

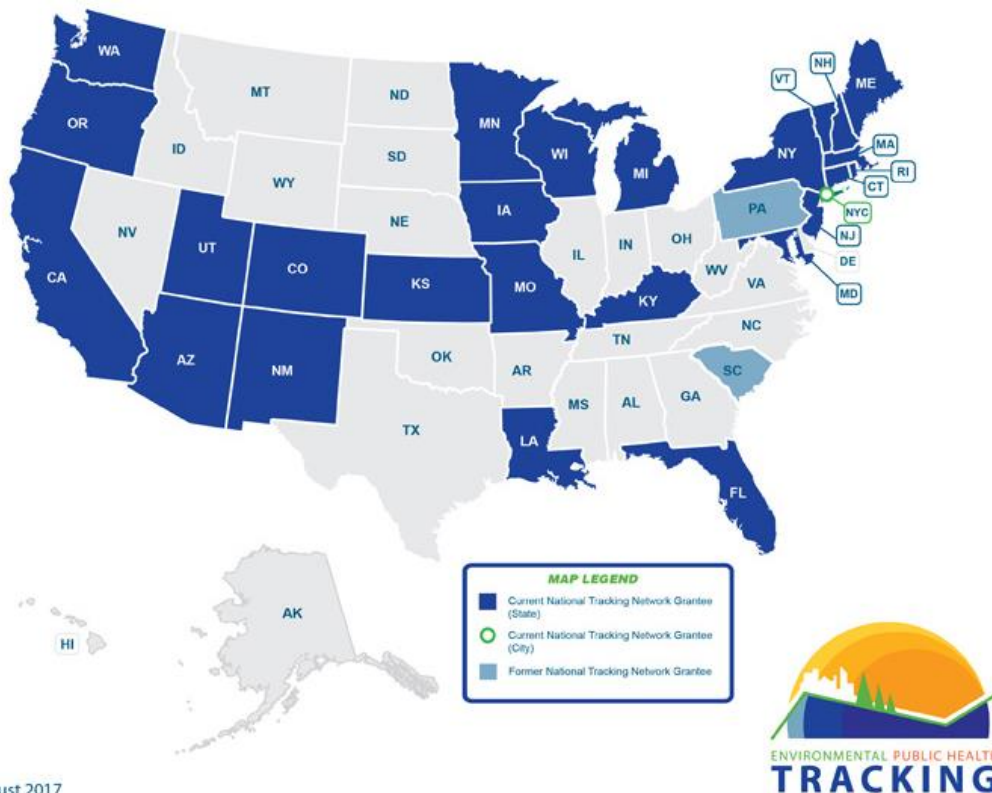


Health Tracking Program

National Center for Environmental Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) FY 2019 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill

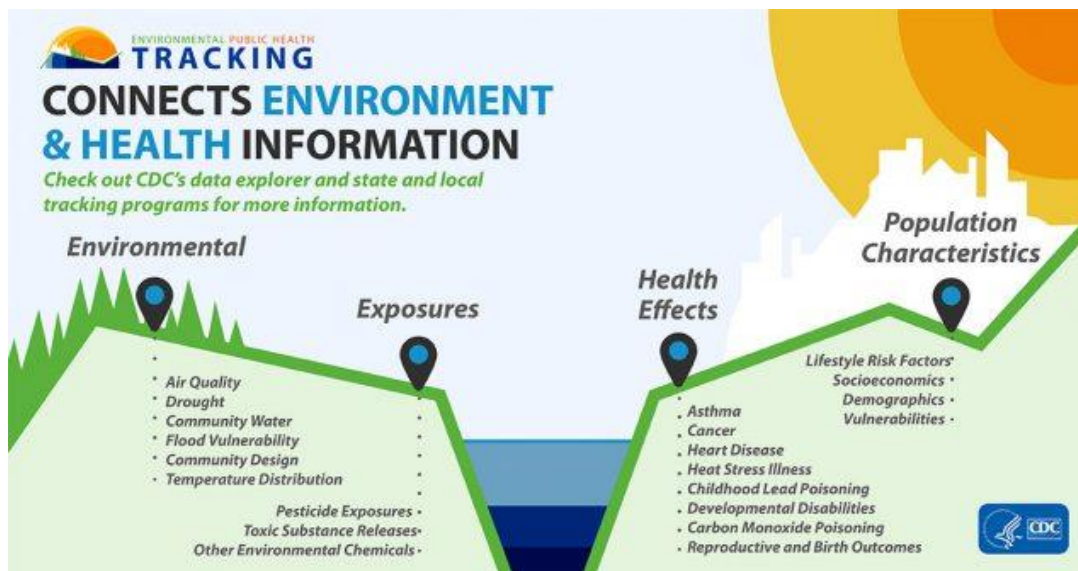
	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019 President's Request	FY2019 TFAH
National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program	\$33,920,000	\$34,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$40,000,000

Background: Where we live, work, learn, and play has an enormous impact on our health, and yet we historically have lacked adequate data to both help understand these impacts and deploy increasingly scarce public health resources to address them – all with the goal of improving human health. As recently as 2011, the Pew Environmental Health Commission issued a report recognizing this critical information gap and recommended that Congress develop a nationwide tracking network to collect and disseminate this data. In 2002, Congress first provided funding for the program in 2002.



Impact: Roughly a decade after its inception, the Tracking Program contains data points for cancer, reproductive health outcomes, birth defects and demographics and socioeconomic status, outdoor air quality, drinking water quality, hospitalizations for asthma, cardiovascular disease, carbon monoxide poisoning, childhood lead poisoning, community design, and developmental disabilities. To date, Tracking grantees have taken over 400 data-driven actions to improve health.

In 2017, the program recently completed a new competitive process and in August 2017 announced awards to 25 states and one city for five-year expected funding. A previous Public Health Foundation study estimated that every dollar invested in tracking results in a \$1.44 return in the form of health care savings.



Recommendation: As of 2018, we still only fund half our states to participate in the Tracking Network. In the past CDC has estimated that roughly \$100 million will be needed to expand the program to all 50 states, D.C. and U.S. territories. As such, TFAH recommends that Congress provide \$40 million in FY 2019 as an initial payment towards fully funding the Network within the next five years.

For an additional \$5 million (\$40 million total), the program could add at least three states to the existing network. Additional levels of funding could also allow the program to continue to expand the type of health data available to policymakers, public health professionals, and the public.

Unfortunately, the President's proposed funding level of \$25,000,000 for FY19 would represent roughly a \$10 million cut for this program from current funding levels. At that level, it is estimated that funding to current grantees would be cut nearly in half and eliminate jobs for 75 skilled state and local environmental public health professionals. A successful mentoring program for unfunded states would also be eliminated.