

Environmental Health

Improving Our Environment. Protecting Our Health



Abt Associates helps shape U.S. air and water quality standards, regulations and policies and delivers groundbreaking solutions to eliminate and reduce hazardous chemicals and pesticides. Our climate change **expertise** and **cutting-edge tools and models** continue to demonstrate **our leadership** in improving environmental health in the U.S. and worldwide.

Our Work

Abt Associates delivers trailblazing solutions to protect the nation's health by improving air and water quality, restoring our ecosystems, using safer chemical products and reducing the use of hazardous pesticides.

We have been a premier provider of **analytical support to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** for 30 years, helping to ensure that investments in environmental protection provide the greatest possible benefits to society.

Our commitment to environmental health also includes smart, efficient and creative **responses to the challenges of climate change**.

Our Focus

- Air Quality
- Climate Change
- Ecological Risk Assessment
- Economic & Regulatory Analysis
- Environmental Modeling
- Human Health Risk Assessment
- Toxic Chemical Management
- Water Resources

Protecting Our Air

We are proud of our work to improve air quality and reduce the incidence of diseases caused or worsened by air pollutants, including:

- our quantitative **risk assessments to support environmental policy and regulatory decisions** both in the U.S. and overseas, and
- our studies which contributed to **EPA's** establishment of **national ambient air quality standards** and other source specific regulations.



Improving Our Water Quality

Abt is widely recognized for our work in improving water quality which includes:

- our **costs-benefits and economic analysis** of the impacts of proposed effluent guidelines and water quality standards under the **Clean Water Act**;
- our **environmental models to estimate the loss-of-life** associated with potential flood events in New Orleans; and
- our studies to **protect the quality of surface and ground water resources and human health** by improving the quality of drinking water.

Reducing Toxic Chemicals

Abt has been the leading provider of **economic and policy analysis to EPA for national toxic chemical management and regulatory support** for three decades. Our work in this area includes:

- using toxic chemical risk identification and risk assessment to help **formulate policy solutions**;
- **promoting greener chemical design and supporting environmentally preferable products** for U.S. EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) programs;
- supporting regulation activities using **strong economic modeling** and analysis skills to develop objective results for clients;
- our development of the **Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI)** model which uses toxicity data and environmental modeling to analyze potential risks to human health from chemical emissions reported to EPA's Toxics Release Inventory; and
- Supporting state, federal and international level agencies in selecting safer chemicals through **alternatives assessment and life cycle analysis**.

Performing Health Risk Assessments

- developing criteria air pollutants risk assessments;
- developing new methods for quantifying risk;
- building computer models to calculate risk efficiently and cost-effectively;
- evaluating potential human health benefits of proposed air and drinking water regulations;
- assessing risks in vulnerable populations, such as children or those of low socioeconomic status; and
- conducting methods research and application.

Select Clients

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration

We also serve state and local governments and nonprofits and support international environment and climate change projects.

Select Projects

Safer Chemical Ingredients List

Abt compiled this list of safer chemical ingredients for EPA's Design for the Environment to assist manufacturers in making safer cleaning and other products.

Flame Retardant Alternatives to decaBDE

Abt is assessing the environmental and human health hazards of 30 alternatives to decaBDE, the toxic flame retardant chemical.

My Right-to-Know

This mobile application, pioneered by Abt for EPA, allows consumers and others to identify their proximity to facilities that handle toxic chemicals, learn what chemicals they release, their potential impact on health and the facilities' record of compliance with U.S. environmental laws.

Communicating TRI Health Risks to Communities

Supporting EPA, Abt developed a training program for Toxic Release Inventory regional coordinators and first-responders to answer public health questions about toxic chemical health risks.

Sensitive Subpopulation Risk Analysis

This analysis describes how health risks could be estimated in susceptible populations defined by genotype and how pharmacokinetic data can be incorporated into health risk assessments.

Environmental Justice Analysis Using NHANES Data

For EPA, Abt designed and conducted an analysis to examine biomarker data for chemical exposures from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) for evidence of socioeconomic disparity. This involved examining 394 biomarkers across income and race/ethnicity groups.

Calculating the Benefits of Reducing Lead Exposure

Abt prepared economic analyses of EPA's Lead, Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program which will reduce adverse health and ecological effects of inhaling or ingesting lead.

Supporting the Benefits Assessment of Proposed Drinking Water Regulations

For EPA, Abt provided literature reviews and innovative cancer and noncancer dose-response assessments for drinking water contaminants. The results will be incorporated into the benefits assessments to support proposed levels for several drinking water contaminants.

Estimating the Benefits of Reducing Hazardous Air Pollutants

For EPA, Abt prepared white papers and case studies which discussed and demonstrated a variety of dose-response methods useful for evaluating the noncancer health risks associated with air toxins.

Contact

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Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for its rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and one of the top 40 international development innovators. The company has multiple offices in the U.S. and program offices in more than 40 countries.

