



## Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin June 16, 2010

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning environmental contributors to human health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. They are archived and searchable on our website: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

### CHE-WA Highlights

#### Children's Environmental Health Meeting Notes Available

Notes from the April and May meetings of the Children's Environmental Health Working Group are now posted on the [group's webpage](#).

#### Lessons Learned Columns Archived

All the past Lessons Learned columns from this bulletin are now available on the [Toxipedia website](#).

#### Children First: Promoting Ecological Health for the Whole Child

\$35 early bird registration ends July 1st. Register for this groundbreaking one-day symposium highlighting a range of interacting factors that influence child health and development, including nutrition, education, socioeconomic status, exposures to toxic chemicals, and access to preventive health care.

[Visit the website](#).

#### CHE Now Podcasts Teleconference Calls

Podcasts of CHE's recorded Partnership and Working Group calls are now available on [CHE's website](#).

### Lessons Learned

#### "The River Caught Fire" - Cuyahoga River

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

Oil spills and oil fire are nothing new. On June 22, 1969, an oil slick caught fire on the Cuyahoga River just southeast of downtown Cleveland, Ohio. The image that the "the river caught fire" motivated change to protect the environment.

The 1969 Cuyahoga River fire encouraged water-pollution control activities resulting in the Clean Water Act, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the creation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). As a result, large point sources of pollution on the Cuyahoga received significant attention from the OEPA. This river fire also connected the arts and the environment: referred to in Randy Newman's 1972 song "Burn On," R.E.M.'s 1986 song "Cuyahoga," The Simpsons episode "Lemon of Troy," and Adam Again's 1992 song "River on Fire."



While point sources of pollution have been addressed, we still struggle with controlling vast nonpoint sources of pollution such as pesticides and oil from cars. We learned from the Cuyahoga River Fire and are relearning from the oil eruption in the Gulf of Mexico

that we must invest in prevention to protect human and ecological health. "Doing it cheap" creates profits for corporations while externalizing the true cost to the public and environment.

Learn more about Cuyahoga River Fire: <http://toxipedia.org/x/wDk>

### **Looking back to go forward**

*Lessons Learned* is a CHE-WA bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](#).

## **Announcements**

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

### **[Poisoned for Profit.](#)**

This is an updated and expanded version of *Poisoned Profits*, including significant political, economic and scientific developments since the hardcover book was published in 2008, an Afterword that discusses what those developments mean, and new resources for parents.

### **[IRIS Toxicological Review of Formaldehyde-Inhalation Assessment.](#)**

This draft assessment is provided for public viewing and comment. The public comment period ends August 31, 2010, and includes a listening session on July 27th.

### **[Comprehensive report's focus is on nanotechnology, health and the environment: Greenberg Traurig and Intertox to present.](#)**

The beneficial effects of nanotechnology innovation on human health and the environment are the focus of a comprehensive report to be presented at the Nano Science and Technology Institute's Nanotech Conference and Expo 2010 in Anaheim, CA, June 21-24, 2010.

### **[EPA and states complete first phase of unprecedented school air monitoring initiative.](#)**

EPA experts will now analyze the data to understand whether air quality at these schools poses long-term health concerns for children.

### **[Job openings: Anchorage, Alaska.](#)**

The Alaska Conservation Foundation has openings for a director of finance and operations, a communications intern, and a director for the Alaskans for Energy Freedom campaign.

### **[Job opening: Ann Arbor, Michigan.](#)**

The Ecology Center is seeking a communications director who can work with the newest communications techniques as well as traditional communications methods to promote the Ecology Center and its local, state and national campaigns. Applications received prior to July 1 will be given priority, but EC will continue to receive applications until the position is filled.

### **[Job opening: Omaha, Nebraska.](#)**

The Center for Human Nutrition is seeking a research scientist with strong leadership skills and advanced analytical abilities to conduct research in the area of childhood obesity prevention. Please submit a cover letter, resume or vitae to Dr. Amy Yaroch, Executive Director, The Center for Human Nutrition, 505 Durham Research Plaza, Rm. 1024, Omaha, NE 68105, or [ayaroch@cfhnutrition.org](mailto:ayaroch@cfhnutrition.org). Applications must be received by July 16, 2010.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events, including calls for proposals and for abstracts, are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.chenw.org/cgi->

[bin/searchevents.cgi](http://bin/searchevents.cgi).

