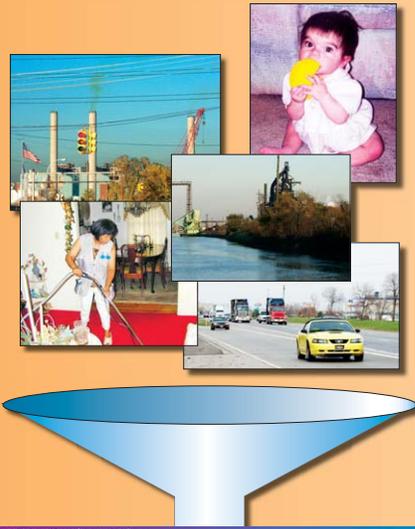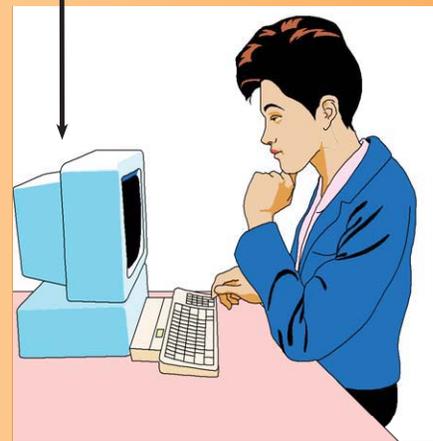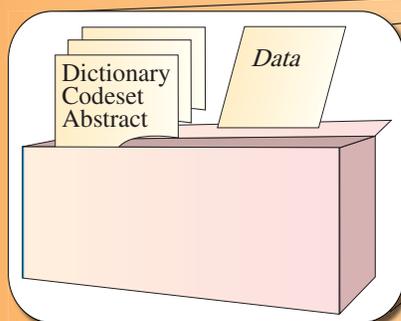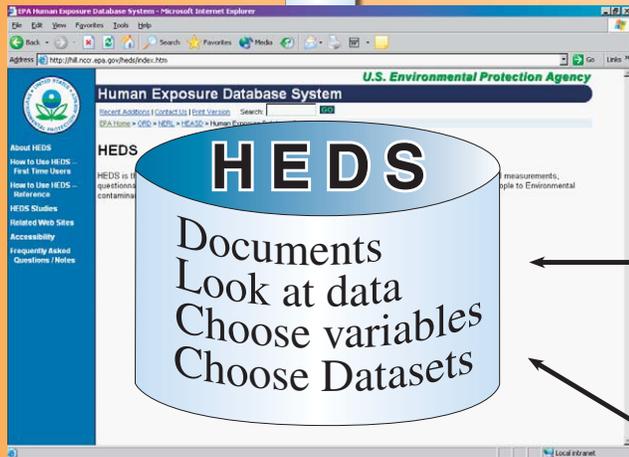# HEDS - EPA DATABASE SYSTEM
for Public Access to Human Exposure Data

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SCIENTIFIC ISSUE

In the past, data from scientific studies resided with the study investigator and only summaries were available as published in the scientific literature. Frequently, study data were only used to answer a specific question for which the data were collected and then data were locally archived. The Human Exposure Database System (HEDS) was developed as an Internet based system to house and distribute human-exposure-related data, such as questionnaire responses, activity and diet diaries, and chemical measurements, from studies conducted by EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) and other exposure researchers. Data in HEDS are publicly accessible for use by other researchers, regulatory agencies, and the general public.

The data in HEDS are expected to be used to:
- provide inputs for exposure assessments
- provide a baseline of the normal range of exposure to chemicals in the general population
- identify subgroups of the general population that may be highly exposed or particularly susceptible to chemicals in their environment
- relate known pollution sources to the actual exposure that people experience
- evaluate and improve the accuracy of models developed to predict exposure of people to chemicals
- test different techniques for performing multimedia human exposure studies

The information in HEDS will help communities, states, regions, and other organizations to assess the potential health risks from various chemicals and decide whether steps to reduce those risks are needed.

Science and Innovation to Protect Health and the Environment