
Environmental Public Health in Oregon

Presentation to the Senate Committee on Health Care
May 24, 2023

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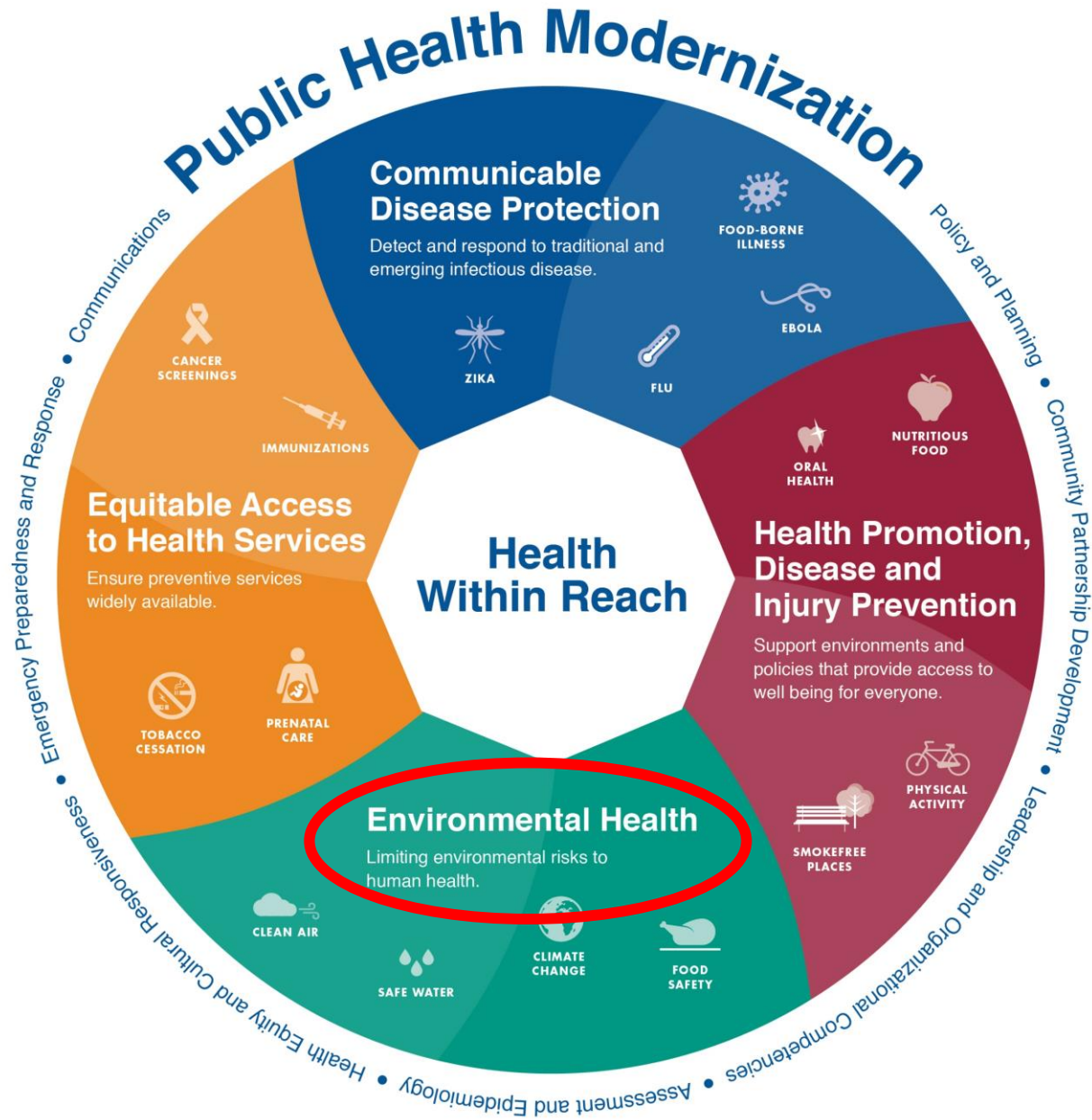


A New Context for Environmental Public Health

- **Focus: Eliminating *Environmental* Health Inequities**
- ***Environmental* Public Health Modernization**
- **Rapidly Accelerating Climate Change**



Image: Partnership for Environmental Public Health



2021-23 Public Health Modernization Funding for Partners' Environmental Health Work

	Engaged in Environmental Health Work	Overall PHM Funding
Local Public Health Authorities	34 of 36 Counties funded	\$33.4M
Tribal Public Health Authorities	9 of 9 Tribes	\$4.3M
Community-Based Organizations	38 of 177 CBOs funded	\$10M

Climate and Health CBO Grantees

Populations Served

- Children under 5;
- Communities of color;
- People with disabilities;
- Immigrant and refugee communities;
- Rural communities;
- Houseless communities;
- People with behavioral health conditions;
- People who are unemployed or underemployed;
- People with lower incomes;
- People with high school diploma or less;
- People who work outdoors;
- Older adults over 65

92% of Grantees engaged in **Culturally Responsive Outreach** including:

- cultural events,
- newsletters,
- community meetings,
- youth leadership trainings.

63% of Grantees engaged in **coalition building** including:

- Tree and Climate Coalition,
- Building Shared Future Coalition,
- Build/Shift Collaborative and others.

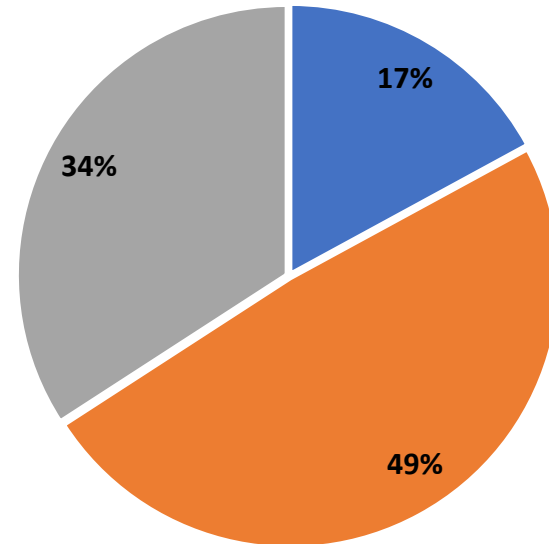
Climate and Health CBO Grantee Workplan highlights

Workplan Progress:

- Hiring of Climate specific staff;
- Hosting Enviro Natal Health Equity Symposium;
- AC installations for seniors;
- CHW Climate Change Curricula listening sessions;
- Implementation of Climate, Health, and Housing Institute leadership development program.

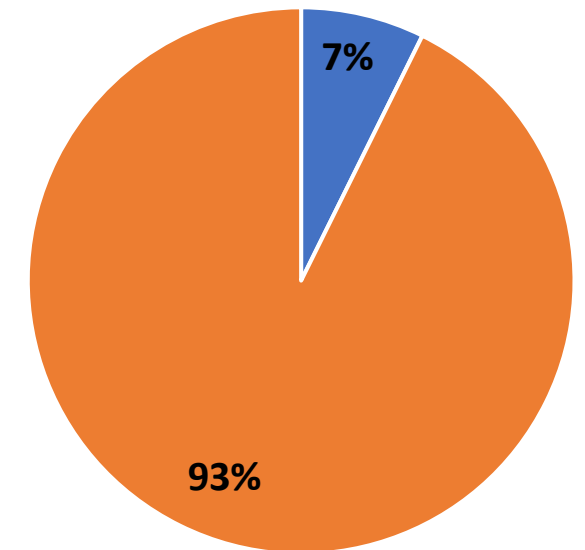
Workplan Includes Creating an Assessment

- No
- Yes, and we are beginning to make progress
- Yes, but we have not yet made progress on this activity



