

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

## Partnering to Protect the Health of Our 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 effort to explore, understand, and improve children's environmental health.

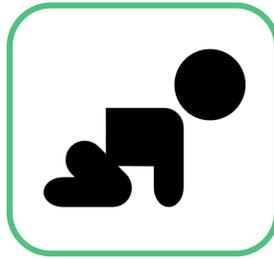
The Task Force was established by [Executive Order 13045](#) in 1997.



## Children Are Uniquely Vulnerable to Environmental Hazards



Children breathe more air, drink more fluids, and eat more food in proportion to their body weight.



Young children crawl and explore their environment through hand-to-mouth contact.



Children's neurological, digestive and other body systems are undergoing rapid development.

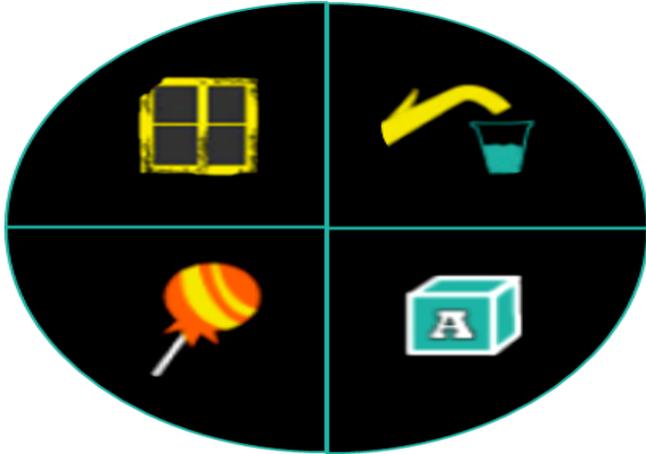
## Objectives of the Task Force

Identify priority children's environmental health and safety issues best addressed through federal interagency efforts

Develop federal interagency strategies to protect children's environmental health and safety

Communicate information to federal, state, and local decision makers to protect children from environmental health risks

## Current Focus: Lead Exposure



Lead-based paint, certain water pipes, consumer products, and imported food are major sources of lead.

- Lead exposure remains a significant health concern for children in the United States.
- The Task Force is developing a comprehensive strategy to further reduce lead exposure in children's environments.
- By leveraging the unique expertise of each member agency, the Task Force's strategy will address the multiple sources of lead found where children live, learn, and play.

## Major Milestones



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



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



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



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



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



**2016:** Created *Measures to Identify and Track Racial Disparities in Childhood Asthma* [\[link\]](#)



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



**2016:** Published *Key Federal Programs to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts* [\[link\]](#)

## Task Force Members

- Department of Health and Human Services \*
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \*
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- \*Co-Chairs of the Task Force
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of Transportation
- Council of Economic Advisers
- Council on Environmental Quality
- Domestic Policy Council
- National Economic Policy Council
- Office of Management and Budget
- Office of Science and Technology Policy