



President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

Partnering to Protect the Health of the Nation's Children

The President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children (Task Force) is the focal point for coordinating the federal government's efforts to explore, understand, and improve children's environmental health.

The Task Force was established by [Executive Order 13045](#) issued in 1997.

Children Are Uniquely Vulnerable to Environmental Hazards

Children are uniquely vulnerable to the potential health effects of environmental exposure. Consider that: Children eat more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weight. Young children explore their environment by crawling and making hand-to-mouth contact, heightening the risk of encountering harmful exposures. Children's neurological, immunological, digestive, and other bodily systems are still developing.

Objectives of the Task Force

- Identify priority issues of environmental health and safety risks to children that can be best addressed by federal interagency efforts
- Recommend and implement interagency actions to protect and promote children's environmental health and safety
- Communicate with federal, state and local decision makers to protect children from environmental and safety risks

Priorities of the Subcommittees of the Task Force

- Lead exposures
- Asthma disparities
- Healthy settings
- Chemical exposures

Activities and Accomplishments

2016: Released *Key Federal Programs to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts*, which highlights more than 70 federal programs directed to preventing childhood lead exposures [\[link\]](#)

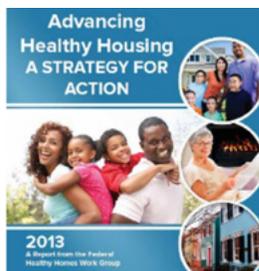
2016: Released Key Federal Programs to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts



2014: Convened an Expert Consultation on the Impacts of Climate Change on Children's Health [\[link\]](#)

2013: Developed Advancing Healthy Housing—A Strategy for Action [\[link\]](#)

2013: The Task Force publishes Advancing Healthy Housing—A Strategy for Action



2013: Produced Measures to Identify and Track Racial Disparities in Childhood Asthma [\[link\]](#)

2012: Released Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities [\[link\]](#)

2010: Established the Senior Staff Steering Committee to support the work of the Task Force [\[link\]](#)

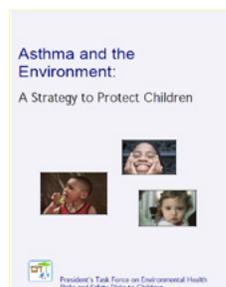
2010: The Senior Staff Steering Committee is established to support the work of the Task Force



2000: Developed Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning: A Federal Strategy Targeting Lead Paint Hazards [\[link\]](#)

1998: Released Asthma and the Environment: A Strategy to Protect Children [\[link\]](#)

1998: The Task Force releases Asthma and the Environment: A Strategy to Protect Children



Task Force Members

- Environmental Protection Agency*
- Department of Health and Human Services*
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Council of Economic Advisers
- Council on Environmental Quality
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of Transportation
- Domestic Policy Council
- National Economic Policy Council
- Office of Management and Budget
- Office of Science and Technology Policy

*Co-Chairs of the Task Force

Learn More: <https://ptfkeh.niehs.nih.gov>