

**Abstract:** This rapid growth in the number of older Americans has many implications for public health, including the need to better understand the health risks posed by environmental exposures to older adults. This paper describes the need to link environmental exposures, the processing of contaminants in the body, and adverse health effects to develop strategies for public health prevention and promotion. Environmental health concerns are illustrated with examples from exposures to waterborne pathogens, air pollutants, and persistent bioaccumulative toxicants like lead, PCBS, and PBDEs.