



Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI)

[CEH indicators](#)

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About this newsletter

CEHI newsletter has been set up to engage partners with the Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI). It aims to provide up-to-date information on relevant global, regional and national indicator activities. This newsletter does not intend to cover general Children's Environmental Health issues. We welcome your feedback and input.

To sign up or for further information, please contact us at:

cehindicators@who.int or visit: <http://www.who.int/ceh/indicators/en/>

Readers interested in receiving regular updates on children's environmental health may subscribe to:

- HECANET ([Healthy Environments for Children Alliance](#)) newsletter
- CEHN Community ([Children's Environmental Health Network](#)) newsletter
- INCHEM ([International Research and Information Network on Children's Health Environment and Safety](#)) newsletter
- ISDE ([International Society of Doctors for the Environment, ISDE Latin America](#)) Newsletter

Upcoming events

CEHI Seminar & Training Workshop for Health Workers (11th-14th October 2005, Kenya)

An important training course: **Workshop for African Pediatricians on Children's Health and the Environment** organized in collaboration with the International Pediatric Association (IPA)/ the World Health Organization (WHO)/ the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will take place in Nairobi, Kenya (12th-14th October). During this workshop, participants will learn about the harmful effects of air pollution, water contamination and unsafe food on the health of children. Discussions will take place on how pediatricians from countries throughout Africa can work together to help improve the environment for tomorrow's children.

Preceding the Training Workshop for Health Workers, CEHI is organizing a seminar: **Initiation of the first pilot in the African Region - KENYA** on Tuesday 11th October to introduce the Global Initiative on Children Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI) and based on the national profile to present the initial results of the Kenyan indicator pilot project recently initiated (please see *Indicator pilot section*). Further related activities on Healthy Environments for Children's Alliance (HECA) pilot study will be provided and the ongoing study on indoor air pollution. A roundtable discussion will follow this session where the next steps in the African region will be explored.

For more information on the CEHI seminar, please contact: cehindicators@who.int

For more information on training course: <http://www.ipa-world.org> or email: adminoffice@ipa-world.org

Indicator pilot projects

Regional pilots are already underway in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and North America. Two regional pilots will be highlighted in each newsletter; news on other pilots is available on the [CEH web site](#) in the indicators section (regional pilots).

African (AFRO) Pilot

- ***Initiation of the first pilot in the African Region: KENYA***

The Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Health, as a follow-up to the completion of the National Profile on Children's Environmental Health undertaken in 2004 has initiated a pilot on the reporting of Children's Environmental Health Indicators.

This pilot will contribute to the CEHI initiative, under a common framework, to set priority areas for indicator collection on environmental health and national burden of disease in children aged 0-14. The primary purpose of this pilot will be to develop a set of indicators within the priority areas for indicator collection that can be piloted at the country level while harmonizing with other CEH activities taking place at the national level. This will help form a basis for a harmonized set of indicators at the African regional level. This CEH effort will provide justification for effective interventions to protect children's environmental health in Kenya.

Kenya, as the first country to initiate a CEHI pilot in the African region, will play a crucial role and set an example for other countries to follow.

North American Regional Pilot

- ***Upcoming Report on Indicators of Children's Health and the Environment in North America***

North America is on track to publish its first regional report on indicators of children's health and the environment. The report, entitled "**Children's Health and the Environment in North America: A First Report on Available Indicators and Measures**" will be released as a draft in late August/early September for a one-month public comment period. Release of the final publication is anticipated for November 2005. The report presents indicators from Canada, Mexico and the United States in three thematic areas: (1) asthma and respiratory disease, (2) the effects of exposure to lead and other chemicals including pesticides and (3) waterborne diseases. The project is led by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America (CEC) in partnership with the International Joint Commission (IJC) Health Professionals Task Force, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the three national governments.

Organizations or individuals interested in providing comments on the draft document and/or receiving a copy of the final publication should contact Keith Chanon, Program Manager, CEC, at kchanon@cec.org or Tel: +1 514-350-4323.

For additional information on the CEC and projects:

http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/pollutants_health/project/index.cfm?projectID=28&varlan=english&CFID=6234901&CFTOKEN=90363257

For further information on the regional indicator pilots, please see

<http://www.who.int/ceh/indicators/indregpilots/en/>

Environmental health indicators in the U.S.

Mexico Border region

The U.S. - Mexico border region is one of the most dynamic international borders in the world. Almost ninety percent of the border population resides in 14 paired, inter-dependent sister cities. A significant percentage of border residents and migrants live at or below the poverty level, are uninsured and lack access to health care providers. Over the last 20 years, the population has grown rapidly in the border region to more than 12 million people. Border residents suffer from exposure to airborne dust, pesticide use and inadequate water supply and waste treatment facilities. Border residents also suffer disproportionately from many environmental health problems, including water-borne diseases and respiratory problems.

The work of the PAHO/WHO field office for the U.S. – Mexico border (FEP/PAHO) in environmental health falls under the overall objective of improving and increasing the exchange of information, including data on health and risk factors, and to reduce public health problems in the border region. The work includes the facilitation of bi-national collaborative workshops to identify, define, prioritize and agree upon a set of core environmental health indicators for the U.S. - Mexico border region. FEP/PAHO facilitates research and provides technical assistance to several projects on Environmental Health Indicators along the border which intend to provide information on the current situation and disseminate this information to the public and key officials.

Border 2012 is a 10-year, bi-national, results-oriented environmental program for the U.S. - Mexico border region set up with the agendas of the federal governments of Mexico and the USA for their common border. FEP/PAHO plays a key role in the work of Border 2012, and specifically with the Environmental Health Working Group (EHWG). Currently the EHWG has concentrated its effort on air and water indicators. An analysis of the data available and the quality of this data on both sides of the border is underway with the intention of guiding the EHWG as to which indicators can be used for the whole border to establish a public health tracking system.

For more information please see:

<http://www.fep.paho.org/english/env/> and

<http://www.fep.paho.org/english/env/Indicadores/Environmental%20Public%20Health%20Indicators.pdf>

Indoor air pollution

WHO has been organizing a series of regional training workshops on indoor air pollution and household energy monitoring in 2005. These 5-day training workshops are intended to empower governmental and non-governmental agencies to evaluate the impact of their intervention projects on indoor air pollution levels and health. Specific modules addressed principles in study design and ethical considerations, indoor air pollution monitoring, the assessment of health and well-being, socioeconomic impacts and technology performance through presentations as well as practical and hands-on training. These workshops directly contribute to the strategic objective of WHO's Programme on Indoor Air Pollution to "evaluate the effectiveness of technical solutions and their implementation" and, ultimately, to WHO's providing guidance to policy-makers on how to reduce the burden of disease from indoor air pollution. The first training workshop was held in Antigua, Guatemala from 2-6 May 2005. The second workshop was held in Kampala, Uganda from 13-17 June 2005, with a third workshop to follow in Asia in November 2005.

For further information please contact Eva Rehfuesse, Email: rehfuesse@who.int

Training materials are accessible at:

<http://www.who.int/indoorair/interventions/training/en/index.html>