### **1) NIEHS-EPA Symposium on Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease**

Monday and Tuesday, June 21 - 22, 2010

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Tower Auditorium, 4333 Brooklyn Avenue NE

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, US Environmental Protection Agency, The Health Effects Institute

This is the fifth in a series of NIEHS-EPA "Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease" conferences held since 2001. Bringing together leading investigators in the area, this symposium will provide a forum for research dissemination and critical discussion related to the mechanisms by which air pollution affects the inception, progression and nature of cardiovascular diseases.

Price: \$160 on or before June 1, 2010, or \$200 after

[Visit the website](#)

### **2) Transportation Control Measures: Strategies for Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled and Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Tuesday June 22, 2010

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

Transportation accounts for 33 percent of US carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of fossil fuel, and can account for a significant portion of a local government's or household's budget. Transportation control measures (TCMs) are strategies that reduce transportation-related air pollution, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and fuel use by reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and improving roadway operations. This Local Climate and Energy Webcast will provide an overview of how local governments can implement TCMs to reduce GHG emissions and energy costs from transportation and achieve other multiple benefits. Federal resources to help support local TCM implementation and local case studies will also be discussed.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **3) Community Conversation on Public Health & Chemical Exposures**

Wednesday June 23, 2010

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Renton, Washington

at the Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway

Sponsor: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)

Your input, concerns, and ideas on chemical exposures will give our communities a voice on national chemical policy. Your comments will be submitted to the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* - an initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). These agencies are responsible for public health policy and preventing harmful exposures and diseases from toxic materials. Our community's feedback will be used to develop a national action agenda on how the nation can better protect people from harmful chemical exposures. LHWMP invites you to participate and make your voice heard, to help generate fresh ideas, and to share useful strategies on improving federal agencies and laws to protect the public from harmful chemical exposures. This discussion is timely because federal agencies are reviewing their chemical management policies and Congress is considering legislation to reform the federal Toxic Substances Control Act. RSVPs for this public event are appreciated but not required.

Price: free

Contact: Kirsten Lee, 206-263-3050 or [Kirsten.Lee@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Kirsten.Lee@kingcounty.gov)

**4) Establishing a Fully Integrated National Food Safety System with Strengthened Inspection, Laboratory, and Response Capacity**

Monday June 28, 2010

10:00 a.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Food and Drug Administration

Please join your food and feed safety colleagues to learn more about ongoing efforts for national food safety reform and progress toward establishing an integrated national food-safety system. The webinar will focus on the nation's desire to reform food safety, a shared vision for an integrated food safety system, and specific steps federal, state, local, tribal and territorial regulatory and public health partners can take to assist in the implementation of this national strategy. For background information on the webinar, see [a draft document](#).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

**5) Public Health and Toxicology: Using National Library of Medicine Resources to Learn and Inform**

Tuesday June 29, 2010

noon - 1:00 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

In this session, Gail Kouame will demonstrate some of the National Library of Medicine's toxicology and environmental health resources that are relevant to public health responders. The Hazardous Substances Data Bank, the Radiation Event Medical Management site, and ToxMap are just a few examples of sites that will be covered. Some of these sites are also available for mobile devices. Ms. Kouame will also describe librarians' possible roles in disaster preparation and response.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: NWCPHP, 206-685-1130 or [nwcp@u.washington.edu](mailto:nwcp@u.washington.edu)

**6) The New Science of How Herbicides Affect Health and the Environment - Dispelling the Myth of "The Dose Makes the Poison": A Case Study of Glyphosate and the Alaska Railroad**

Wednesday June 30, 2010

9:00 a.m. Alaska time / 10:00 a.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

New scientific evidence from the fields of toxicology, endocrinology, developmental biology and biochemistry shows that a core assumption of toxicology, "the dose makes the poison," is inadequate as a basis for regulatory standards to protect human health. Evidence shows that pesticides have interactive effects and adverse health effects at extremely low levels - below EPA allowable levels. These effects include adverse neurological, endocrine, immune, reproductive and developmental health outcomes. Over the past three decades, citizens of Alaska have consistently voiced strong opposition to the use of herbicides by the Alaska Railroad and have successfully prevented the Railroad from applying herbicides since 1982. Alaskans have particular concern about the use of herbicides along the rail belt because of the many streams, wetlands, rivers and groundwater sources of drinking water. In addition, many people harvest wild plants, wildlife and fish along the rail belt. This year, however, the Alaska Department of

