

## Examples of HACE recommendations:

- If the water is polluted, we may recommend that people get their drinking water from another source.
- We may recommend additional studies to define the extent of the contact with harmful substances.
- We may recommend, coordinate and/or develop activities to educate the community about the harmful substances and ways residents can protect their health (for example, flyers, community meetings and presentations).

### Evaluations

#### DO NOT include:

- Personal physical examinations
- Door-to-door medical surveys
- Medical care
- Epidemiological studies

HACE is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency.

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)



**N.C. Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health**


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# HACE Program

(Health Assessment Consultation and Education)

Conducting health risk assessments in communities affected by environmental pollution.



**Division of Public Health  
Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology Branch**

## Who we are

The N.C. HACE is a state program that receives federal funds to conduct health risk assessments in communities affected by environmental pollution.

## What we do

We conduct scientific evaluations to determine if people in communities are in contact with harmful substances in the environment, and what the health effects of this contact may be. These evaluations are conducted throughout North Carolina, usually at hazardous waste sites. We work with other state, federal and local agencies and organizations to gather information about a site and to ultimately reduce and/or prevent contact with harmful substances.



## Our Team

Our team includes specialists in toxicology, epidemiology, health risk assessment and health education.

## How we do it

- Review existing environmental and human health data,
- Collect community health concerns,
- Conduct health risk assessments\*,
- Prepare reports to summarize findings, and
- Make recommendations to appropriate individuals and organizations, so they can make decisions and take pertinent action to protect public health.

**\*Health Risk Assessment –** a comprehensive scientific estimate of health risks to persons who could be exposed to hazardous materials present at a site. For more information see our “Public Health Assessment and Risk Assessment Process” fact sheet or search for “HACE” on the N.C. Public Health website, [www.ncpublichealth.com](http://www.ncpublichealth.com).

## Community Involvement

The involvement of community residents and local organizations and officials is very important to this process, because they can contribute important and unique information that cannot be located elsewhere. Community members can:

- Provide insight about the site’s history and uses,
- Identify local activities that might put people at risk,
- Provide information about health concerns, and
- Help put recommendations to work.

## Our report will tell you:

- If people have been or are likely to be in contact with a toxic substance, and usually, how and when they were in contact with the substance,
- Whether the contact is likely to lead to illness, and
- Ways to protect your health.