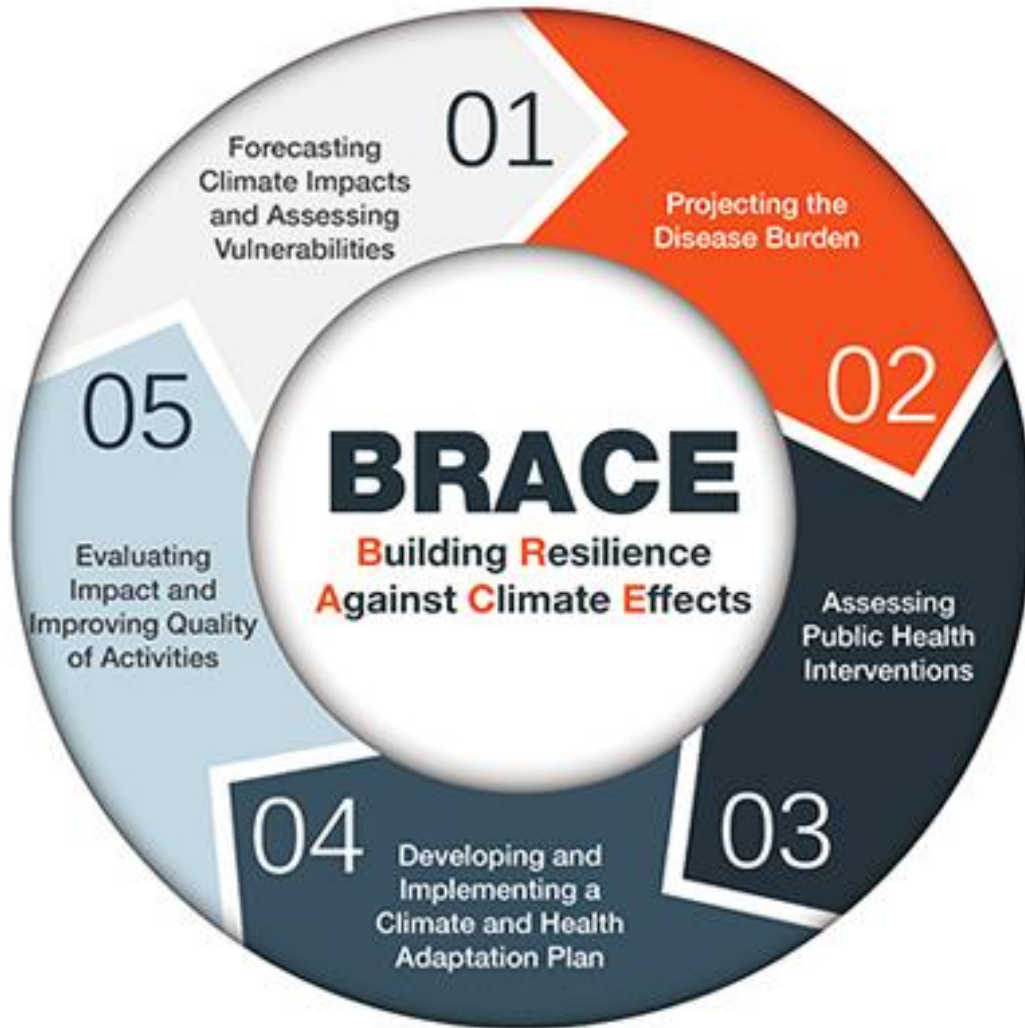
Workplan Includes Building Social Connections

- No
- Yes



Local & Tribal Public Health Authorities

- Identify climate risks & priority populations
- Estimate health impacts
- Identify strategies
- Develop & implement a plan
- Evaluate effectiveness & improve
- *Required for LPHAs*



OHA Environmental Public Health Section



- Centering community & environmental equity
- Implement ~20 programs with ~40 staff
- Provide technical expertise to legislature, state & local environmental & emergency response agencies, general public
- Excludes Public Water Systems, Radiation Protection