Environmental Conservation granted the Alaska Railroad a permit allowing them to spray the harmful pesticide glyphosate, as well as additional solvents and surfactants that make the herbicide more persistent and toxic. Join us for a discussion of the current science of low-dose effects of glyphosate, the status of the EPA's review of glyphosate, and why communities throughout Alaska oppose herbicide use along the railroad. We will explore what policy changes are necessary to protect public health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or [diana@akaction.org](mailto:diana@akaction.org)

### **7) Looking Ahead: Advancing the Public Health Response to Climate Change**

Wednesday June 30, 2010

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

Join APHA for the sixth and final webinar in this year's series, *Climate Change: Mastering the Public Health Role*. This session will cover the policy outlook and public health perspective of climate change, the continuing role for the public health community in confronting the challenges of climate change, and what the future may hold.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **8) School Health Policies and Program Study 2006: Healthy Physical School Environment; CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS)**

Tuesday July 13, 2010

11:00 a.m. - noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Environmental Health Initiative

The speaker will be Sherry Everett Jones, PhD, MPH, JD, FASHA, health scientist in the Division of Adolescent and School Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[Food combination and Alzheimer disease risk.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

We identified a dietary pattern strongly associated with lower Alzheimer disease risk characterized by higher intakes of salad dressing, nuts, fish, tomatoes, poultry, cruciferous vegetables, fruits, and dark and green leafy vegetables and a lower intake of high-fat dairy products, red meat, organ meat, and butter. Archives of Neurology.

[See other articles about diet and disease risk: [Healthy diet may reduce cataracts in women](#) and [Estrogen-like lignan diet, less breast cancer linked](#)]

### **[Pesticides, genes combine to up risk of Parkinson's.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Men with certain genetic variations who were exposed to some toxic pesticides which are now largely banned run an increased risk of developing Parkinson's disease, French scientists said Monday. Reuters.

[See related articles about other effects of pesticides: [Good for you? Choose veggies that are pesticide-free](#) and [Atrazine binds to the growth hormone releasing hormone receptor and affects growth hormone gene expression](#)]

**[Study scrutinizes use of ingredient in sunscreen.](#)**

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

According to Food and Drug Administration research reviewed by EWG, retinyl palmitate, which is added to sunscreen for its anti-aging benefits, may accelerate the development of skin cancer. Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, Indiana.

[See an article about another concern with sunscreen ingredients: [More bad news about sunscreens: Nanoparticles](#)]

**[Exposure to electromagnetic fields \(non-ionizing radiation\) and its relationship with childhood leukemia: A systematic review.](#)**

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

There appears to be an urgent need to reconsider exposure limits for low frequency and static magnetic fields, based on combined experimental and epidemiological research into the relationship between exposure to non-ionizing radiation and adverse human health effects. Science of The Total Environment.

[See a related article: [Mobile phone users 'five times more likely to develop a brain tumour'](#)]

**[A natural return to the earth.](#)**

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

'Green burials' eliminate toxins and nonbiodegradable material from end-of-life rituals, and the movement is gaining ground. Houston Chronicle, Texas.

**[Mommy bloggers take aim at new diapers.](#)**

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

A newly redesigned diaper which the company says have environmental advantages are causing diaper rashes and chemical burns, say some parents. Chemical & Engineering News.

**[Federal tanning tax starts in July.](#)**

*Sunday, June 13, 2010*

A 10 percent federal tax on indoor tanning that starts next month might discourage minors from tanning -- but it won't lead to a tanning booth blackout for teens. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

[See a related article: [Cancer research reignites calls to ban tanning beds](#)]

**[EPA rule targets lead paint stirred up by renovations.](#)**

*Sunday, June 13, 2010*

A recent study showed that young children living in homes during renovations were 30 percent more likely to have unsafe levels of lead in their bloodstreams than children in houses not undergoing renovation, the EPA says. New Orleans Times-Picayune, Louisiana.

[See a related article: [Painting this old house will cost more if it has lead paint](#)]

**[U.S. lawns getting an eco-makeover.](#)**

*Sunday, June 13, 2010*

From coast to coast, eco-concerned homeowners are ripping out their manicured, chemically-treated lawns and replacing them with organic food gardens, native flowers and sometimes, just rocks. Inter Press Service.

