Program: Air Toxics

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau: Environmental Protection Agency



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Long-term Measure: Percent of U.S. population free from unacceptable risks of cancer and other significant health problems from air toxic emissions	2020	95	
Annual Measure: Percentage reduction in nationwide air toxics emissions from stationary and mobile sources combined (actual data available later in 2003)	2002	5	
	2001	5	
	2000	3	
	1999	12	
Efficiency Measure: Measure under development			

Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Direct Federal

Program Summary:

The Air Toxics program is designed to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), such as hexane and benzene, from stationary sources, such as factories, and from vehicles.

The program's purpose is clearly laid out in the statute -- to reduce HAP emissions and unacceptable health risk from HAPs. The assessment showed that management is generally good. However, EPA has not fully utilized statutory flexibilities when implementing parts of the program. Although the long-term cancer reduction goal is clearly outcome-related, "unacceptable risk" is not defined, the relation between emissions changes and actual health outcomes are not known, and there are no efficiency measures. Specific findings include:

- 1. There is a clear purpose and design for the program.
- 2. The program has not shown it is maximizing net benefits, and proposing the most cost effective regulations.
- 3. There are inadequate linkages between annual performance and long-term goals that prevent it from demonstrating its impact on human health.
- 4. There are large data gaps for toxicity and on actual population exposure.

In response to these findings, the Administration will:

- 1. Increase funding for toxic air pollutant programs by \$7 million in State grants for monitoring to help fill data gaps.
- 2. Focus on maximizing programmatic net benefits and minimizing the cost per deleterious health effect avoided.
- 3. Establish better performance measures (including an appropriate efficiency measure).

(For more information on this program, please see the Environmental Protection Agency chapter in the Budget volume.)

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	
115	118	125	