Healthy Homes and Schools

- **Healthy Homes Grant Program** (NEW – general fund)
- **Lead Paint Hazards** (federal grant & fees)
- **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention** (federal grant)
- **Toxic Free Kids Program** (general fund & fees)
- **Radon Awareness** (federal grant)
- **Clandestine Drug Lab** (interagency agreement w/DEQ)

New Policy Capacity:

- **Healthy Homes & Schools Strategist** (GF Modernization)

Future healthy homes/schools & greenhouse gas reduction funding:

- **Federal Inflation Reduction Act**

Climate and Health Program

- **State Climate and Health Program** (federal grant)
 - Evidence base for human health risks from climate change-driven hazards
 - Equity partner for natural resource agencies
 - Technical assistance to public health system & natural resource agency partners
 - **Tribal, County, Community Based Organizations** (GF modernization)

New policy capacity

- **Climate Equity Strategist Position** (GF Modernization)
- **Emerging Environmental Threats Strategist Position** (GF Modernization)
- **Land use and Built Environment Position** (GF Modernization)

Environmental Toxics Program

- **Human Health Toxicology Team** (federal grant and general fund)
- **Public Health Assessments for Superfund and other contaminated sites** (federal grant)
- **Toxics consults to legislature, state and local environmental and emergency response agencies, general public** (federal & gen'l)
- **Co-implement Cleaner Air Oregon industrial air toxics health-based regulatory program with DEQ** (fee-based interagency agreement)

New capacity

- ***Public Health Toxicologist (GF Modernization)***

Public Health Surveillance

- **Env. Public Health Tracking Data & Informatics** (federal grant)
 - Epidemiologist interpreting env. & health outcome data
 - Data access via Tracking Portal
 - Data Equity Strategist Position
- **Environmental Justice Mapping Tool w/DEQ** (general fund)
- **Healthy Waters Advisories: fish consumption, harmful algae blooms, beach water quality** (federal grants & GF)
- **Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking** (interagency agreement w/ODA)
- **Occupational Health** (interagency agreement w/OHSU)
- **Domestic Well Safety** (pending 2023 general fund request)

New policy capacity

- **Water & Climate Epidemiologist** (GF Modernization)

Food, Pool and Lodging Safety

- **All fee-funded**
- **Center of technical expertise and regulatory consistency supporting Local Public Health Authority licensing and inspection**
- **Foodborne Illness Prevention Program** oversight of 17,000 food service facilities
- **Pool & Spa Safety Program** oversight of 3,500 facilities
- **Lodging Safety Program** oversight of 2,500 facilities



Do you get your drinking water from a well?
 ¿Su agua potable viene de un pozo?

Test to ensure your family has clean, safe drinking water. Tests and treatment are free.

Realice una prueba para asegurarse de que su familia reciba agua potable limpia y segura. Las pruebas y tratamientos son gratis.

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Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area – Nitrate Contaminated Domestic Wells

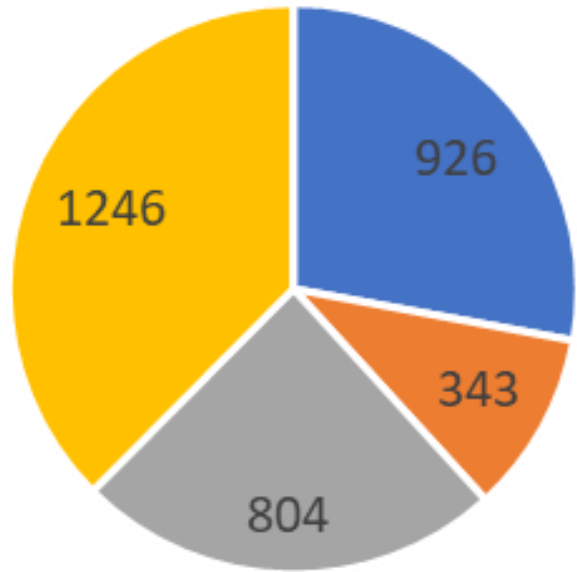
- ~4500 domestic wells serving 12,000 people
 - ~3400 Umatilla County
 - ~900 Morrow County
- High nitrates reduce ability of blood to carry oxygen
- Acute: bottle-fed babies and exposure during pregnancy; Chronic: a concern for all
- **State providing testing, water provisioning, treatment systems**



Public Water Systems in Oregon

PWS by Type

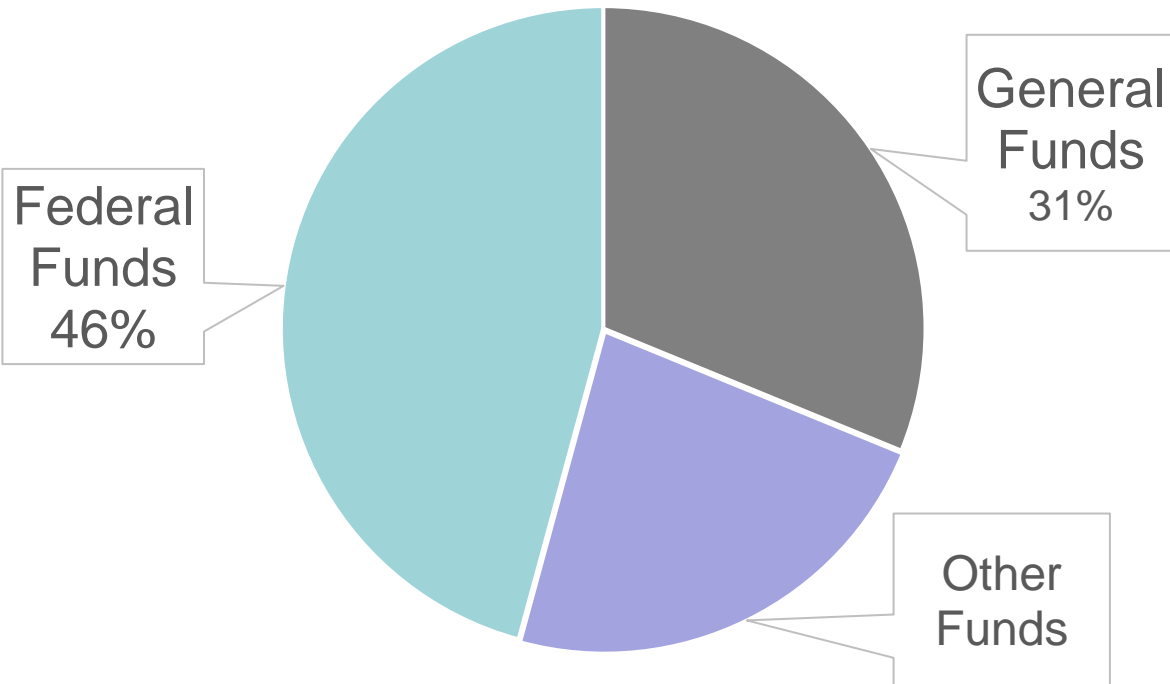
- Community
- Non-transient Non-community
- Oregon Very Small
- Transient Non-community



- 3,319 total public water systems
 - 2515 Safe Drinking Water Act-regulated (76%)
 - 804 Very Small State Regulated (24%)
- “Community” typically municipally-run system
- “Non-Community” systems such as schools, campgrounds

Funding Sources – Public Water Systems

Drinking Water Services Section –
2021-2023 Biennial Budget



- Base federal funding ~\$7 to 9 million/year
- 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will boost funding 2023-27
- OHA has received requests for 84 projects totaling \$574M – compared to ~\$35M available
- Governor Kotek call: state supplemental funding to reduce the gap

Contact Information

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