[See a related article: [Homeowners weigh lawn mower options](#)]

**[Girls now begin puberty aged 9.](#)**

*Sunday, June 13, 2010*

Growing numbers of girls are reaching puberty before the age of 10, raising fears of increased sexual activity among a new generation of children. Scientists believe the phenomenon could be linked to obesity or exposure to chemicals in the food chain, and is putting girls at greater long-term risk of breast cancer. London Times, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [High meat diet 'linked to early periods'](#)]

**[Environmental nurses hold first U.S. conference at the UM School of Nursing.](#)**

*Friday, June 11, 2010*

For the first time, nurses from across the nation came together at a conference to

address the relationship between health and the environment. University of Maryland, Baltimore.

### **[Bed bugs make return.](#)**

*Friday, June 11, 2010*

After a 50-year absence, bedbugs have returned and a nationwide infestation is growing rapidly, according to a preliminary report released in May from the Ohio Bedbug Workgroup. Wapakoneta Daily News, Ohio.

### **[Congress looks at making cities more "livable."](#)**

*Thursday, June 10, 2010*

The Senate moved closer on Wednesday to making the concept of "livable communities" a part of national law that would provide federal grants to help local governments implement comprehensive city planning. Reuters.

### **[Scientists debate: Are recessions good for health?](#)**

*Thursday, June 10, 2010*

During recessions, idled factories spew less pollution and fewer people commuting to jobs means fewer traffic deaths. These and other factors have led some economists to overturn assumptions that recessions are bad for your health. But an Associated Press analysis suggests that view may not be true for the most recent recession. Associated Press.

### **[Slightly early births linked to autism, dyslexia.](#)**

*Thursday, June 10, 2010*

Babies born just 1 or 2 weeks before their 40-week gestation due date are more likely to develop learning difficulties such as autism or dyslexia, according to a British study published on Tuesday. Reuters Health.

*[See related articles: [Slightly preterm, healthy babies do OK later on](#) and [Autism not necessarily inherited, scientists say](#)]*

### **[APSS: Shift work sleep patterns may impair glucose tolerance.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 09, 2010*

Loss of sleep plus sleep displacement -- shifting the pattern of sleep across consecutive days -- can result in impaired glucose tolerance in individuals such as shift workers, a researcher said here. MedPage Today.

### **[Common pain relievers raise heart risk for healthy folks.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 09, 2010*

Healthy people who take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs to relieve minor aches and pains may raise their risk of dying from heart-related problems, a Danish study finds. HealthDay.

*[See another article about heart health: [After a point, more omega-3s don't help the heart](#)]*

### **[Adverse effects of methylmercury: Environmental health research implications.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 09, 2010*

Imprecision in exposure assessment and other forms of uncertainty tended to cause an underestimation of methylmercury toxicity, but repeatedly led to calls for more research rather than prevention. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Health watch: Skin deep danger.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 09, 2010*

The cosmetics you use or even the cream you put on your baby could contain ingredients linked to cancer or reproductive harm, according to an environmental group that says consumers need to beware. El Paso KTSM TV, Texas.

*[See other articles about warnings regarding consumer products: [Some plastic school materials highly toxic, says EcoWaste](#); [McDonald's pulls cadmium-tainted Shrek glasses](#) and [Major retailers agree to limit lead in handbags](#)]*

### **[Is global warming real?](#)**

*Wednesday, June 09, 2010*

Global warming has become a very divisive term, but is it real? The short answer, according to environmental scientist David Keith, is yes. Discovery Channel.

[See a related announcement: [American Public Health Association applauds U.S. Senate for protecting EPA's authority to combat climate change and safeguard public health](#)]

### **[Waiter, there's a potential carcinogen in my soup.](#)**

Wednesday, June 09, 2010

BPA is ubiquitous. Simply put, just about anything you eat that comes out of a can -- from Campbell's Chicken Soup and SpaghettiOs to Diet Coke and BumbleBee Tuna -- contains the same exact chemical. The exposure to BPA from canned food "is far more extensive" than from plastic bottles, researchers say. Reuters.

[See related articles about BPA: [BPA crosses the placenta, remains active in the fetus, show rat and human studies](#); [Relationship between urine bisphenol-A \(BPA\) level and declining male sexual function](#) and [BPA-exposed rats develop polycystic ovarian syndrome](#) and also one about phthalates: [Prenatal exposure to phthalates is associated with reduced masculine behavior in boys](#)]

### **[Toxicity test shows traffic dust is most toxic.](#)**

Tuesday, June 08, 2010

A simple chemical test that can measure the level of toxicity of dust particles shows that dust generated by road traffic can augment air pollution's already dangerous health effects, mainly heart disease, cancer and respiratory conditions such as asthma and allergies. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles about air quality throughout the US: [E.P.A. tightens sulfur dioxide limits](#); [BYU professor C. Arden Pope says pollution improved, still a health problem as Clean Air Act turns 40](#); [EPA withdraws Emission Comparable Fuels Rule](#) and [New link between pollution, temperature and sleep-disordered breathing](#)]

### **[Ex-Union Carbide officials jailed over Bhopal leak.](#)**

Monday, June 07, 2010

A court Monday found the Indian unit of U.S. chemicals firm Union Carbide guilty of negligence and sentenced seven Indian former employees to two years in jail over one of the world's worst industrial accidents that killed thousands in 1984. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Bhopal gas leak one of several man-made disasters](#)]

### **[Investigators seek source of PCBs in Spokane River.](#)**

Sunday, June 06, 2010

Industry has flourished along the banks of the Spokane River for more than a century. So, perhaps it's no surprise that high levels of PCBs show up in rainbow trout and other fish. Spokane Spokesman-Review.

### **[Manufacturing facilities release pharmaceuticals to the environment.](#)**

Saturday, June 05, 2010

In a 2004-2009 study, USGS scientists found that pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities can be a significant source of pharmaceuticals to the environment. U.S. Geological Survey.

### **[To CT scan or not to CT scan: A guide.](#)**

Saturday, June 05, 2010

As with many forms of technology, the CT scan can be a two-edged blade. Although it brings tremendous benefits to many patients, the level of radiation involved means the blade is sharp enough to demand respect and understanding. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[See related articles: [Americans are exposed to increased levels of radiation](#), [Doctors work on radiation problem to ease fears](#), [Just how safe are X-rays at the dentist?](#), [Dental X-rays 'increase cancer risk'](#), [Safety features planned for radiation machines](#), [Screen test: Medical experts question health impact of Hawthorne company's full-body security scanners](#), [New concerns about radiation and breast cancer](#) and [Overexposed: US leads the world in radiation from medical tests, raising cancer concern](#)]

### **[Stress and the city: Measuring effects of chronic stress and air pollution.](#)**

*Friday, June 04, 2010*

Scientists have begun to consider an association between chronic psychosocial stress and increased susceptibility to adverse physiologic effects from exposures to air pollution. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[Federal officials set out 13 options for long-term cleanup.](#)**

*Friday, June 04, 2010*

With oil reaching Louisiana's marshes, the next stage in the spill response may come from microbes. USA Today.

*[See related articles: [Gulf oil spill: human health effects debated](#); [Even with a cleanup, spilled oil stays with us](#); [La. to OSHA: Investigate oil spill cleanup safety](#); [Skeptical public fears oil-spill health issues](#); [Reproductive health concerns in the aftermath of the Gulf oil disaster](#); [Oil spill invades beaches: Is it a health threat?](#) and [Oil spill's health impacts scrutinized](#)]*

**["LEED standards insufficient to protect human health," finds new report.](#)**

*Thursday, June 03, 2010*

A new report released last week concludes, "[LEED] 'platinum,' 'gold,' and 'silver' status conveys the false impression of a healthy and safe building environment, even when well-recognized hazardous chemicals exist in building products," and, "LEED standards are insufficient to protect human health." Healthy Building Network.

**[Flame retardants linked to longer time to get pregnant, finds California study.](#)**

*Thursday, June 03, 2010*

PBDEs -- chemicals widely used to prevent fires in household products like furniture and electronics -- may contribute to fertility problems by lengthening the time it takes for a woman to get pregnant, according to a study of low-income, mostly Mexican-American women living in California. Environmental Health News.

*[See other articles about environmental impactors on successful pregnancy: [Defect risk higher for assisted fertility babies](#), [Growing obesity increases perils of childbearing](#), [Study links antidepressant use and miscarriage](#) and [Soy formula affects reproductive development in mice](#)]*

**[Formaldehyde causes cancer, EPA declares.](#)**

*Thursday, June 03, 2010*

The EPA has concluded that formaldehyde is carcinogenic when inhaled by humans, a finding that could lead to stringent new regulations of the widely used chemical. New Orleans Times-Picayune, Louisiana.

*[See other articles about cancer risks from various exposures not covered elsewhere in this bulletin: [Men's skin cancer death rate doubles over 30 years](#), [Calcium tied to prostate cancer in Chinese men](#), [Nitrate may feed thyroid disorders](#), [Carcinogenic crops: Analyzing the effect of aflatoxin on global liver cancer rates](#), [Scientists find cure for Kenya's toxic maize](#), [Breast cancer genes not worsened by lifestyle](#), [China's 'cancer villages' reveal dark side of economic boom](#), [Lung cancer in women on the rise](#), ['Anti-pollution laws only on paper in Punjab'](#), [Cancer linked to 'wonder' drug](#) about angiotensin-receptor blockers, known as ARBs and [A case-control study of lung cancer nested in a cohort of European asphalt workers](#)]*

**[Asthma risk 'linked to burgers.'](#)**

*Thursday, June 03, 2010*

Children who eat a Mediterranean diet have a lower risk of developing asthma, but eating three or more burgers a week is linked to a higher risk, research suggests. Researchers looked at 50,000 children from 20 countries. BBC.

*[See a related article: [How changing children's diets can prevent them developing asthma](#) and another regarding asthma: [Researchers throw light on asthmatic kids](#)]*

**[There's no place like home for babies to pick up toxins.](#)**

*Thursday, June 03, 2010*

Infants may take in two to five times as much household dust as adults, says Alan Greene, a pediatrician at Stanford University's Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Because of that dust, babies are more likely to be exposed to pesticides and other potentially harmful chemicals inside the home than outside, he says. USA Today.

*[See related articles: [The poison crib: When protective chemicals harm](#), [Blood concentrations of PBDE flame retardants mirror levels in dust](#) and [Toxic chemicals finding their way into the womb](#)]*

### **[EPA proposes new permit requirements for pesticide discharges.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 02, 2010*

This action is in response to an April 9, 2009, court decision that found that pesticide discharges to U.S. waters were pollutants, thus requiring a permit.

*[See articles about pesticide regulation: [EPA moves to terminate all uses of insecticide endosulfan to protect health of farmworkers and wildlife](#)]*

### **[Triclosan comes under scrutiny.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 02, 2010*

In April 2010 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced it is conducting a scientific and regulatory review of triclosan in FDA-regulated products, with publication of results expected in spring 2011. The agency also is collaborating with the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) specifically to study the potential endocrine-disrupting effects of the compound. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Intellectual function in Mexican children environmentally exposed to manganese living in a mining area.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 02, 2010*

The findings from this study suggest that airborne manganese environmental exposure is inversely associated with intellectual function in young school-age children.

Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Association between rainfall and pediatric emergency department visits for acute gastrointestinal illness.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 02, 2010*

We observed a significant association between rainfall and pediatric ED visits for AGI, suggesting a water-borne component of disease transmission in this population.

Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Alert: protein drinks.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 02, 2010*

Some protein drinks can pose health risks, including exposure to potentially harmful heavy metals, if consumed frequently. All drinks in our tests had at least one sample containing one or more of the following contaminants: arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury. Consumer Reports.

*[See another article about problematic ingredients (food colorings): [Colour me bad](#) and others about food contaminants: [Lake Berryessa's mercury levels a concern](#) and [EPA warns of dioxin in food](#)]*

### **[More cancer-causing agents in U.S. cigarettes.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 02, 2010*

Americans inhale more cancer-causing agents with their cigarettes, probably because of the tobacco blend, while smokers in Canada, Britain and Australia get less, U.S. researchers reported on Tuesday. Reuters.

*[See other articles about cigarette's health effects: [Secondhand smoke linked to mental distress](#); [England smoking ban cut heart attacks, health cost](#); [Smoking and public health: Breathe easy](#) and [Smoke-free air laws effective at protecting children from secondhand smoke](#)]*

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in general children's environmental health:  
[http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins)
- For those interested in environmental health and learning and developmental

disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the Washington State Regional Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Washington State regional group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow

**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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