

Health, education, and the environment division

The Health, Education, and the Environment Division comprises three programs: Education and Human Resources, Environment, and Health.

THE EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES (EHR) Program is responsible for studies of technologies for learning, and of science-grounded human resource topics. Education studies critically examine technologies of all kinds, for learners of all ages and abilities, and in all settings. Human resources studies deal with the costs, availability, effectiveness, and impacts of technologies in areas such as long-term care and disability services, housing for people with disabilities, and prevention of drug abuse.

The Environment (ENV) Program assesses scientific, technical, and policy issues related to the environment. Program areas include the use and conservation of renewable resources; pollution prevention, control, and remediation; and environmental health and risk management. Assessments have focused on such topics as agriculture; management of public lands; biological diversity; risk assessment methods and policy; air and water pollution; management of solid, hazardous, and nuclear wastes; and the effects of weather and climate change.

The Health (HLTH) Program's charter is reflected in three primary types of efforts: 1) assessments of specific clinical and general health care technologies, 2) studies of broader issues of health policy related to or with implications for technology, and 3) studies of applications, particularly to human health, of the biological and behavioral sciences (including biotechnology human molecular genetics, neurological sciences, and health-related behaviors). The program also is responsible for OTA's statutory, methodology oversight responsibilities regarding Vietnam veterans' health studies.

In addition, the division provides the staff work for the OTA Director's mandated responsibility to select and appoint members of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission, the Physician Payment Review Commission, and the Advisory Panel on Alzheimer's Disease.

In FY 1994, the Health, Education, and the Environment Division published nine assessment reports and 21 background papers.

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| <p>➤ Researching Health Risks</p> <p><i>Requested/y:</i>
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology</p> | <p>➤ Understanding Estimates of National Health Expenditures Under Health Reform</p> <p><i>Requested by:</i>
Technology Assessment Board</p> |
| <p>➤ Preparing for an Uncertain Climate, volume 1</p> | <p>➤ Technical Options for the Advanced Liquid Metal Reactor</p> |
| <p>➤ Preparing for an Uncertain Climate, volume 2</p> <p><i>Requested&</i>
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology</p> | <p><i>Requested by:</i>
House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power</p> |
| <p>➤ International Health Statistics: What the Numbers Mean for the United States</p> <p><i>Requested by:</i>
House Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittee on Health</p> | <p>➤ Wage Record Information Systems</p> |
| <p>➤ Psychiatric Disabilities, Employment and the Americans with Disabilities Act</p> <p><i>Requested by:</i>
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources</p> <p><i>Endorsed by:</i>
House Working Group on Mental Illness and Health</p> | <p>➤ Climate Treaties and Models: Issues in the International Management of Climate Change</p> <p><i>Requested@</i>
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology</p> |
| <p>➤ Testing and Assessment in Vocational Education</p> <p><i>Requested/y:</i>
House Committee on Education and Labor</p> | <p>➤ Managed Care and Competitive Health Care Markets: The Twin Cities Experience</p> <p><i>Requested by:</i>
Technology Assessment Board</p> |
| <p>➤ An Alaskan Challenge: Native Village Sanitation</p> <p><i>Requested by:</i>
Senator Ted Stevens, Member, Technology Assessment Board</p> | <p>➤ Defensive Medicine and Medical Malpractice</p> <p><i>Requested by:</i>
House Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources
House Committee on Appropriations</p> |
| | <p>➤ Technologies for Understanding and Preventing Substance Abuse and Addiction</p> <p><i>Requested/y:</i>
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources
Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs
House Committee on Government Operations</p> |

- Identifying Health Technologies That Work: Searching for Evidence
 - Requested by:*
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources
 - Endorsed by:*
Technology Assessment Board
- Perspectives on the Role of Science and Technology in Sustainable Development
 - Requested by:*
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Universal Health Insurance and Uninsured People: Effects on Use and Cost
 - Requested by:*
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources
- Understanding Estimates of the Impact of Health Reform on the Federal Budget
 - Requested by:*
Technology Assessment Board
- OTA Review: The Medical Follow-Up Agency
 - Requested by:*
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
- Public Information About Osteoporosis: What's Available, What's Needed?
 - Requested by:*
Senate Special Committee on Aging
- Tools for Evaluating Health Technologies—5 Background Papers
 1. Using Patients' Reports to Evaluate Medical Outcomes
 2. Large Administrative Database Analysis
 3. Large and Small Randomized Trials
- 4. Meta-Analysis
- 5. Clinical-Economic Trials
 - Requested by:*
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources
- The Department of Defense Kuwait Oil Health Fire Risk Assessment (The "Persian Gulf Veterans' Registry")
 - Requested by:*
Mandated under Public Law 102-585
- International Comparisons of Administrative Costs in Health Care
 - Requested by:*
House Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittee on Health
- Mental Disorders and Genetics: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Society
 - Requested by:*
House Committee on Appropriations
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
House Committee on Veterans Affairs
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space
- Health Care Technology and Its Assessment in Eight Countries
 - Requested by:*
House Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittee on Health
- External Review of the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV Prevention Programs
 - Requested by:*
House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment