 2009
- Brought people into the process because focused on health
- Positive, measurable changes – 50 indicators
  - Park District increased programming 10-fold
  - Inventoried sites with ATSDR Site Tool
  - Community gardens: 0 to 5
  - Tree plantings

Community Health Coalition
Land Reuse Team

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry