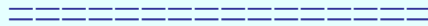


HECANET July-August 2005



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ARTICLES

Children's environmental health issues were extensively covered in July and the first half of August. Media around the world accorded attention to issues related to air pollution, including: research that indicates that women living in high traffic pollution areas of Sydney gave birth to smaller babies than those who breathed fewer fumes; studies that suggests that infants and children who live close to highways that carry a large volume of truck traffic, or who are routinely exposed to diesel exhausts, are at measurably greater risk of developing respiratory ailments (including a specific study in Detroit); research that concludes that childhood cancers are strongly linked to pollution from engine exhausts reports; on China's environmental woes including poor air quality; warnings related to compromised air quality prevailing in many areas of the United States and Europe with the high summer temperatures combined with dangerous levels of smog and ground-level ozone; the health effects of pollution from refineries in Nigeria and South Africa to Texas and California; a new study that indicates that high outdoor levels of nitrogen dioxide apparently raise the risk of sudden infant death syndrome; the health effects of Malaysia's worst pollution crisis in eight years as forest fires from neighbouring Indonesia smothered the capital in thick smoke, forcing schools to shut down; and research that indicates that smoking and being exposed to secondhand smoke during pregnancy are equally likely to cause permanent genetic mutations in the fetus. There was also an interesting article which concluded that although the etiology of asthma is complex, the recent global rise in asthma could be an early health effect of anthropogenic climate change.

The majority of children's environmental health articles continued to focus on chemicals. Particularly prevalent in the American press was the debate on what has caused the spike in childhood autism rates. Two new books argue that officials have deliberately downplayed evidence that thimerosal - a preservative containing mercury - in vaccines is the prime trigger, yet federal officials affirm the safety of vaccines. There was also a great deal of coverage related to a study of the umbilical cord blood of 10 American newborns which indicated that exposure to hundreds of toxic chemicals begins in the womb, and a new CDC study which indicates that dozens of chemicals are found in most Americans' bodies and that concentrations are

especially high in children. The same study did indicate a dramatic drop in levels of lead, only 1.6% of children under 5 had lead levels traditionally considered high, down from 4.4% in the early 1990s. There was also a federal GAO report which concluded that EPA has insufficient data on chemical dangers. About 80,000 chemicals are used by U.S. industries, and scientific studies suggest that many pose health threats, such as cancer, birth defects, altered sex hormones and damage to developing brains. Meanwhile the European Parliament voted to permanently ban the use of a group of chemicals to soften children's toys following health concerns. Phthalates have also been under scrutiny in the US with studies indicating that prenatal exposure to some phthalates could disrupt normal male reproductive tract development. Other articles focused on evidence that some widely used chemicals may have hormone-like effects on the body; epidemiologic evidence suggesting a link between PCB exposure during fetal development and subsequent cognitive problems; flame retardants; perchlorate; MTBE; asbestos; teflon and arsenic-treated wood. A study examined racial differences in the association of blood lead level to risk of developing asthma, another questioned lead standards noting that even low levels can shave points off IQ. There were articles on the phase-out of leaded petrol in Namibia, efforts of a group of women in Jakarta campaigning against leaded gasoline, and the prevalence of lead in certain painted children's toys in South Africa. High levels of DDT were found in the breast-milk of new mothers in Hong Kong; research being undertaken on whether pesticide exposure affects children's brains; and a study in the US indicated that pesticide exposure at schools produces illnesses among employees and students. US lawmakers agreed to bar EPA from using data from experiments that expose human subjects to toxic chemicals until the agency establishes a new standard for evaluating pesticides based on such tests. It prohibits the use of pregnant women, infants or children as subjects.

Water and sanitation issues continued to receive heightened coverage, in part as a result of the UN's review of progress made in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which culminates in the UN's 2005 World Summit which will be held 14-16 September in New York. The media also focused on the wider causes and effects of hunger across Africa, including the relentless spread of desert and drought. By contrast, the devastating effects of torrential downpours and floods in India and China were also linked to environmental degradation. There was also coverage of a new joint initiative by government authorities and civil society groups to study the true impact of the environment on children's health in Argentina, in light of the fact that one third of all diseases that affect children under 5 years of age are caused by environmental factors. Summaries of articles, grouped under the themes listed below, are featured with links to their full texts.

- (1) AIR POLLUTION: (a) Indoor air pollution, (b) Outdoor air pollution (c) Asthma (d) Environmental Tobacco Smoke/Smoking**
- (2) CHEMICALS: (a) General, (b) Lead, (c) Pesticides, (d) Mercury**
- (3) WATER AND SANITATION**
- (4) MALARIA**
- (5) MISCELLANEOUS (a) Global (b) Africa (c) Americas (d) Asia (e) Middle East**

Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) is a world-wide alliance to reduce environmental risks to children's health that arise from the settings where they live, learn, play, and sometimes work, by providing knowledge, increasing political will, mobilizing resources, and catalysing intense and urgent action.

HECANET is an international mailing list dedicated to promoting healthy environments for children. The list provides updates on the activities of the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) and its members, as well as an overview of media coverage of children's environmental health issues and relevant meetings, research findings and information and advocacy resources.

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EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

(1) HECA Developments

HECA-supported pilot projects are underway in 13 countries: Central African Republic; Kenya; Rwanda; Uganda; Bolivia;

Nicaragua; Pakistan; Yemen; Djibouti; India; Nepal; Mongolia; and Samoa. Many of these projects aim to build awareness among children on environment and health issues. They also aim to tackle key risks like indoor air pollution, unsafe water, lack of sanitation and improper hygiene, in the places that matter most to children, such as schools. Some projects were launched by high-level governmental officials, while others have been initiated by experienced local NGOs. Implementing organizations have submitted frameworks for monitoring and evaluation, and where appropriate, more detailed action plans. Summaries of projects will be posted on the HECA website as well as results from project activities as these become available. For more information on these projects please contact the [HECA Secretariat](#).

(2) IPA/WHO/UNEP Workshop for African Pediatricians on Children's Health and the Environment

An important workshop will be held on October 12-14, 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Pediatric Association (IPA) is sponsoring a 3-day workshop on Children's Health and the Environment. During this workshop, which will be hosted by UNEP, providers will learn about the harmful effects of air pollution, water contamination and unsafe food on the health of children. The course is designed for African doctors who plan to teach other providers about children's health and the environment. We will discuss how pediatricians from countries throughout Africa can work together to help improve the environment for tomorrow's children. This issue is a cross-cutting one that may be every bit as important as nutrition in its overall impact on child health. Please [contact IPA](#) if you would like to place your name on a list to receive additional information and a registration form for this workshop.

(3) Second International Conference on Children's Environmental Health: Healthy Environments Healthy Children: Increasing Knowledge and Taking Action

The Government of Argentina, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Argentine Pediatric Society are pleased to announce [the Second International Conference on Children's Environmental Health \(CEH\): Healthy Environments Healthy Children: Increasing Knowledge and Taking Action](#) to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 14 through 16 November 2005 at Hotel Crowne Plaza. This conference aims to strengthen collaborative research, increase awareness of children's environmental health, facilitate the sharing of experiences and instigate actions to improve the environments of children in the Americas and around the world. The conference will focus on science-oriented issues, research needs and capacity-building while addressing the concrete needs for action and policies at the community, country, regional and international levels.

This conference is expected to respond to calls for action concerning children's environmental health that will be made by the preceding Health and Environment Ministerial of the Americas (June 2005) and the Summit of the Americas (November 2005). Science, research and policy experts will be able to interact and set an agenda to weave research and science into policy discussions and vice-versa. Participants will include healthcare and environmental professionals, members of organizations, active community members, scientists, researchers, public health and environmental health policy experts, engineers and healthcare practitioners. All sectors will be represented through their presence, active participation or concrete presentations, including government, academia, non-governmental organizations, industry, and professional associations. A call for abstracts on CEH research issues will be made by May 2005, at the time of the circulation of the draft program of the event. This conference will also offer the opportunity for pre- and post-conference courses and workshop that will address specific CEH issues.

Children are the main and most precious resource of countries. They should live, grow, learn and play in environments that are supportive of good health and well-being. This conference proposes to increase awareness, set forth action, and contribute worldwide to improve the status of children's health and their environments.

(4) Workshop on Advances in the Use of Biomarkers in Children.

The World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) jointly announce the [Workshop on Advances in the Use of Biomarkers in Children](#). This 1½ day workshop will be held on November 17-18 following the global conference, Healthy Environments, Healthy Children: Increasing Knowledge and Taking Action, at the Hotel Crowne Plaza in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This workshop will convene experts from around the world to present and discuss the scientific advances made during the past decade in the availability and improvement of biomarkers in children. It will cover topics such as: The availability of biomarkers during the various development stages; Biomarkers of exposure to environmental chemicals; Discussion of biomarkers of susceptibility and effects; new technologies and their contribution to the development of new biomarkers in children; and How to incorporate biomarker data into risk assessment paradigms and risk communication. The agenda for this workshop will include presentations on biological tissues, major classes of chemicals and biomarkers of susceptibility and effect. It will discuss the incorporation of biomarker data into risk assessment and risk communication and present the role of new technologies in the development of biomarkers in children.

(5) UNEP - Children's World Summit for the Environment

UNEP and the Aichi Prefectural Government of Japan hosted the first [Children's World Summit for the Environment](#) in Toyohashi and Toyota cities, Japan, from 26 to 29 July 2005. The world summit for children was organized by UNEP, with His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino of Japan as the honorary president. The Summit brought together nearly 600 children, aged 10 to 14 years from 65 countries, and adult chaperones to review the implications of environmental problems to their livelihood. The children's conference was a follow-up to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. It aimed to find ways to involve children in the implementation of the decisions from the parent summits. The participants presented their findings and resolutions as the [Aichi Declaration](#) on the final day of the conference. "We commit ourselves to saving energy and using renewable energy sources" say the children in their statement. They also challenge the leaders in a petition, asking them to "create and enforce laws to improve efficiency in production, consumption and conservation of energy". They demand that the leaders set examples also in the issues of biodiversity, water and waste processing. At the closing of the four-day summit on Friday, UNEP Deputy Executive Director Shafquat Kakahel promised that the children's message would be delivered to the UN Secretary-General. He also assured the children that their message included on a 14 meter long canvas will have a prominent place in front of the UN headquarters in New York to remind the world's presidents and prime ministers of the hope of the children for a better environment. The children's conference runs in conjunction with Expo 2005, in the same city. It was hosted by the Aichi Prefectural Government, the City of Toyota and the City of Toyohashi. WHO for its part prepared brochures that were distributed to children, as well as sets of other materials, projection of videos and presentation of games. In addition, two roundtables were organized with the participation of UNICEF and WHO. UNEP announced that the next Tunza Children's Conference on the environment will be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in August 2006. The 2008 Tunza conference will be held in Stavanger, Norway.

(6) International Society of Doctors for the Environment Latin America/Argentinean Society of Doctors for the Environment

Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 12th-13th 2005: Organized by ISDE School, INCHEs, and the Argentinean Society of Pediatrics (SAP); co-organized by the Argentinean Nursing Federation, under the technical advice of WHO and with the special support of the Tuscany Region the "Training for Health Care Providers on Children's Health and Environment" will take place as a Pre-conference activity of the "Second International Conference on Children's Environmental Health: Healthy Environments, Healthy Children – Increasing Knowledge and taking actions". The new material: "WHO Training Package for Health Care Providers on CEH" will be presented with modules in Spanish and health care providers will learn about the special situation of children in relation to environmental factors, the "windows of vulnerability" during the periods of development, the harmful effects of air, water and food pollution, children and chemicals. International speakers will participate at the conference. This is a training for leader trainers and WHO material presented will be given to participants. Registration is free but limited. The agenda and more information will be soon posted at the www.aamma.org.

Montevideo, Uruguay, October 30th to November 1st, 2005: AAMMA is invited as speaker to the XXV Uruguayan Congress of Pediatrics, 1st Uruguayan Congress of Neonatology, 1st Uruguayan Congress of Pediatric Nursery and 1st Workshop of Pediatric Residents of the Southern Cone, organized by the Uruguayan Society of Pediatrics (SUP): AAMMA will hold a Conference on "Neurodevelopment and Environment" and will lecture on "Persistent Organic Pollutants" at the panel "Current Scenario on Children Lead Poisoning".

Vienna, Austria, September 24th-25th, 2005: International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) is inviting all ISDE members and activists on health and environment to the ISDE General Assembly that will take place in Vienna. The

main goals for this ISDE meeting are analyze the outcomes and outreaches of the work done in the last two years at the regional and international level, networking, exchange ideas and prepare a work-plan for the next three years. During the event, voting of the new ISDE authorities will take place (restricted to ISDE affiliates) and activities, projects of the different regions will be presented and ISDE role and intense participation in the different international forums will be explained (open to all ISDE members and, for the first time, also to non-ISDE members). To find more information please visit www.isde.org

Vienna, Austria, September 19th-24th, 2005: The Preparatory Committee of the Strategic Approach to the International Chemicals Management (SAICM) of the Chemicals Programme of the United Nations Environmental Programme is organizing the Third SAICM Preparatory Conference (PrepCom3), in which regional consultations reports and final documents prepared by each sector will be presented. Governmental representatives, intergovernmental organizations, non governmental organizations and industry will participate at the meeting. ISDE representatives are participating in this important process representing the Health NGO sector. More info: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/>

San Salvador de Jujuy, Jujuy Province, Argentina, September 5th, 2005: Under the slogan “Children environmental disease can be controlled and prevented: irreversible but avoidable damage”, AAMMA and Argentinean Society of Pediatrics (SAP) organize a Multi-stakeholder Panel on “Children’s Health and Environment: Identifying Situations and Actions to Protect Children from Environmental Threats”. The aim of this activity is to exchange scientific and practical ideas and proposals on children’s environmental health to identify situations and take action involving all local stakeholders. AAMMA, SAP, Jujuy’s Public Health Ministry and National Directorate of Environmental Management of Environment and Sustainable Development Office of the Ministry of Health and Environment of Argentina will lecture on “Children and Chemicals: Special vulnerability and new toxicity”, “Persistent Organic Pollutants: Stockholm Convention and actions toward implementation of actions under the National Implementation Plan”. A similar event will be organized in Río Gallegos, Santa Cruz Province, Argentina, August 26th, 2005.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, August-December 2005: AAMMA – ISDE.LA organizes with the Direction of Education - Pediatrics Division - of Santojanni Hospital of the City of Buenos Aires, a 50 hours course addressed to pediatricians, health care providers and health administrators on “Impact of Environmental Changes on Children’s Health”. AAMMA – ISDE.LA expert’s team will lecture on “Children’s Special Vulnerability to Environmental Changes”, “Climate Change Health Effects”, “Urban Environment and Health”, “Healthy Hospitals”, “Children Chemical Safety” and “State of the World: International Negotiations and Documents”.

(7) University of Minnesota President's 21st Century Interdisciplinary Conference Series Promoting Healthy Communities for Children

September 26-27, 2005, University of Minnesota, Continuing Education Center St. Paul, Minnesota. Unhealthy and unsafe environments put children at risk in many ways from toxicants in the air, food, and water to inadequate/overcrowded housing; unsafe, inaccessible spaces for recreation; geographic concentrations of poverty and wealth; traffic dangers; differential access to social, political and material resources; school violence; discrimination; social isolation; powerful media influences . the list could go on. From conception through adolescence, children are disproportionately affected by exposure to environmental risks because they have greater physiological and psychological vulnerabilities during stages of rapid and formative development, and they have less power to influence and shape their environment. This conference will examine critical aspects of the environment as they affect the health and well-being of children and adolescents. Conference plenary and breakout sessions will be organized around three broad themes: (i) the natural environment including the quality of our air, water, and soil; exposure to lead, environmental tobacco smoke, and noise; industrial waste disposal; (ii) the built environment including parks, sidewalks, bikeways, transportation networks, urban/suburban/rural planning and development, zoning regulations, housing codes, disability accessibility; and (iii) the social environment including social processes and conditions related to economic and political power and decision making; human connections at an ecological level, such as social capital, efficacy, and cohesion; family relationships; safe schools; discrimination due to race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender, age. The audience will be multidisciplinary, reflecting the variety of conference co-sponsors and the many disciplines involved in addressing environmental impacts on children's health. Attendees will include researchers, practitioners, public health professionals, and graduate students. Abstracts are invited for poster and oral presentations in two broad categories: 1) studies reporting evidence of the impact of adverse environmental exposures on children's health, and 2)

evidence-based programs, policies, or interventions that have been implemented to reduce risk exposure and enhance protective factors in the environment. Submissions are due by April 15, 2005. Please [contact the University](#).

(8) Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment: Conference on Children's Health and the Environment

A Conference on Children's Health and the Environment will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2005 in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference will focus on: Emerging Issues in Children's Environmental Health; Childhood Obesity & the Environment; School Environmental Health Problems; Asthma; Mold Issues; Outcomes of Environmental Exposures * birth defects, learning problems; Risk Communication; and the Resources of a Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit. CME or CEU credits for physicians or nurses can be earned. The Conference is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment, the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, and Region 3 Environmental Protection Agency. For more information contact [Aurora Amoah](#) at the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health & the Environment.

(9) Stony Brook University Environmental Health Program: Environmental Health Conference on Iraq-Amman

International Environmental Health Conference on Iraq, 19-22 September 2005, Amman, Jordan, hosted by Stony Brook University Environmental Health Program, New York and the Agency of International Development (US/AID). Military conflicts, long-term international sanctions, isolation and rapid industrialization have turned Iraq's environment into an unprecedented, environmental disaster adversely affecting human health in Iraq and the surrounding countries. Consequently, the Iraqi healthcare system has been overwhelmed with a variety of environmentally related acute and chronic disorders, including respiratory and diarrheal diseases and adverse reproductive outcomes. Recent scientific reports have indicated significant increases in the incidence of cancer, physical and mental disabilities and congenital abnormalities. The situation has further deteriorated in recent years due to severely restricted access to modern scientific and medical knowledge and the almost complete isolation of Iraqi researchers, scientists and university faculty from their peers in the international community.

This conference will address environmental issues facing Iraq using the latest research and scientific studies and attempt to develop recommendations to address these problems. The conference will provide a venue for Iraqi and international scientists to present research work and advances related to environmental health in Iraq. It will allow Iraqi medical professionals to exchange information with their peers from the international community and it will help bridge the isolation of the Iraqi medical and environmental community by facilitating interactions and collaboration with international attendees. Additionally, the conference will stimulate long-term collaborative efforts among Iraqi scientists from different institutions or disciplines and with their foreign peers, thus encouraging research work and studies addressing various environmental and health problems affecting the region. Iraqi researchers and scientists will present the most recent research in the various disciplines related to health and the environment.

Children in Iraq: Although all segments of the population in Iraq have suffered from environmental contaminants, children have been especially affected. Due to neglect, repeated military conflicts, and international sanctions, over 500,000 children have died in the past decade. The primary cause of death among children is malnourishment and infectious diseases which arise due to a lack of basic health and sanitation services. The situation is worsened by congenital malformations and defects caused by exposure to radioactive material and chemicals associated with wars. In the post-Gulf War period, the infant mortality rate rose to 103/1000 due to the severe health deterioration in the country in the 1990's. This is nearly double the ratio prior to that period. The mortality rate of children under five years of age in Iraq is now the worst in the world. UNICEF reports that Iraq ranks 126th out of 174 on the list of UN Human Development Index, while it ranked 50th out of 130 on the list in 1990. A variety of environmentally related chronic diseases are emerging among children due to their ongoing exposure to environmental contaminants. The most serious issue is diarrhea from water contamination, which proves fatal in many cases. Over 50% of the country's water supply is contaminated because the infrastructure and water purification system were destroyed during the recent war. Upper respiratory tract disease from exposure to air contaminants is another significant concern. Additionally, many cases of cancer and congenital abnormalities among children are believed to be environmentally related. It is expected that the Environmental Health and Resource Centers established through the SBU-HEAD program will enable Iraqi specialists to study and prevent many of the environmental health problems currently facing children in Iraq. For more information, please visit the [conference/program web-site](#).

(10) International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)

Call for fact-sheets: INCHES received quite a few fact-sheets or links to fact-sheets on the internet. These fact-sheets are mainly in English. INCHES is calling members to send their available fact-sheets in other languages to be added to the database. They could be in any language, ranging from lead poisoning, asthma, allergies, chemical, ventilation at school, etc. INCHES is trying to build a very complete overview which we also share with the HECA network. Please [send an electronic version](#) or hard copy of the fact-sheets, as soon as possible, to the INCHES address: INCHES, P. O. Box 163, 6950 AD Dieren, the Netherlands. Please try not to postpone your assistance as we would like to have a very substantial database of factsheets available in the next month for everyone. More information on INCHES is available on the [network's web-site](#).

(11) Policy Interpretation Network on Children's Health and Environment

A conference entitled, 'Child Health And The Environment: Results From EU Framework 5 PINCHE project (Policy Interpretation Network on Children's Health and Environment) and Plutocracy project (Placental Uptake and Transfer of Environmental Chemicals Relating to Allergy in Childhood Years), will be held from 23 to 25 November 2005. The meeting will take place in Central Brussels. At the conference, the final results and policy implications of the PINCHE and the Plutocracy projects will be presented, and oral and poster presentation in related scientific areas will be given. There is a special session with EU Parliamentarians. For more information on the Programme and the Call for Poster Abstracts: see the [PINCHE website](#): www.pinche.hvdgm.nl. The PINCHE reports of the workpackages 1, 2, 3, and 5 have been completed, and are now available on the [PINCHES web-site](#).

(12) Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) 8th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC - 2005)

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) will hold its 8th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC - 2005) from 7-9 December 2005 in Islambabd. Pakistan. Technical sessions will be held on children's health and environment.

Three pillars of the sustainable development are society, economy and environment; the "Heart" of the sustainable development is the future generation. Children represent the future of our societies, and therefore it is essential to protect the health of children and ensure that children live in safe environment, allowing them to reach their full potential. However, children happen to be the most vulnerable group to adverse health consequences of environmental factors such as polluted air, contaminated and polluted water, food and soil, radiation risks, chemicals, unhealthy housing, environmental noise, risks related to transport, and the consequences of armed conflict and environmental disasters and poverty. According to the WHO (2003) report, approximately 3 million children under the age of five years die every year due to environmental hazards. In South Asia, the average infant mortality rate (IMR) is about 70 per 1000 live childbirths (UNICEF 2000). The governments and stakeholders have a responsibility to take action to reduce the sources of chemical and other risks and prevent childhood exposure.

The Eighth SDC will look at the ways in which governments cooperate and exercise power over natural resource management (NRM) in their respective countries and in the region. The participants of the Conference will share their experiences and discuss national and regional environmental and health issues with a focus on the children's health. These, among others, include monitoring and situation evaluation of children of different age groups and toxic chemicals, preventive and educational activities for promoting safe use of chemicals and national environmental and health policies.

Abstract: A soft and printed copy of the abstract of not more than 400 words should be submitted directly to [Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja](#) (khwaja@sdpi.org) by Monday, 15 August 2005. It should clearly state the title, theme, objectives, sources of data, and major expected findings. It should include the author's full name, a brief bionote as author of no more than 30 words, complete contact address (email as well as postal), telephone and fax numbers. SDC 2005 details also available at the [Eighth SDC web-site](#) (www.sdpi.org).

(13) US/EPA Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Symposium

In 1995, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced the Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ Tfs) Program to help schools recognize the importance of managing school facilities to maintain a healthy indoor environment. IAQ Tfs is a nationwide initiative to help school officials assess, resolve, and prevent IAQ problems and reduce exposure to

asthma triggers and other harmful pollutants in school facilities. EPA's IAQ Tfs Symposium highlights efforts schools can take to implement IAQ Tfs and maintain a healthy school environment. Session topics include asthma management, radon, mold and moisture, maintaining healthy schools, sustaining IAQ practices, and communicating IAQ issues among stakeholders in the local community. The IAQ TFS Symposium will be held January 12-14, 2006 in Washington DC. The Web site with more information is www.iaqsymposium.com.

(14) US/EPA 2005 Regional Children's Environmental Health Summit

The 2005 Regional Children's Environmental Health Summit: "Healthy Children: A Call to Action" was held August 3 & 4, 2005 in Helena, Montana, sponsored by: US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Rocky Mountain Region Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, in partnership with the Montana Office of Public Instruction, the University of Montana, and Montana State University.

The goals for the 2005 Summit included: 1. Increase the ability of health, environmental, and education professionals to identify, prevent, and reduce environmental health threats to children; 2. Share information, resources, "best practices", and emerging science regarding the protection of children's health from environmental hazards; 3. Encourage coordination and information sharing across government agencies, health organizations, health care providers, educators, and the general public in addressing children's environmental health issues; 4. Identify actions that can be implemented throughout the Region to protect children from environmental health threats; and 5. Provide public health professionals with an opportunity to identify/implement effective children's health strategies in advance of Children's Health Month in October. Details are available on the [Montana Department of Environmental Quality web-site](#).

(15) AAP California: Postgraduate course "Children's Health and the Environment, 2005"

California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics is hosting its annual winter postgraduate course entitled "Children's Health and the Environment, 2005" at the UCSF-Laurel Heights Conference Center in San Francisco. The conference will be held on Saturday, September 17. Physicians and nurses attending this course may report up to five and three quarters (5.75) hours of CME credit. Conference highlights include: "Global Environmental Change and the Future of Children's Health", and "How Safe is Your Child's Food and Water?" - presented by Katherine Shea, MD MPH (University of North Carolina, School of Public Health). "Mercury, Health, and Current Fish Consumption Guidelines" - presented by Gina Solomon, MD MPH (UCSF). "The Pediatrician's Role in the Tobacco Wars" - presented by Stanton Glantz, PhD, (UCSF). "Smoking Cessation for Parents: The Pediatrician's Role", and "Motivational Interviewing: How to Reduce Children's Environmental Exposures" - presented by Dana Best, MD MPH, (George Washington University). "Environmental Precipitants of Asthma" - presented by John Balmes, MD MPH (UCSF). "Don't Supersize Me: Healthy Growth and Development for Communities and Children" - presented by Richard Jackson, MD MPH (California Department of Health Services). "Helping Children Avoid Environmental Hazards: Anticipatory Guidance for Parents" - presented by Mark Miller, MD MPH (UCSF Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit). "Potential Environmental Disasters Lurking in Your Community and Your Home" - presented by Kent Olson, MD (Director, California Poison Control System). For more details and registration information, please go to [Coming Events 2002-2003](#) [click on the "Activities/Coming Events" link] or <http://www.aapca1.org/Meetings/Brochure%209-17-05.pdf>

ARTICLES

(1) AIR POLLUTION: (a) Indoor air pollution

[Where there is smoke](#) Indoor air pollution is the 4th greatest risk factor for death and disease in the Third World. There are efforts to study and limit its effects in communities using charcoal and firewood stoves. Nearly half of the cases of conjunctivitis, pneumonia, chronic bronchitis and lung cancer in rural areas are caused by smoke pollution. Maore Ithula. [East African Standard](#), Kenya. 22 July 2005.

[Clearing the air in schools](#) Eight years after a state health inspection led Burlington officials to spend about \$1.5 million to correct air-quality problems at the town high school, new worries have surfaced about the air in Burlington schools -- and this time they're not only centered on the high school. Alexander Reid. [Boston Globe](#), Massachusetts. 28 July 2005.

(b) Outdoor air pollution

[Smoggy areas linked to smaller babies](#) Women living in high traffic pollution areas of Sydney gave birth to smaller babies than those who breathed fewer fumes, A NSW Health Department report has found. The report found babies exposed to the highest levels of pollution weighed on average about 12 grams less. [Australian Associated Press](#), Australia. 28 July 2005.

[Living In Traffic Areas Could Hurt Baby's Breathing](#) According to researchers, living near certain types of traffic can affect a baby's breathing. In a report, researchers tracked the respiratory health of 622 infants who lived in three types of traffic areas: stop and go traffic, highway traffic, and not near any major roads or bus routes. Liz Bonis. [Rochester WHAM TV](#), New York. 4 August 2005.

[Childhood Cancers Strongly Linked to Air Pollution in Early Life](#) Childhood cancers are strongly linked to pollution from engine exhausts, concludes [research in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health](#). The postal addresses of 22,500 children who had died of cancer in Britain between 1955 and 1980 were linked to emissions hotspots for specific chemicals. Press Release. [British Medical Journal](#). 9 August 2005.

[Child cancer 'exhaust fume risk.'](#) Children who live close to major transport hubs are more at risk of dying of cancer, a study says. Researchers found those living within 500 metres of a bus station were six times more likely to die of cancer. The study also said railways and hospitals increased the risk. For all the sites, exhaust fume pollution was identified as the primary cause. [BBC](#), UK. 10 August 2005.

[Car exhausts may cause child cancer](#) Daily Mail, UK. 11 August 2005.

[Childhood cancers linked to pollution, claims study](#) [Edinburgh Scotsman](#), Scotland. 11 August 2005.

[Pollution exposure linked to childhood cancer](#) [Reuters Health](#). 11 August 2005.

[Scientists dispute traffic link to childhood cancers](#) Nigel Hawkes. [Times Online](#), London. 11 August 2005.

[Air Pollution in Early Life May Cause Cancer, a Study Finds](#) Chantal Britt. [Bloomberg](#). 11 August 2005.

[Engine Exhaust Linked to Childhood Cancers](#) Patti Connor, [WebMD](#). 10 August 2005.

[Air Pollution-Associated Changes in Lung Function among Asthmatic Children in Detroit](#) Our findings suggest that levels of air pollutants in Detroit, which are above the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards, adversely affect lung function of susceptible asthmatic children. Toby C. Lewis, et. al. [Environmental Health Perspectives](#). August 2005.

[Ha Noi's air quality falls short of standards](#) Air pollution indicators in Ha Noi surpassed the standard levels several times, the Centre for Environmental Engineering in Towns and Industrial Areas announced at a workshop. The health effects of mobile source pollution include asthma, bronchitis and premature deaths, especially in children and elderly. [Vietnam News Agency](#), Vietnam. 27 July 2005.

[KL hit by Indonesia's noxious haze](#) Schools suspended classes and people wore protective masks as a weeklong noxious haze blamed on forest fires in neighboring Indonesia thickened over parts of Malaysia including the main city, Kuala Lumpur. Hospitals reported a spike in respiratory and eye ailments from the dust and smoke. Associated Press. [CNN](#). 10 August 2005.

[Malaysians told to stay indoors to avoid "unhealthy" air](#) [Agence France-Presse](#). 4 August 2005.

[Dry weather worsening haze](#) [Petaling Jaya Star](#), Malaysia. 8 August 2005.

[Malaysia chokes on Indonesia forest fires](#) Clarence Fernandez. [Reuters](#). 10 August 2005.

[Health hazards due to worsening haze](#) Annie Freeda Cruz. [New Strait Times](#), Malaysia. 10 August 2005.

[Malaysia haze triggers emergency](#) [BBC](#), UK. 11 August 2005.

[Haze gets worse; air turns hazardous](#) Chicago Tribune, Illinois. 11 August 2005.

[Let us pray for rain, says leader as nation chokes](#) Richard Lloyd Parry. London Times, England. 12 August 2005.

[Smoke haze sparks talks](#) Ahmad Pathoni. Brisbane Courier-Mail, Queensland. 12 August 2005.

[Tales of Woes, Ruins, Destruction](#) A cocktail of toxic substances, which has been emitted in gas flares and includes benzene and particulates, has exposed Niger Delta communities to health risks. "Our air is polluted. Our children are sick. Even the rainwater we drink is contaminated with black soot from the gas flares." [Subscription required]. Godwin Haruna. Lagos Day, Nigeria. 1 July 2005.

[Health officials to act on refinery pollution](#) Durban officials are considering various options against the Engen refinery as concern mounts that it has exposed primary school pupils in Merebank to air pollution levels which exceed WHO standards. A study showed pupils had one of the highest recorded rates of asthma in medical literature worldwide. Tony Carnie. Durban Mercury, South Africa. 18 July 2005.

[Durban residents don't believe legal moves will stop pollution](#) Bhavna Sookha and Kamalan Naaido. Durban Daily News, South Africa. 20 July 2005.

[Energy bill would order study of air-toxics risks](#) Lawmakers, responding to reports of concentrations of cancer-causing chemicals in Houston's air, are poised to order the government to study whether living near refineries/petrochemical plants damages health. They are considering looking at birth defects, low birth weight and infant mortality. David Ivanovich/Dina Cappiello. Houston Chronicle. 28 July 2005.

[Air regulators snuff routine refinery flares](#) The days when Bay Area refineries could shunt waste petrochemicals to a smokestack, spark a flame and burn them into the atmosphere ended as air regulators approved limits on the use of refinery flares. A babysitter described the tormenting skin conditions and breathing difficulties she saw in children. Douglas Fischer. Oakland Tribune, California. 21 July 2005.

[SIDS linked to nitrogen dioxide pollution](#) High outdoor levels of nitrogen dioxide apparently raise the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), according to California-based researchers. High levels of nitrogen dioxide more than doubled the risk of SIDS, even after accounting for tobacco smoke exposure. Reuters. 19 July 2005.

[Proposals Stiffen Standards on Air](#) EPA Weighs Lowering Soot Limit. Fine particulate matter invades people's lungs and causes respiratory ailments. EPA staff members proposed tightening the nation's air pollution standards yesterday, a move that environmentalists said could save the lives of thousands of Americans. Juliet Eilperin. Washington Post. 2 July 2005.

[Clearing the air](#) You don't need to be a scientist to know that diesel engines can be dirty. Research at the University of Cincinnati and elsewhere suggests that infants and children who live close to highways that carry a large volume of truck traffic, or who are routinely exposed to diesel exhausts, are at measurably greater risk of developing respiratory ailments. Editorial. Cincinnati Post, Ohio. 22 July 2005.

[Diesel fumes cited for health woes](#) Diesel exhaust from trucks and school buses causes much of the air pollution that is hurting New Jerseyans' health and elevating health-care costs, according to a new report. "The link between poor air quality and the increased risk of developing respiratory diseases, such as asthma, is a significant public health concern." Associated Press. 20 July 2005.

[Baby wheezing, stop-and-go traffic linked](#) University of Cincinnati Environmental health researchers have discovered 17 percent of infants living near "stop and go" traffic suffer from wheezing. The study is said to be the first of its kind to analyze the effects of "stop and go" bus and truck diesel traffic versus highway traffic on infant respiratory health. United Press International. 26 July 2005.

[Making diesels burn cleaner](#) Sen. Voinovich is shepherding a bill through the Senate that would give grants to retrofit old diesel engines. Preliminary findings of the study released May 24 show that infants who live near bus stops or truck traffic are three times more likely to have persistent wheeze without a cold than those who live elsewhere. Joshua Rinaldi. Cincinnati Post, Ohio. 25 July 2005.

[Emissions by diesel targeted in Milford](#) To reduce diesel pollution around Milford, Conn., city's schools, officials plan to crack down on idling vehicles in student pick-up zones and explore cleaner-burning fuel alternatives for buses. Greg Shulas. Bridgeport Connecticut Post, Connecticut. 4 August 2005.

[School buses need help in cleaning up their act](#) School buses have emerged as one of the biggest problems facing those trying to clean up the valley's polluted air. Children inside older buses are often exposed to greater amounts of dangerous particulate matter than are found in the open air adjacent to busy freeways. [Registration required]. Editorial. Modesto Bee, California. 11 August 2005.

[Student lobbies for cleaner buses](#) In late June, while most of her friends and classmates were celebrating those first joyful days of summer, Sullivan delayed gratification a little longer to "take a meeting" with school officials not only to discuss the findings of her project, but to urge action. Kim Gaffney. MidHudson Gazette Advertiser, New York. 4 August 2005.

[Converted buses will cut exhaust - Program looks to reduce student exposure to fumes](#) Nearly 500 school buses in King County have been retrofitted with updated exhaust systems as part of a statewide campaign to reduce students' exposure to diesel exhaust, which can lead to cancer and other respiratory problems. Jamie Swift. Bellevue King County Journal, Washington. 4 August 2005.

[Senator, school officials unveil clean-burning buses](#) Senator Dean Florez, D-Shafter, will join leaders from the Fresno Unified School District, transportation officials and clean air advocates to unveil the latest in technologies for cleaner-burning buses, and to highlight the inclusion of millions in this year's budget to upgrade California's aging fleet. Bill Curtis. Bakersfield Online. 9 August 2005.

[California Air Is Cleaner, but Troubles Remain](#) In 2004, a 10-year study of a group of children growing up in the Los Angeles basin showed that the lungs of active children growing up in the areas of the thickest ozone had 10 percent to 20 percent less capacity than those of their counterparts in cleaner areas. [Registration Required]. Felicity Barringer. New York Times. 3 August 2005.

[School flags to warn of bad air](#) Modesto City Schools will unfurl color-coded flags that tell students, parents and staff what the air quality is each day, the school board unanimously decided Monday. [Registration required]. Elizabeth Johnson. Modesto Bee, California. 12 July 2005.

[Unhealthy haze over Northeast's wilderness](#) Each summer in the Northeastern US, haze, primarily caused by sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-burning power plants in the Midwest, cuts visibility in the most scenic of our national parks and wilderness areas by up to 70%. Impairment of that child's growing lungs and the risk of asthma. William M. Hill. Boston Globe, Massachusetts. 3 July 2005.

[People head out despite foul air](#) State and regional agencies issued warnings that potentially unhealthy air will linger in the St. Louis region for the next few days. Public health officials warn that the so-called "orange" air quality could spell trouble for children or adults suffering from asthma or heart ailments. Ken Leiser. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Missouri. 10 August 2005.

[Air quality sinks in heat](#) Southwestern Pennsylvania again has the kind of smoggy, unhealthy airborne pollution you can see, and at levels that are showing up on the state DEP's color-coded air quality index. That level of pollution will be unhealthy for at-risk groups such as older adults and children. Don Hopey. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania. 21 July 2005.

[The air we breathe](#) Chicago is still rated as one of the dirtiest cities in the nation, and that dirty air we breathe knows no

boundaries. While we're still not meeting some of the targets....we have been reducing rates steadily. Doctors say reducing them more is essential because ozone, better known as smog, can damage children's lungs and cause asthma. Antonio Mora. Associated Press. 9 August 2005.

[Bad air chokes area](#) If the forecast is any guide, lung specialists like Dr. Stanley Sabin may be in for a busy Friday. Environmental agencies are warning that the air quality in eastern Massachusetts will be unhealthy today, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children under 12, the elderly and people with respiratory problems. Jennifer Kavanaugh. Westborough News, Massachusetts. 5 August 2005.

[Study probes air pollutants in Sacramento-area](#) A groundbreaking study shows what vehicles are doing to the air that Sacramento-area residents breathe and where the worst spots are located. With asthma rates soaring, especially in children, it has become increasingly important to find a solution to the Sacramento area's pollution problem. Sacramento KCRA TV, California. 27 July 2005.

[Ozone warning](#) So far this year Delaware has failed the federal standard for "chronic" ozone pollution on six different days since April. Marie kept a close watch on her 3-year-old son as he rambled across a shaded but muggy Brandywine Park, wary of sooty air that could turn a midafternoon family zoo adventure into a fight for breath. Jeff Montgomery. Wilmington News Journal, Delaware. 21 July 2005.

[Relationships among PAH-DNA Adducts, Proximity to the World Trade Center, and Effects on Fetal Growth](#) Findings suggest that exposure to elevated levels of PAHs, indicated by PAH-DNA adducts in cord blood, may have contributed to reduced fetal growth in women exposed to the WTC event. Frederica Perera, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[South Florida to get dusty next week as Sahara sand cloud moves in](#) By Monday, a Sahara dust outbreak, or a cloud of what originally was African sand carried across the Atlantic on the back of a tropical wave, is expected to settle over the region. On the Caribbean island of Trinidad an abnormal number of infants have asthma problems, he said. Ken Kaye. Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. 22 July 2005.

(c) Asthma

[Is the Global Rise of Asthma an Early Impact of Anthropogenic Climate Change?](#) Although the etiology of asthma is complex, the recent global rise in asthma could be an early health effect of anthropogenic climate change. Asthma prevalence appears to have increased among children and adults and in a wide range of countries. Paul Beggs/Hilary Bambrick. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Gasping for Air: Asthma and African Americans](#) African Americans are 3 times more likely to die from asthma than Caucasian Americans. Living and working in poor conditions has clearly impacted asthma rates. But, environmental factors are not the only cause. The key is empowering people to know what care their child should be getting. Karen Barrow. ABC News. 16 July 2005.

[One in six US high school students has asthma-study](#) One out of every six US high school students suffers from asthma and more than one-third of those report having an attack in the previous year, according to a federal release on Thursday that suggests schools do more to manage the potentially fatal lung disease. Paul Simao. Reuters AlertNet. 12 August 2005.

[Locals must improve air quality to protect children with asthma](#) As temperatures rise and stay in the 90s, Kentuckiana's air is filling with increasingly dangerous levels of smog and ground-level ozone. As parents, we are asking our community to support creating safer, healthier air-not just for our little boy- for all of us. Jane Walsh and Chris Harrell. Louisville Courier-Journal, Kentucky. Opinion, 5 July 2005.

(d) Environmental Tobacco Smoke/Smoking

[Firsthand or Secondhand, Smoke Imperils Fetus](#) Cigarette smoking and being exposed to secondhand smoke during pregnancy are equally likely to cause permanent genetic mutations in the fetus, a new report concludes. [Registration Required]. Nicholas Bakalar. New York Times. 2 August 2005.

[CDC calls 2nd-hand smoke a problem for kids, blacks](#) Levels of a chemical found in second-hand smoke dropped sharply in Americans during the past decade, but children and African-Americans still are carrying amounts that are twice as high as the overall population, according to a new federal report. Michael Hawthorne. Chicago Tribune, Illinois. 22 July 2005.

[New health risk for teen smoking](#) A study finds that teenagers who smoke, or exposed to second-hand smoke, face a much higher risk of developing metabolic syndrome, disorders associated with obesity that increases the chances of heart attack, stroke and diabetes. Maggie Fox. Reuters. 2 August 2005.

[Even dad's smoke bad for fetuses](#) It's not enough for a woman to stop smoking when she becomes pregnant, a new study suggests. To protect the developing fetus, other family members should stop smoking too, and expectant mothers should stop contact with anyone who smokes. Anita Srikameswaran. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania. 27 July 2005.

[Bad behaviour 'linked to smoking.'](#) Researchers report a "small but significant" link between maternal smoking and both unruly behaviour and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The average symptom scores for both increased with the number of cigarettes the mother had smoked while pregnant, the study of 1,896 twins found. BBC, UK. 1 August 2005.

[Time to quit, for kids' sake](#) This Sunday is National Parents' Day, the perfect time to quit. Environmental Protection Agency says exposing children to the hazardous poisons in secondhand smoke can hinder the growth of a child's lungs and put children at risk of a lifetime of respiratory problems. Santa Maria Times, California. Opinion, 22 July 2005.

(2) CHEMICALS: (a) General

[Indecent exposure](#) Chemical pollutants are a part of our everyday life, and links to diseases such as Parkinson's are being investigated. So why isn't the government acting? We are now surrounded by chemical pollutants. They are an invisible menace to our health, especially for the most vulnerable. Cancer in children is rising. Michael Meacher. London Guardian, England. 20 July 2005.

[Chemical soup/keep pollutants out of babies](#) Life in this industrial age means living in a chemical soup. The key to keeping toxins out of babies is to keep them out of mothers, and the way to keep them out of mothers is to keep them out of the environment. Editorial. Minneapolis Star Tribune, Minnesota. 18 July 2005.

[Please don't tell me a prepolluted baby is just fine](#) An environmental advocacy group tested the umbilical cord blood of 10 newborns and found each baby averaged 200 contaminants in its blood, including mercury, fire retardants, pesticides and a chemical found in Teflon pots and pans. Julie Deardorff. Chicago Tribune, Illinois. 12 August 2005.

[A body's burden](#) Time and again, clusters of asthma, breast cancer, infertility, birth defects and other serious health issues show up in certain geographic areas -- or among particular socioeconomic groups -- without a definitive explanation. A "biomonitoring" program would track the lead, mercury, pesticides and other contaminants in the body. Editorial. San Francisco Chronicle, California. 5 August 2005.

[Is my baby a boy? Is it a girl? No one could tell me](#) The number of male babies born with reproductive disorders is rising rapidly, and some scientists blame a group of chemicals that are around us. It is part of a growing incidence of genital deformities, poor fertility rates and an explosion in testicular cancers that, together, are screaming out that something is wrong. Steve Boggan. London Times. 26 July 2005.

[Levels of Risk Common Industrial Chemicals In Tiny Doses Raise Health Issue](#) Scientists have struggled to explain rates of

some cancers and childhood brain disorders. Something has driven a steady rise of certain maladies, from breast and prostate cancer to autism and learning disabilities. One suspect: certain chemicals at low levels. [Subscription required]. Peter Waldman. [Wall Street Journal](#). 25 July 2005.

[Study Finds Industrial Pollution Begins in the Womb](#): Hundreds of Toxic Chemicals Measured in Newborn Babies. [A new study](#) confirms that chemical exposure begins in the womb, as hundreds of industrial chemicals, pollutants and pesticides are pumped back and forth from mother to baby through umbilical cord blood. Press Release. [Environmental Working Group](#). 14 July 2005.

[Toxic Chemicals By the Hundred Found in Blood of Newborns](#) Exposure to hundreds of toxic chemicals begins in the womb, finds a [new study](#) of the umbilical cord blood of 10 American newborns commissioned by the Environmental Working Group. The group wanted to measure how early the human body burden of chemicals begins to accumulate. [Environment News Service](#). 14 July 2005.

[Unborn Babies Soaked in Chemicals, Survey Finds](#) Maggie Fox. [Reuters](#). 14 July 2005.

[New study suggests fetuses are exposed to hundreds of toxic chemicals](#) Terence Chea. [Associated Press](#). 15 July 2005.

[Toxins in babies' blood prompt call for action](#) Misty Edgecomb. [Bangor Daily News](#), Maine. 15 July 2005.

[Toxic elements found in infants' cord blood](#) Christine Stapleton. [Palm Beach Post](#), Florida. 14 July 2005.

[Newborn babies found to be 'polluted'](#) Reuters. [IOL](#), South Africa. 14 July 2005.

[Study: Toxins found in newborns](#) Kevin Lamb. [Dayton Daily News](#), Ohio. 14 July 2005.

[Man-made chemicals in blood of newborns, research finds](#) Tom Meersman. [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#), Minnesota. 14 July 2005.

[Study shows babies born with polluted systems](#) Douglas Fischer. [Oakland Tribune](#), California. 14 July 2005.

[Slew of pollutants found in babies](#) Colleen Diskin. [Bergen County Record](#), New Jersey. 14 July 2005.

[Study finds hundreds of chemicals in fetuses](#) Jeff Montgomery. [Wilmington News Journal](#), Delaware. 16 July 2005.

[Pollutants put fetuses at risk](#) David Goldstein. [Kansas City Star](#), Missouri. 14 July 2005.

[Toxic waste](#) Doctors once thought that the placenta would shield a fetus from harmful chemicals and pollutants. But a study found traces of 287 chemicals in the umbilical cord blood of 10 infants. The findings prompted concerns since children's smaller brains, developing organs and more porous brains put them more at risk from such toxins than adults. Martha Brant. [Newsweek](#). 26 July 2005.

[Dozens of chemicals found in most Americans' bodies](#) Concentration is especially high in children, [a CDC national study](#) says. Experts aren't sure what the health effects are. CDC reports that most American children and adults were carrying in their bodies dozens of pesticides and toxic compounds. Bigger doses were found in children. [Registration Required]. Marla Cone. [Los Angeles Times](#). 22 July 2005.

[U.S. bodies have fewer dangerous chemicals](#) Daniel Yee. [Associated Press](#). 21 July 2005.

[CDC results are in: we're full of contaminants](#) Douglas Fischer. [Oakland Tribune](#), California. 22 July 2005.

[Presence of Harmful Chemicals In Humans Is Broad, Common](#) [Subscription Required]. [Wall Street Journal](#). 22 July 2005.

[Lead, tobacco exposure down in U.S., survey finds](#) Maggie Fox. [Reuters](#). 22 July 2005.

[U.S. bodies have less dangerous chemicals](#) Elizabeth Weise. [USA Today](#). 22 July 2005.

[CDC: Levels of harmful materials in blood fall](#) Jeff Montgomery. [Wilmington News Journal](#), Delaware. 22 July 2005.

[Drop reported in levels of some harmful chemicals](#) Lisa M. Krieger. [San Jose Mercury News](#), California. 22 July 2005.

[Americans' chemical level drops, says CDC](#) John Nielsen. [National Public Radio](#). 22 July 2005.

[Lower toxin levels found in Americans](#) Jennifer Harper. [Washington Times](#). 22 July 2005.

[Study Details Americans' Chemical Exposure](#) Todd Zwillich. [WebMD Medical News](#). 21 July 2005.

[Cadmium, Mercury, Pesticides: Environmental Chemicals of Concern](#) [Environment News Service](#). 22 July 2005.

[CDC Releases Chemicals Survey](#) Bette Hileman. Chemical & Engineering News. 28 July 2005.

[Report shows toxic chemicals prevalent in Americans' bodies](#) Shannon Brennan. Lynchburg News and Advance, Virginia. 1 August 2005.

[The cadmium threat](#) Editorial. Toledo Blade, Ohio. 1 August 2005.

[Living Well: Huge CDC report on toxins shows need for further study](#) Last Thursday the CDC reported most of us have dozens of pesticides and other toxic compounds in our bodies. "Chemical exposures during childhood can be far more harmful than those later in life," said Houlihan of EWG. Bob Condor. Seattle Post-Intelligencer. 25 July 2005.

[EPA Is Faulted as Failing to Shield Public From Toxins](#) A federal [GAO report](#) says EPA has insufficient data on chemical dangers. About 80,000 chemicals are used by U.S. industries, and scientific studies suggest that many pose health threats, such as cancer, birth defects, altered sex hormones and damage to developing brains. [Registration required]. Marla Cone. Los Angeles Times. 13 July 2005.

[Study Faults Limited U.S. Safety Reviews](#) John Heilprin. Associated Press. 14 July 2005.

[Kids Safe Chemical Act Empowers EPA to Require Chemical Testing](#) The Child, Worker and Consumer Safe Chemicals Act would require chemical manufacturers to provide health and safety information on chemicals used in consumer products like baby bottles and food wrapping instead of presuming a substance is safe until proven dangerous. Environment News Service. 18 July 2005.

[EU chemicals law REACH inspires US bill](#) Euractiv, Belgium. 19 July 2005.

[Senators Propose New Safeguards for Children's Health; GAO Study Recommends Reforms](#) Tony Iallorardo. National Environmental Trust. 13 July 2005.

[New rules for testing on humans denounced](#) While Congress pushes to restrict how and when scientists use human test subjects for EPA, the agency is seeking to loosen its rule for experiments involving humans. "Because of fundamental flaws in the rule as proposed, protections for children, women, fetuses and certain neonates will not be fully effective". Andrew Schneider. Baltimore Sun. 6 July 2005.

[Europe bans chemical use in toys](#) Chemicals are used in children's toys. The European Parliament has voted to permanently ban the use of a group of chemicals to soften children's toys following health concerns. Phthalates have been linked to damage to the reproductive system, and an increased risk of asthma and cancer. BBC, London. 5 July 2005.

[EU Lawmakers Ban Six Chemicals Used in Toys](#) Huw Jones. Reuters. 6 July 2005.

[EU bans three phthalates from toys, restricts three more](#) Bette Hileman. Chemical & Engineering News. 8 July 2005.

[Phthalates and Baby Boys](#) Epidemiologic research has revealed widespread human exposure to phthalates, chemicals that appear in products as diverse as flexible plastics, industrial solvents, and personal care products. Rodent studies indicate that prenatal exposure to some phthalates can disrupt normal male reproductive tract development. Julia Barrett. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Phthalate Exposure during Pregnancy and Lower Anogenital Index in Boys: Wider Implications for the General Population?](#) Richard Sharpe. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Decrease in Anogenital Distance among Male Infants with Prenatal Phthalate Exposure](#) Shanna H. Swan, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals Probed as Potential Pathways to Illness](#) Accumulating evidence that some widely used chemicals may have hormonelike effects on the body is heightening concerns about their potential long-term health risks, particularly when developing fetuses and neonates are exposed. [Subscription Required]. Journal of the American Medical

[Association](#). 20 July 2005.

[Are our products our enemy?](#) You can't see endocrine mimicking molecules. There's no way to tell from a product label whether they've been used. They may do little harm to adults, but evidence mounts that they can wreak havoc in the development of fetuses and children. Elizabeth Weise. [USA Today](#). 3 August 2005.

[Blocking Brain Development-How PCBs Disrupt Thyroid Hormone](#) Some epidemiologic evidence suggests a link between PCB exposure during fetal development and subsequent cognitive problems in children, such as lowered overall IQ, attention and motor deficits, and impaired impulse control. Valerie J. Brown. [Environmental Health Perspectives](#). July 2005.

[The Ups and Downs of Thyroid Hormone](#) Maintaining adequate levels of thyroid hormone (TH) during pregnancy is critical for proper placental and fetal development. A study has revealed that even low-level exposure to some chemicals can alter TH status in expectant mothers, with unknown effects. Valerie J. Brown. [Environmental Health Perspectives](#). August 2005.

[Thyroid Hormones in Pregnancy in Relation to Environmental Exposure to Organochlorine Compounds and Mercury](#) Larissa Takser et. al. [Environmental Health Perspectives](#). August 2005.

[Red alert! Toxic dumpsites uncovered in Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt](#) Investigations conducted in some parts of Lagos indicated that there have been birth defects in certain areas. The book, 'Nigeria, On the Trail of the Environment' documents types of deformities in some parts of Lagos. Tunde Akingbade. [Vanguard](#), Nigeria. 31 July 2005.

[South Korea's Dioxin Double Take](#) South Korean has promised to establish dioxin regulations by the end of this year after studies are done. Gwangyang residents have bronchial infections at a rate five times greater than the national average. Many Gwangyang children are plagued with atopic dermatitis, or eczema, a skin inflammation. James Card. [Environment News Service](#). 19 July 2005.

[Newmont prepares for pollution trial in Indonesia](#) US mining giant Newmont Mining Corp. goes on trial in a high-profile legal battle over charges its Indonesian unit dumped toxic waste and polluted a bay near its mine, causing neurological disorders and severe skin conditions in residents. [Agence France-Presse](#). 4 August 2005.

[Europe's Push for Less-Toxic Tech](#) Electronics manufacturers have 12 months to comply with stringent and costly new EU environmental laws. Some may not make it. since lead is a toxic material, especially harmful to children, the industry has turned to tin-based solder as an alternative. Adam Aston. [Business Week](#). 9 August 2005.

[Flame out](#) With no substantive discussions underway within the state government on how to enforce a much-hyped ban on flame retardants, the ban appears likely to go into place with the chemicals still tainting consumer products. Meanwhile scientists are increasingly certain these compounds pose a risk, with children particularly vulnerable. Douglas Fischer. [Oakland Tribune](#), California. 18 July 2005.

[NAS Reports on Perchlorate Safety](#) A National Academy of Sciences panel has issued a final report on the health implications of perchlorate. California recommends that drinking water contain no more than 6 ppb perchlorate, and Massachusetts recommends that pregnant women and children not consume water with more than 1 ppb perchlorate. Richard Dahl. [Environmental Health Perspectives](#). July 2005.

[Long-ignored asbestos time bomb ticking in Japan](#) A surge in the number of reported Japanese deaths linked to asbestos some 25 years after the first warnings has sparked accusations of negligence over policies toward the cancer-causing material. Experts warn the public is also at risk from millions of older buildings, including schools, where asbestos was used extensively. Elaine Lies. [Reuters](#). 15 July 2005.

[Concerns spread about asbestos](#) [Asahi Shimbun](#), Japan. 12 July 2005.

[Is There an Extra Ingredient in Nonstick Pans?](#) The question of whether Teflon cookware is safe has moved from Web site chatter to the courtroom. But more than nonstick frying pans are under scrutiny these days. Of the 600 children tested, 96 percent had PFOA in their blood; its source is unknown. [Registration Required]. Marian Burros. New York Times. 27 July 2005.

[Ignoring fishy risks](#) The flavors of striped bass, bluefish and crab from the waters off Brooklyn are too much of a lure for many fishermen to resist - even though regulators warn the delicacies can be toxic. The pollutants - including PCBs, cadmium and mercury - can make people sick. The most severe cases cause birth defects and cancer. Melissa Grace. New York Daily News, New York. 10 July 2005.

[Tainted Soil to Be Removed Next to Westchester School](#) In what state health officials call the first cleanup of its kind in the state, a school district in Westchester County is planning to remove soil next to an elementary school in Yorktown Heights because the soil is contaminated by PCB's. [Purchase required]. Barbara Whitaker. New York Times. 4 July 2005.

[Planet Playground: A world of trouble](#) The playground was built with chromated copper arsenate-treated wood at an estimated cost of \$125,000 in 1999. Four years later, the Environmental Protection Agency banned that kind of wood after scientific studies revealed there was enough evidence to link its arsenic levels to certain cancers in infants. Erik Larsen. Asbury Park Press, New Jersey. 18 July 2005.

[Possibly poisonous playgrounds in Monroe County](#) The pressure-treated wood in a Monroe County playground has a downside: an ingredient called "CCA" which stands for chromated copper arsenate. Two of the ingredients in CCA, chromium and arsenic, have been found to cause cancer, even nerve damage after long-term exposure. Elizabeth Harness. Rochester WROC TV, New York. 22 July 2005.

[Playing with arsenic?](#) In Barre, Playground 2000 is a big draw for kids. But for health advocates, it's something else. The danger is in the pressure-treated wood used to make the jungle gyms, swing sets, and slides. It's treated with a pesticide that's 22% arsenic -- a metal linked to skin, brain, and bladder cancer. Kristin Kelly. Burlington WCAX TV, Vermont. 27 July 2005.

[Youth raise awareness of cosmetic chemicals](#) Joanna Chung and her peers are surprised to learn the products they use every day could contain toxic ingredients. They fall into a gray area...the FDA does not have authority to regulate cosmetic products. Momo Chang. Freemont Argus, California. 8 August 2005.

(b) Lead

[Questioning Lead Standards-Even Low Levels Shave Points off IQ](#) The maximum blood lead concentration deemed acceptable for children has declined over the years, from 60 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) in 1970 to the present-day level of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, first established in 1991. Tina Adler. Environmental Health Perspectives. July 2005.

[Low-Level Environmental Lead Exposure and Children's Intellectual Function: An International Pooled Analysis](#) Bruce P. Lanphear, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. July 2005.

[Study: no safe level of lead](#) Cincinnati Post, Kentucky. 21 July 2005.

[Blood Lead Level and Risk of Asthma](#) Asthma and lead poisoning are prevalent among urban children in the US. The objective of this study was to examine racial differences in the association of blood lead level (BLL) to risk of developing asthma. Christine L.M. Joseph, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. July 2005.

[Leaded fuel in Namibia to be gone by January](#) Leaded petrol is to be phased out in Namibia effective January 1 2006. Lead was discovered to be a toxic poison that affects health and has the greatest effect on malnourished children, whose numbers are large in Africa. Tonderai Katswara. Windhoek Namibian, Namibia. 5 August 2005.

[Women start campaign against leaded gasoline](#) 10 Jakartan women armed with information from a comparative study on lead use are starting a domestic campaign against leaded gasoline and the use of the substance in other materials. "I worry every time someone in the neighborhood gets pregnant," said the mother, who formed a group called Mothers Against Lead. Jakarta Post, Indonesia. 27 July 2005.

[Medical council warns of 'lead poisoning' toys](#) Researchers have measured extremely high concentrations of lead in certain painted children's toys in South Africa. It has been well established that lead causes reductions in IQ scores, shortened concentration spans, hyperactivity and learning difficulties in children. Xoliswa Zulu. KwaZulu-Natal Mercury, South Africa. 2 August 2005.

[Racism, crime and environmental hazards linked to lead poison](#) Detroit is ranked fourth in the nation for lead poisoning, and as many as 3,000 children in the city could be diagnosed with lead this year. "Toxic City: Lead and the Battle for Environmental Justice" is the story of some Detroit families who have contracted lead poison. Bankole Thompson. San Francisco Bay News, California. 15 July 2005.

[CDC study finds dramatic drop in levels of lead in American bodies](#) Only 1.6% of children under 5 had lead levels traditionally considered high, down from 4.4% in the early 1990s. Before lead was taken out of gasoline, from 1973, well more than half of American children had elevated lead levels. Studies have found that no amount of lead in the blood is safe. Seth Borenstein. Knight Ridder. 22 July 2005.

[EPA To Face Lead-Based Paint Lawsuit](#) A coalition signaled their intent to sue EPA for its delay in adopting regulations to ensure that repairs and renovations are conducted in a lead-safe manner. EPA's own estimates conclude that continued delay exposes 1.4 million children annually to risk of lead poisoning. Press Release. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. 6 July 2005.

[Sen. Clinton targets Bush during Hispanic conference speech](#) Without mentioning the president by name, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton told leaders of the nation's Hispanic community Monday that the Bush administration is not doing enough for Latino families. Hispanic children are more likely than the general child population to suffer from lead poisoning. Larry Eichel. Knight Ridder. 19 July 2005.

[Smelter's health effects debated](#) Actual or threatened releases of lead and arsenic in the soil may present imminent and significant risks to the public health and environment, Potential ingestion exposures may occur during outdoor play of young children from hand-to-mouth activities or contaminated play toys. Diana Valdez/Adriana Chávez. El Paso Times, Texas. 22 July 2005.

[American Research Team to Study Impact of U.S.-Owned Smelter on Peru Townspeople](#) A research team will study the impact toxic emissions are having on townspeople in La Oroya, a bleak, smoke-choked town. A study showed that 99.9% of nearly 800 children aged 6 and under living near the smelter had blood lead levels that still exceeded international standards. Rick Vecchio, Associated Press. 11 August 2005.

[Move away from lead is sure to raise costs](#) Lead paint, lead pipes, leaded gasoline - all banned, and for good reason. But this metal has hardly disappeared from daily life. Lead can corrode internal organs, induce seizures and lower IQs in children. Sam Kean. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Missouri. 1 August 2005.

[Get The Lead Out](#) Pediatricians investigating seven cases of lead poisoning at Children's Hospital Boston last year were surprised when none of the usual culprits, like lead paint, seemed to be the cause. Eventually, as the physicians report in the August issue of Pediatrics, they found an unlikely source: the spices their families used for cooking. Nick Summers. Newsweek. 2 August 2005.

[Lead exposure a household hazard for many children](#) Insomnia, irritability, learning disabilities, kidney damage, lethargy,

rashes and -- at worst -- seizures, coma and death. Matt Heger. [Marshall Democrat News](#), Missouri. 3 August 2005.

[Schools' drinking water still fails lead test](#) Recent tests show that about 60 percent of new drinking fountains in Seattle's public schools -- installed to reduce the levels of contaminants in water -- have themselves failed to meet the district's standard for lead contamination. Deborah Bach. [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#), Washington. 20 July 2005.

[Lead in fountains still a problem in some Seattle schools](#) [Registration required]. Gary Chittim. [King 5 TV](#), Washington. 21 July 2005.

[Some Mexican candy tests positive for lead](#) Public awareness campaigns across the country, including in North Carolina, are warning people that certain pieces of candy can harbor lead that could poison a child. Barbara Jones. [Kannapolis Independent Tribune](#), North Carolina. 18 July 2005.

[Lead found in two brands of candy from Mexico](#) [Ukiah Daily Journal](#), California. 16 July 2005.

[Lead found in candy could pose danger](#) Andrew Sirocchi. [Kennewick Tri-city Herald](#), Washington. 8 July 2005.

[State warns against lead in imported candies](#) Carrina Stanton. [Lewis County Chronicle](#), Washington. 28 July 2005.

[Health warning over lead in candy](#) [Registration required]. [San Jose Mercury News](#), California. 28 July 2005.

[Warning issued about two brands of imported candies](#) [KPHO Phoenix](#), Arizona. 5 August 2005.

[Fallon tribe gets grant to address lead paint](#) An EPA grant will help the Fallon Tribe monitor the levels of lead-based paint in and around tribal housing. The grant will help determine the extent of lead-based paint hazards and fund outreach programs. "We want to make sure that we have a safe environment for the children." [Registration required]. Josh Johnson. [Lahontan Valley News](#), Nevada. 2 August 2005.

[To meet lead threat, property owners, tenants must team up](#) Lead-based paint was banned in Europe in the early 1900s and in the US in 1978. Rochester is just starting to get serious about informing residents of the harmful effects of lead-based paint. The focus is on helping children who live in specific areas. Mary D'Alessandro. [Rochester Democrat and Chronicle](#), New York. 4 August 2005.

[Lead check reveals hazards](#) Lead ingested by children is a major health problem, especially in the city of Rochester, where much of the housing is old and likely to have lead paint. Advocates are urging the government to take preventive steps to detect lead hazards before children are exposed to such dangers. James Goodman. [Rochester Democrat and Chronicle](#), New York. 9 August 2005.

[High court ruling on lead paint is unfair](#) The Wisconsin Supreme Court recently decided to hold the paint industry accountable to children suffering from effects of lead poisoning. It ruled manufacturers of lead paint and lead-based pigments can as a group be held liable for childhood lead poisoning. John Paulus. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), Wisconsin. 11 August 2005.

[Fewer St. Louis children get lead poisoning tests](#) Testing for lead poisoning in St. Louis is down 30 percent from last year, despite a 2003 state law mandating annual screening of children under 6. Deborah L. Shelton. [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), Missouri. 9 August 2005.

[Arsenic, lead found in second set of tests in King County](#) A dozen more King County areas frequented by children — from day-care centers to parks — are contaminated with elevated levels of lead or arsenic from the Northwest's mining heyday, according to test results the state released yesterday. Craig Welch. [Seattle Times](#), Washington. 28 July 2005.

[County hero' gets award](#) Health specialist honored for detecting source of girl's lead poisoning, sparking recall of charm. Over the years, Chuck Fuller has learned that most cases of lead poisoning arise from mundane sources -- paint, dust, soil or water. But some require more creative probing. Esther Landhuis. [San Jose Mercury News](#), California. 5 July 2005.

[Maine bills aim to help prevent lead-paint poisoning](#) Two bills recently passed in the state's Legislature will eventually require paint manufacturers to contribute fees to a State Lead Hazard Awareness campaign. Two of Rosebery's three children, suffered adverse health effects when they were exposed to the lead in the paint of a home Jason Gray. Foster's Daily Democrat, New Hampshire. 9 July 2005.

[Lead warning sounded for Moroccan platters](#) Tajines – shallow, ceramic pots with a conical lid used to cook meat and vegetable stews – can contain dangerous levels of lead, Health Canada warns. Lead poisoning is especially dangerous in children. CBC Canada, Canada. 21 July 2005.

(c) Pesticides

[High DDT levels found in breastmilk of HK mothers](#) High levels of DDT were found in the breastmilk of new mothers in Hong Kong even though the pesticide has long been banned in many places, including Hong Kong and China, suggesting that DDT is still being illegally used, a scientist said on Friday. Reuters. 22 July 2005.

[Government launches plan for eradicating pesticides](#) The Ministry of Environmental Protection has started a new campaign to post warning signs around land and buildings polluted with pesticides and other chemicals that have been largely forgotten about since the fall of the Soviet Union. DDT was even found in mothers' milk. Ketu Sikharulidze. Tbilisi Messenger, Republic of Georgia. 4 August 2005.

[Risk of Brain Tumors in Children and Susceptibility to Organophosphorus Insecticides](#): The Potential Role of Paraoxonase (PON1). Prior research suggests that childhood brain tumors (CBTs) may be associated with exposure to pesticides. Susan Searles Nielsen, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. July 2005.

[Study looks for pesticide exposure and brain development](#) Researchers at the University of North Dakota want to know if pesticide exposure affects children's brains. The scientists say it's the first study to look for a possible link between pesticides and children's brain development. Half of the kids in the study live on farms, the other half do not. Dan Gunderson. Minnesota Public Radio, Minnesota. 11 August 2005.

[Acute Illnesses Associated With Pesticide Exposure at Schools](#) Pesticide exposure at schools produces illnesses among employees and students. To prevent illnesses at schools, implementation of integrated pest management programs, practices to reduce pesticide drift, and pesticide spray buffer zones are recommended. Walter Alarcon, et al. Journal of the American Medical Association. 27 July 2005.

[Pesticide exposure in schools produces illnesses among school employees and students](#) Press Release. Journal of the American Medical Association. 27 July 2005.

[Pesticides may be sickening school kids](#) Pesticide use in or near U.S. schools sickened more than 2,500 children and employees over a five-year period, and though most illnesses were mild, their numbers have increased, a nationwide report found. Activists contend many commonly used pesticides can increase risks for cancer, birth defects and nerve damage. Lindsey Tanner. Associated Press. 27 July 2005.

[School study sparks pesticide row](#) BBC, London. 26 July 2005.

[Kids Exposed to Pesticides on School Grounds](#) Serena Gordon. HealthDay. 26 July 2005.

[Study: Pesticide-Linked Illness Up in Schools](#) Miranda Hitti. WebMD Medical News. 26 July 2005.

[Pesticide-linked school illness increases](#) UPI. Washington Times. 26 July 2005.

[School poisonings rise](#) Paul H.B. Shin. New York Daily News. 27 July 2005.

[Pesticides Likely To Affect School Kids' Health, Reveals Research](#) Niladri Sekhar Nath. All Headline News. 27 July 2005.

[Sick at school: Is it pesticides?](#) Samantha A. Goldstein. US News & World Report. 28 July 2005.

[Pesticide exposure causes illnesses in schools](#) Reuters. 28 July 2005.

[Study: Pesticide use causes illnesses among school children](#) Melissa McEver. Brownsville Herald, Texas. 1 August 2005.

[Industry Responds to JAMA Report on Incidence of Pesticide Exposure at Schools](#) A report scheduled for release in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) "Acute Illnesses Associated With Pesticide Exposure at Schools," should get an "A for 'alarmist' and an 'Incomplete' grade for its health reporting". Press Release. Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment. 26 July 2005.

[EPA Devises Rules on the Use of Data From Pesticide Tests on Humans](#) EPA is set to release the first-ever federal standards governing use of data from tests that expose human subjects to toxic pesticides, but lawmakers and some medical experts said the rules fail to adequately protect children and pregnant women. [Registration Required]. Juliet Eilperin. Washington Post. 11 August 2005.

[Proposed EPA rules on human testing come under attack](#) Andrew Schneider. Baltimore Sun, Maryland. 11 August 2005.

[Congress Curbs EPA Use of Pesticide-Experiment Data](#) Lawmakers agreed to bar EPA from using data from experiments that expose human subjects to toxic chemicals until the agency establishes a new standard for evaluating pesticides based on such tests. It prohibits the use of pregnant women, infants or children as subjects. [Registration Required]. Juliet Eilperin. Washington Post. 28 July 2005.

[Ban on pesticide testing expected](#) Lisa Friedman. San Gabriel Valley Tribune, California. 28 July 2005.

[Pesticide testing on babies back on drawing board?](#) First Coast News has learned a controversial plan to test pesticides on Duval County babies may be back on the table, despite legislation banning it. Melissa Ross. Jacksonville WJXX, Florida. 28 July 2005.

[Group: Workers need clothes washed](#) "I told one farmworker I met that he needed to wash his clothes before holding his baby," Luz Corcuera, president of the Latino Community Network of Manatee County, said Tuesday. "He didn't understand what I meant. That idea was totally foreign to him." Richard Dymond. Bradenton Herald, Florida. 10 August 2005.

[Environmental group praises ruling as victory for children's health](#) In a ruling made public Monday, a federal judge mildly scolded the Environmental Protection Agency for letting manufacturers decide whether to add safeguards to protect children from the hazards of rat poison. Larry Neumeister. Associated Press. 9 August 2005.

[Judge Rebukes EPA on Rat Poison Reversal](#) [Registration Required]. Juliet Eilperin. Washington Post. 9 August 2005.

[Bridging the chemical divide](#) A decade after the U.S. and Vietnam normalized relations, the leaders of the two countries making history together. However, there is still a major divide: Agent Orange. David Carpenter was chosen to lead unprecedented U.S.-Vietnamese research into the link between widespread birth defects and the defoliant. Andrew Metz. New York Newsday, New York. 1 August 2005.

[Elevated levels of dioxin in many Vietnamese, says US health official](#) Vietnam News Agency, Vietnam. 10 August 2005.

[Local family continues fight against Agent Orange](#) Florida family continues fight against industry that produced Agent Orange - responsible for the birth defects in their children. They stood as examples of the herbicide's alleged harm to veterans' children; She was born with major defects that the family and attorneys attributed to her father's stint in Vietnam. Andrew Metz. New York Newsday. 1 August 2005.

[Movement pushing schools to go pesticide free. Better living without chemicals](#) That's the goal of a movement that aims to reduce pesticide use in Arizona schools. Mary Jo Pitzl. Phoenix Arizona Republic, Arizona. 28 July 2005.

[Beat Bugs Without DEET: U.S. Boosts 2 Alternatives](#) The U.S. government has approved two alternatives to DEET: picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus. CDC announced their recommendation of the alternatives this April. The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages using repellents with DEET concentrations of 30% or higher on children. John Roach. National Geographic News. 26 July 2005.

[Critics reject doctors' call for end to Winnipeg mosquito fogging](#) The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), urged the city to stop using the insecticide malathion, saying its health risks are too great. CAPE said malathion has been linked to a number of diseases, including nerve and lung damage and childhood leukemia. CBC Canada. 27 July 2005.

[Pesticide awareness spreading](#) The many pesticide awareness groups throughout the Greater Boston area are all intent on spreading the same message: pesticides, in their view, can cause cancer, birth defects, neurological disorders, and a host of other ills, and children are especially vulnerable. [Archived]. Elizabeth K. Daly. Weston Town Crier, Massachusetts. 14 July 2005.

(d) Mercury

[Umbilical Cord Mercury Concentration as Biomarker of Prenatal Exposure to Methylmercury](#) Cord mercury analysis can therefore be used as a valid measure of prenatal methylmercury exposure, but appropriate adjustment for the imprecision should be considered. Philippe Grandjean, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. July 2005.

[Thimerosal and Animal Brains-New Data for Assessing Human Ethylmercury Risk](#) Since the 1930s, vaccines have contained thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative. By some calculations, children given the usual schedule of vaccines receive ethylmercury in doses exceeding EPA's guidelines for methylmercury, a known neurotoxicant. Julia Barrett. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Vaccine tie to autism gains new supporters](#) The decade-long debate over what has caused this country's frightening spike of childhood autism once again is exploding. Kirby and Kennedy argue that officials have deliberately downplayed, even covered up, evidence that thimerosal - a preservative containing mercury - in vaccines is the prime trigger. Kelly Presnell. Arizona Daily Star, Arizona. 3 July 2005.

[Get mercury out of vaccines](#) Here's why, in the face of government studies to the contrary, parents continue to question whether mercury in vaccines caused or contributed to autism: "These studies can never prove to the point of absolute certainty an absence of an association." Elisa Cramer. Palm Beach Post, Florida. Opinion, 12 August 2005.

[Dose of precaution](#) Legislation is moving forward in several states, including Massachusetts, Delaware, Illinois and New York, to ban mercury from vaccines. And parents are asking Congress to get involved, too. Nearly every facet of the thimerosal issue is under scrutiny, including whether the nation's number of autism cases has skyrocketed. Kay Lazar. Boston Globe, Massachusetts. 28 July 2005.

[Groups argue vaccine, autism link](#) On the eve of a scheduled rally in Washington by parents of children with autism, leaders of federal health agencies and medical societies called a press briefing Tuesday to emphasize their message that childhood vaccines are safe and don't cause autism. Anita Manning. USA Today. 20 July 2005.

[Mistrust rises with autism rate](#) The argument over what is causing soaring rates of autism has reached a boiling point with furious parent groups and their famous allies accusing scientists and public health officials of hiding information to cover up their own mistakes. Anita Manning. USA Today. 7 July 2005.

[The autism epidemic that never was](#) What could be causing so many children to lose their footing on a normal developmental trajectory and crash-land into the nightmare world of autism? The change has occurred too suddenly to be genetic in origin, which points to some environmental factor. But what? [Subscription required]. Graham Lawton. New Scientist, England. 11 August 2005.

[Autism link unproven](#) The latest furor involves thimerosal, a mercury-based chemical once used routinely as a preservative in childhood vaccines. Some parent activist groups claim that it causes autism, a set of developmental disorders characterized by difficulty in social interactions and behavioral problems. Editorial. USA Today. 6 July 2005.

[US health officials try to head off autism debate](#) Federal health officials affirmed the safety of vaccines on Tuesday in an unusual news conference called to counter a growing movement alleging that vaccines can cause autism. Maggie Fox. Reuters. 20 July 2005.

[Feds Again Dispute Vaccine-Autism Link](#) Lauran Neergaard. Associated Press. 19 July 2005.

[No Vaccine-Autism Link, Parents Are Told](#) [Purchase required]. Gardiner Harris. New York Times. 20 July 2005.

[Officials Defend Safety of Vaccines for Kids](#) Todd Zwillich. WebMD. 20 July 2005.

[Autism-Vaccine Link?](#) Parents who claim a mercury-based preservative once used in childhood vaccines causes autism held a rally in Washington, as the government called a news conference to deliver the message that childhood vaccines are safe and do not cause the neurological disorder. Beth Turner. Parents.com. 20 July 2005.

[Questions about autism](#) Though scientific studies have failed to find a link between autism and the mercury-based preservative widely used in vaccines until 1999, it is suspected of contributing to autism and other brain disorders in children. Editorial. Long Beach Press-Telegram, California. 18 July 2005.

[Thimerosal issue hits the radar screen](#) Despite characterization of its supporters as conspiracy-obsessed refugees from Area 51, the theory that the mercury-based vaccine preservative thimerosal accounts for a significant rise in diagnosed cases of autism is now playing in those public forums. That is a very good thing. Craig Westover. St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minnesota. 10 August 2005.

[University of Kentucky chemist tilts at autism's origins](#) Boyd Haley is a leader in a nationwide effort to tie the vaccinations that were required for millions of American children to a rapid increase in the number of youngsters being diagnosed with autism. Andy Mead and Jim Warren. Lexington Herald-Leader, Kentucky. 24 July 2005.

[Mom fights autism and suspected link](#) Blakey believes her son developed autism as the result of exposure to thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative that was used in vaccines. Chris Lafortune. Oak Park Oak Leaves, Illinois. 10 August 2005.

[Tax dollars pay for vaccine-damaged kids](#) The vaccines required for all children before entering school may be the cause of rising numbers of autistic kids. There is only one commonality in these children—they received vaccines that contained the mercury-based preservative thimerosal. Evelyn Pringle. Online Journal. 15 July 2005.

[Mercury concerns on the rise](#) More than 20% of Americans tested for mercury in a study have levels of the toxic metal exceeding a government advisory level. The EPA health standard was devised for children and women of childbearing age to protect fetuses from neurological damage. [Purchase required]. Jon Brodtkin. Milford Daily News, Massachusetts. 5 July 2005.

[The debate over vaccines and autism just won't die](#) Several churches have started a grass-roots movement to rid vaccines of mercury. To most scientists, it's a leap of faith. The levels of mercury in vaccines - now and in the past - do not cause autism, they repeatedly have declared. Marilyn Marchione and Kristen Gelineau. Dover Community News, New Hampshire. 5 July 2005.

[To vaccinate or not](#) Conflicting studies and scientific reports make it difficult for parents to get the answers they want about autism and vaccines. As of 2002, autism rates in the U.S. were at least 10 times higher than in three previous studies, according to the CDC. Gina Czark. [Munster Times](#), Indiana. 24 July 2005.

[Vaccine Worries](#) A routine procedure among young children is sparking debate in our area. Of concern is a mercury based preservative found in vaccines. Erin Leach. [Mason City KMIT TV](#), Iowa. 26 July 2005.

[Activist moms warn of mercury danger in vaccines](#) Two North Carolina mothers will visit the N.C. General Assembly Tuesday in support of a bill that will ban the use of thimerosal in vaccinations. Amanda Lingerfelt. [Rocky Mount Telegram](#), North Carolina. 1 August 2005.

[Lawmakers propose bill to protect kids from mercury](#) State lawmakers are working on a bill that could better protect your children from mercury in vaccines. Mercury has been used in vaccines like the flu shot for decades. But some doctors have also linked it to brain damage and autism. Tim Boyum. [Charlotte News14 TV](#), North Carolina. 3 August 2005.

[U.S. Court Rejects Effort to Block Rules on Mercury Pollution](#) An effort by environmental groups to block the President George W. Bush's administration from implementing its new regulations on mercury pollution power plants was rejected by a federal appeals court. John Heilprin. [Associated Press](#). 8 August 2005.

[Senators urged not to remove power plants from mercury standards](#) Environmental groups urged Arkansas' senators to oppose a proposed plan that would remove coal-burning power plants from new mercury emission standards. "I want to find ways to protect pregnant mothers from the effects of mercury exposure." Rob Moritz. [Arkansas News Bureau](#), Arkansas. 28 July 2005.

[Environmental group seeks limits on mercury](#) A statewide environmental group said it will urge the state Department of Environmental Protection to move forward with stricter mercury regulations, despite a letter sent by three legislators who say they're not necessary. Those most vulnerable include pregnant women and young children. Paula Reed Ward. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), Pennsylvania. 3 August 2005.

[Meehan fights Bush EPA rule](#) US Representative Marty Meehan recently introduced a resolution to block the EPA's mercury "cap and trade" rule. With the EPA reporting that one in six American women of child-bearing age has unsafe levels of mercury, it's outrageous to allow companies to pollute water with mercury, a neurotoxin. [Purchase required]. [Littleton Independent](#), Massachusetts. 7 July 2005.

[Biggest mercury polluter in LA to clean up its act](#) The largest emitter of mercury in the state will spend over \$90 million over 3 years to replace its mercury-cell production process with a less-polluting method. High-level, long-term exposure can lead to memory loss, vision loss, hearing loss, psychosis, birth defects and death. Mark Schleifstein. [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#), Louisiana. 5 August 2005.

[Mercury in air is high downwind of mines](#) Air measured downwind of mines in Nevada contains mercury--sometimes at exceptionally high levels. While 5 nanograms per cubic meter of air is natural background, some samples downwind of mines had 700. High exposures can harm the human brain and nervous system, especially in the unborn. Judy Fahys. [Salt Lake Tribune](#), Utah. 4 August 2005.

