

CDC BEGINNINGS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was established as the Office of Malaria Control in War Areas (MCWA) by the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) during World War II, to reduce malaria around American military installations. Atlanta was selected as the MCWA headquarters because of its central location in the southern U.S., where malaria was then common.

At the end of World War II, the federal government provided resources to fight contagious (or communicable) diseases throughout the U.S. On July 1, 1946, MCWA was renamed the Communicable Disease Center (CDC) with offices located in Georgia (Atlanta, Chamblée, Savannah) and Alabama (Montgomery).

Encouraged by Robert W. Woodruff, the philanthropist and chairman of The Coca-Cola Company and Emory University board member, Emory transferred 15 acres of land in 1947 to the USPHS for just \$10 to use for the construction of a central CDC campus. Even in the era of the 5¢ Coke, this was an extraordinary value.

This is the property provided to CDC for its original campus—Michael Street on your left marks the dividing line between CDC and Emory. Construction began in 1955 after Congress provided \$12 million for the project. The new campus included six buildings designed by Atlanta architectural firm Robert and Company, and was dedicated on September 8, 1960. By the time of its dedication, expansion plans were already underway for the campus. Between 1961 and 1964, six major additions were made to the original buildings and two new buildings were constructed, including a laboratory, mechanical shop, and warehouse.



1940s



A 1944 Malaria Control in War Areas poster, showing a mosquito and a person.



A 1944 poster titled "LARVICIDING" showing a person using a sprayer to treat water.



Aerial view of the CDC campus in Atlanta, showing the original buildings and the surrounding area.

1950s



A group of people in lab coats, likely CDC staff, working in a laboratory.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.

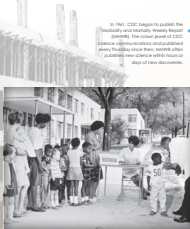


A globe with the CDC logo, representing the agency's global mission.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.

1960s



A group of people in lab coats, likely CDC staff, working in a laboratory.



A poster titled "Morbidity and Mortality" showing a bar chart.



Aerial view of the CDC campus in Atlanta, showing the original buildings and the surrounding area.



A ship, likely a research vessel, used by CDC for global health research.



A poster for the polio vaccine, featuring the text "Let's stop polio" and "BE WELL!"



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.

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

CDC HEADQUARTERS

To the front is the site of Building 1, which was CDC's headquarters from 1940 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, he initials CDC have remained the same.



Building 1, the original CDC headquarters, showing the site of the former CDC director's office.

1970s



A poster titled "TO AVOID SMALLPOX GET VACCINATED AT ONCE" showing two people.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.

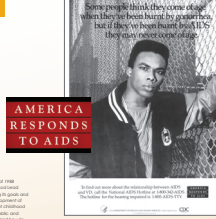


A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.

1980s



A "LEAD" sign, indicating a lead poisoning prevention campaign.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



Aerial view of the CDC campus in Atlanta, showing the original buildings and the surrounding area.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.

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

SAVING LIVES, PROTECTING PEOPLE

From this angle, the original and expanded areas of the CDC campus can be seen. The original six buildings that housed offices, laboratories, an audiovisual department, a small auditorium, and cafeteria are no longer standing. The last of these was demolished in 2011.

CDC marked its 50th anniversary in 1996 with offices in Hyattsville, MD, Research Triangle Park, NC, Cincinnati, OH, Morgantown, WV, Spokane, WA, Pittsburgh, PA, San Juan, Puerto Rico and Fort Collins, CO as well as quarantine offices throughout the country.

By the late 1990s, Congress approved a plan to construct world-class facilities for cutting-edge science research and approved the purchase of additional land along Clifton Road to the west. This acquisition increased the size of the Atlanta campus to about 47 acres. The campus also acquired a new name: the Edward R. Roybal campus, in honor of the California congressman who was one of CDC's most influential supporters. All of the original campus buildings were located between Houston Mill Road and Clifton Way, which is to the right. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. and the anthrax attacks that followed, CDC modified its construction plans to strengthen security measures addressing bio-terrorism threats.

The expanded Roybal campus opened in 2005 with the completion of a new headquarters building, new laboratories, and the Global Communications Center. The newer facilities reflect the needs of a highly technical and scientific agency tasked with tackling health security challenges of today and tomorrow.



1990s



A group of people in lab coats, likely CDC staff, working in a laboratory.



A poster for Folic Acid, showing a woman and a child.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



Aerial view of the CDC campus in Atlanta, showing the original buildings and the surrounding area.

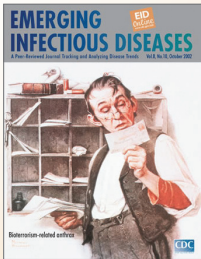
2000s



A poster titled "The Power of Partnerships" showing a group of people.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A poster titled "EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES" showing a person in a lab coat.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A poster titled "VERB It's What You Do. Native Style." showing a group of people.

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

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

The newest section of CDC's campus, which includes CDC's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), is visible from this viewpoint. The EOC coordinates responses to health crises such as the 2010 Haiti earthquake, the 2014 Ebola outbreak, and the 2015-2016 Flint, MI, lead contaminated water concern. To the far right is CDC Parkway, leading to CDC's public entrance and the David J. Sencer CDC Museum, where you can learn about the history of CDC and view exhibitions about public health issues.

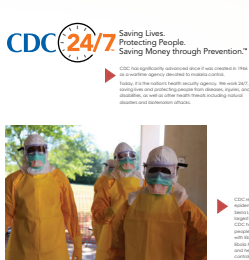
CDC works 24/7 to save lives and protect America from health and safety threats, whether these occur here in the U.S. or stopping them around the world. CDC increases the health security of our nation by putting science and advanced technology into action to prevent and reduce disease. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities, and those who live in them, to do the same.

Looking forward, CDC will continue to build new facilities to accommodate the growing demands from diseases that threaten Americans' health and to continue its role as the world's leading health protection agency.



Building 1, the original CDC headquarters, showing the site of the former CDC director's office.

2010s



A group of people in lab coats, likely CDC staff, working in a laboratory.



A mosquito, likely a vector for disease, used in research.



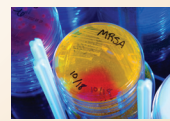
A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



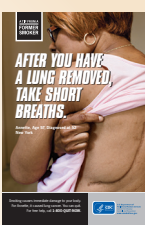
A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



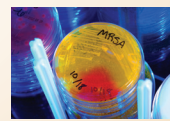
A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A person in a lab coat, likely a CDC scientist, working in a laboratory.



A logo for the Million Hearts campaign, featuring a heart and the text "Million Hearts Begins with You".

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