

CDC HEADQUARTERS

To the front is the site of Building 1, which was CDC's headquarters from 1960 to 1990. A granite marker pinpoints the original site of the former CDC director's office. During this time, CDC became a national and international leader in protecting the public's health. CDC served as a key player in the global eradication of smallpox and worked to identify and research new infectious diseases, including Legionnaires' disease and HIV/AIDS.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the agency expanded to apply epidemiology to domestic challenges such as air pollution, birth defects, lead poisoning, contaminated drinking water, violence, and foodborne outbreaks. In 1978, CDC completed construction of a new "hot lab" facility to provide a safe work environment for scientists handling dangerous infectious viruses, such as Ebola and Marburg.

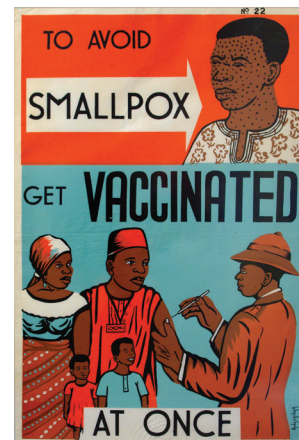
CDC teams help respond to natural and man-made disasters around the globe. The agency's focus also includes health education, nutrition, injuries, the effects of smoking, environmental health, and occupational safety and health.

Reflecting this broadening mission, CDC's name was modified over the years. From the National Communicable Disease Center, Center for Disease Control, Centers for Disease Control, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Throughout, the initials CDC have remained the same.



Laboratory Building, 1988

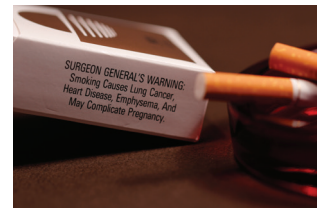
1970s



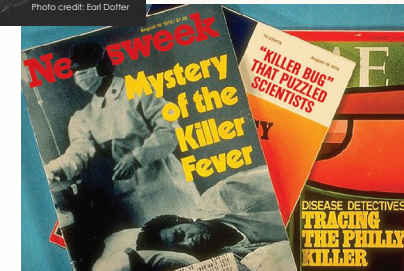
In the late 1960s, CDC played a vital role in the global effort to eradicate smallpox, using vaccination campaigns, prevention measures, and disease surveillance. Smallpox was officially eradicated around the world in 1980.



A Pennsylvania coal miner sets a roof expansion bolt in 1976. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), part of CDC since 1973, conducts research leading to recommendations for preventing work-related injury and illness.



In 1976, the USPHS transferred work from what became the Office on Smoking and Health to CDC. Since then not only has CDC tracked smoking in the U.S., it has also conducted many campaigns that support the scientific information on the dangers of tobacco and to get people to quit.



In January, 1977 CDC scientists isolated the bacterial agent that became known as "legionella", named after a 1976 outbreak. CDC had been asked to investigate cases of illness and death among attendees who went to a convention of the American Legion in Philadelphia, PA. The disease was identified by CDC as a new type of pneumonia (lung infection) that became known as "Legionnaires' disease".

CDC's scientists and disease detectives are routinely called on worldwide to stop or prevent outbreaks such as this.



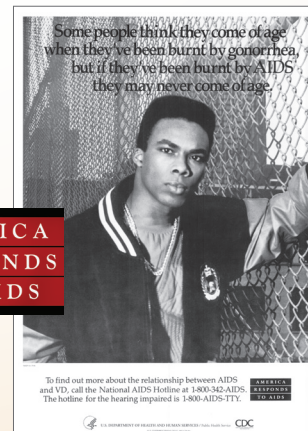
Since 1971, CDC scientists have traveled across the country every year in specially-designed and equipped mobile centers, to conduct the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Among its uses, NHANES findings are the basis for national standards for such measurements as height, weight, and blood pressure and help to better study, understand and improve the health of Americans.

1980s



The Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988 authorized CDC to initiate the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Among its goals and accomplishments has been the development of programs, policies and tools to prevent childhood lead poisoning and to educate the public and health care providers about the issue and how to identify and prevent it.

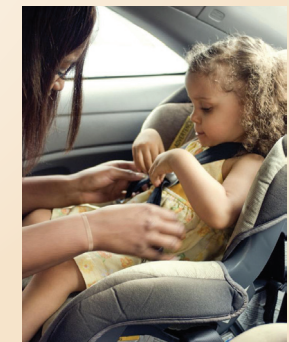
AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS



Since reports of the first cases of AIDS were published in the U.S. in 1981 in CDC's MMWR, CDC has been a national leader in controlling and preventing the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In 1987, CDC launched the first AIDS education campaign, "America Responds to AIDS" and continues to conduct campaigns today.



The 1980 Three Mile Island nuclear accident led to the creation of the National Center for Environmental Health of CDC. It works to prevent premature death, illness, and disabilities caused by toxic substances in the environment.



In 1986, CDC established the Division of Injury Epidemiology and Control to investigate injuries that are leading causes of death. This was later renamed the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which helps to protect Americans from injuries and violence.

To learn more about CDC's rich history, visit the David J. Sencer CDC Museum.
www.cdc.gov/museum