[Not a fish story](#) Countless American children are being poisoned by the mercury in their tuna sandwiches, and no amount of industry public-relations spin can or will change that fact. My son suffered debilitating effects from eating mercury-contaminated tuna. Joan Elan Davis. [San Francisco Chronicle](#), California. Opinion, 3 August 2005.

[Mercury and Tuna: U.S. Advice Leaves Lots of Questions](#) The FDA had known for many years that canned tuna contained mercury, which studies link to learning impairment in children. It wasn't until March 2004, after regulator tussles, that an advisory cited mercury. But those limits may exceed safe levels too. [Subscription Required]. Peter Waldman. [Wall Street Journal](#). 1 August 2005.

[Group wants mercury alert in markets](#) A national environmental group wants grocery stores to do more to warn consumers about mercury contamination of popular fish. The most recent advisory warned pregnant women and mothers, nursing mothers, young children and women who might become pregnant against eating several types of fish. Douglas Fischer. Oakland Tribune, California. 11 July 2005.

[Fish mercury levels](#) A powerful PA state senator is taking heat from citizens groups for opposing efforts to cut down on mercury pollution. Mercury is considered especially dangerous for pregnant women since it can cause neurological damage to fetuses. Pittsburgh WTAE TV, Pennsylvania. 4 August 2005.

(3) WATER AND SANITATION

[With a Push From the U.N., Water Reveals Its Secrets.](#) Today, more than a billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Polluted water contributes, each year, to the death of about 15 million children under age 5. By midcentury, between two billion and seven billion people will face water shortages. [Purchase Required]. William J. Broad. New York Times. 26 July 2005.

[Washing away diseases](#) "The water and sanitation crisis does not grab headlines, but far more people suffer from it than from the issues that do," said Eveline Herfkens, UN general-secretary's executive coordinator for the MDGs campaign. A child dies every 15 seconds from diseases largely caused by poor sanitation and contaminated water. Henrylito Tacio. Sun Star, Philippines. 2 July 2005.

[Nigeria, UNICEF set to eradicate Guinea-worm before 2007](#) With the eradication of water-borne diseases through adequate supply of clean water, school enrollment would improve as children spent a greater part of their time at water points. Tens of thousands of people, most of them are children, died of Guinea worm and other water-borne diseases in Nigeria. Xinhuanet. 23 July 2005.

[Study: Water purifier helped save Kenyans](#) A newly published study shows that cases of diarrhea and deaths from the illness dropped significantly among Kenyan villagers when they treated their water with the Procter & Gamble Co. product Pur. Cases of diarrhea were some 25 percent lower in young children drinking Pur-treated water. Dan Sewel. Associated Press. 28 July 2005.

[50 die of waterborne diseases in Mumbai](#) The number of patients succumbing to various waterborne diseases rose to 50 in Mumbai. Hundreds of thousands of slum-dwellers in these areas were exposed to filthy water, and children could be seen playing in the water. Even adults had to wade through the flooded colonies, exposing them to a variety of diseases. Nithin Belle. Khaleej Times. 12 August 2005.

[EHPnet: UNEP.Net Freshwater Portal](#) Water may possibly be the foremost threat to environmental health in the twenty-first century. UNEP has set up a [Freshwater Portal](#) as a centralized resource for anyone looking to learn more about freshwater use, resources, and scarcity. Diarrheal diseases are the leading cause of death in children. Erin E. Dooley. Environmental Health Perspectives. July 2005.

[Arsenic in Bangladesh drinking water could wreck health](#) The children are victims of what WHO has declared the largest mass poisoning of a population in history. The water pump produces water laced with arsenic. WHO estimates 20 million Bangladeshis drink from wells that contain arsenic, which could lead to millions of cancer cases. [Purchase required]. David Rohde. New York Times. 17 July 2005.

[Bad to the Last Drop](#) Ounce for ounce, bottled water costs more than gasoline, even at today's high gasoline prices; depending on the brand, it costs 250 to 10,000 times more than tap water. WHO estimates 80% of all illness in the world is due to water-borne diseases, inadequate water or sanitation kill around 5 million a year. [Purchase Required]. Tom Standage.

New York Times. 1 August 2005.

[World water resources problems](#) The world's water resources are being damaged by problems of water quantity and quality. Waters for domestic and industrial uses, hygiene and sanitation are becoming scarce, polluted or contaminated. The importance of youths/children in water resources management are yet to fully-evaluated and discussed. Boniface Egboka. Lagos Daily Champion. 4 August 2005.

[A Swede Who Filters Diplomacy in a Glass of Water](#) "I have seen a mother receiving a bottle while she has a child on her arm and witnessed that smile that says she knows that the only alternative is to walk for two or three miles, and then only to get polluted water." [Registration required]. Warren Hoge. New York Times. 5 August 2005.

(4) MALARIA

[Saving Lives in Africa](#) With President Bush's announcement yesterday of \$1.2 billion for a five-year campaign against malaria in Africa, this mosquito-borne disease is finally getting the high-level attention it deserves. Malaria kills more than a million people a year, 90 percent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Most victims are children under 5. Editorial. New York Times. 1 July 2005.

[Bush Pledges \\$1.2 Billion For Africa to Fight Malaria](#) Bush announced a \$1.7 billion aid package for Africa devoted primarily to combating malaria, in advance of a summit dedicated to breaking the continent's perpetual cycle of poverty, disease and famine. Malaria annually kills more than 1 million Africans, hitting children hardest. [Registration Required]. Peter Baker. Washington Post. 1 July 2005.

[Kalangala to start DDT trials](#) Sub-counties in Kalangala district have been selected to pilot the spraying of DDT to fight malaria. About 70,000- 150,000 children under the age of five in Sub-Saharan Africa die annually due to malaria. Environmentalists in Uganda are against the use of DDT saying it is dangerous to human health. Sadab Kitatta Kaaya. Kampala Monitor, Uganda. 19 July 2005.

[Kenya declares war on killer malaria](#) Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki on Tuesday launched a countrywide programme to combat malaria, the top killer of pregnant women and children under the age of five in the East African nation. The National Malaria Programme includes distribution of free insecticide-treated nets, treatment and developing strategies to combat the disease. IOL, South Africa. 26 July 2005.

[Malaria: The Sting Of Death - Net gains for Africa](#) Malaria is the Uganda's leading cause of illness and a leading cause of death, especially of children under 5. DDT is still used in limited circumstances, but it is not the miracle worker some suggest. Today's weapon of choice is a net treated with a biodegradable pyrethroid insecticide. [Registration required]. Editorial. Los Angeles Times. 7 August 2005.

(5) MISCELLANEOUS (a) Global

[Children Challenge World Leaders on the Environment](#) 600 children from around the world gathered for the UNEP Children's World Summit for the Environment in Japan are challenging the world's leaders to pay higher attention to energy, biodiversity, and water and recycling, committing themselves to environmentally friendly actions. News Release. UN Environment Programme. 29 July 2005.

[With A Pure Heart: Children's World Summit for the Environment](#) Environment News Service. 1 August 2005.

[600 Children Meet for the World Summit in Japan](#) 600 children aged 10 –14 from 65 countries are gathering in Aichi Prefecture, Japan for the first ever Children's World Summit for the Environment. They will share their experiences and voice their concerns on the importance of the environment in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. News Release. UN Environment Programme. 25 July 2005.

[Breast is best for infant survival](#) Breast-feeding and good nutrition in the first two years of life could keep two million children from dying every year in the developing world. UNICEF said children can suffer from weak immune systems, stunted growth and lower intelligence as well as deadly water-borne diseases and infections. Associated Press. [IOL](#), South Africa. 2 August 2005.

[Injuries At Home Cause Most Childhood Deaths](#) Most deaths of children are due to preventable injuries suffered at home. "We need to develop health-based standards for housing," he said. "These include designs in new and renovated housing that help prevent falls, lead poisoning, or asthma." Steven Reinberg. [HealthDay News](#). 2 August 2005.

(b) Africa

[Case study: Turning a village around](#) Koraro, in northern Ethiopia, is isolated, underdeveloped and desperately poor. Four months ago, it was chosen as a test case by the United Nations to implement new methods to pull its people out of extreme poverty within five years. With malaria, the most insidious thing about the disease is that the children are most vulnerable. Christiane Amanpour. [CNN](#). 4 July 2005.

[Feast of despair-Entering into the abyss of sub-Saharan poverty](#) We enter the Nairobi, Kenya, slum with a mixture of trepidation and anticipation. Sewage flows openly in the muddy street. Children are barefoot, and flies swarm ominously. Nearly a third of Nairobi's 3 million people live in these slums, but poverty is not limited to urban areas. Kayhan Parsi. [Chicago Tribune](#). 24 July 2005.

[Continental Divide: Why Africa's Climate Change Burden Is Greater](#) Africa appears to be the continent that will be the most affected by the global warming. Some believe the continent is already being affected by climate change, as evidenced by the waves of drought. As Africa has warmed vectorborne diseases have increased their range. Scott Fields. [Environmental Health Perspectives](#). August 2005.

[Hunger is spreading in Africa](#) The wider causes and effects of hunger across Africa. Stories of people like the proud, round-faced mother of an infant, who walked a day's journey to bring her emaciated son to a feeding center. The long-term causes of the hunger remain, such as the relentless spread of desert and drought. Abraham McLaughlin/Christian Purefoy. [Christian Science Monitor](#). 31 July 2005.

[EHPnet: WHO/AFRO Division of Healthy Environments and Sustainable Development](#) WHO/AFRO has implemented a [Division of Healthy Environments and Sustainable Development](#) to identify, control, and prevent environmental conditions that adversely impact human health in the context of sustainable development. Erin E. Dooley. [Environmental Health Perspectives](#). July 2005.

[Kenya: A 'Gulley of Death' That Gobbles Up All On Its Way](#) Scientists describe it as an environmental catastrophe, while villagers call it the valley of death. "We even fear sending the children to school because what were once murrum roads have been dismembered by the massive erosion triggered by the gulley." The situation has been aggravated by poverty. John Oywa. [Nairobi Nation](#). 10 August 2005.

(c) Americas

[Getting the Big Picture on Children's Environmental Health](#) One third of all diseases that affect children under 5 years of age are caused by environmental factors, according to the World Health Organisation, which is why government authorities and civil society groups have joined together to study the true impact of the environment on children's health in Argentina. Marcela Valente. [IPS](#). 19 July 2005.

[Exposure Assessment in the National Children's Study: Introduction](#) We make note of various environmental agents and how best to assess exposure in the National Children's Study--a longitudinal epidemiologic study. Part of a mini-monograph:

[Assessing Exposures to Environmental Agents during the National Children's Study](#). Larry Needham, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Biologic Monitoring of Exposure to Environmental Chemicals throughout the Life Stages](#) Dana B. Barr, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Characterizing Exposures to Nonpersistent Pesticides during Pregnancy and Early Childhood in the National Children's Study](#) Asa Bradman, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Effects of Environmental Agents on the Attainment of Puberty](#) Richard Y. Wang, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Exposure Assessment Implications for the Design and Implementation of the National Children's Study](#) Halûk Özkaynak, et. al. Environmental Health Perspectives. August 2005.

[Worthy successor takes up the cause](#) Few environmental groups have a better record of accomplishment than Improving Kids Environment, even though the organization operates mostly out of Tom Neltner's house and car. It has caused considerable legislative and administrative change in a state not always hospitable to environmental improvement. Editorial. Indianapolis Star, Indiana. 4 August 2005.

[Children's Environmental Health Network Appoints New Executive Director](#) CEHN, a national environmental health organization, appointed Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, as their new Executive Director. CEHN's mission is to protect the fetus and the child from environmental health hazards and to promote a healthy environment through outreach, education and advocacy. Press Release. CEHN. 5 July 2005.

[Melanoma rates in kids continue to rise](#) The annual rate of occurrence of new melanomas in children in the United States is increasing "rapidly," according to a new report. The incidence of melanoma directly correlated with environmental UV radiation exposure. Will Boggs. Reuters. 10 August 2005.

[Nature deficit](#) The number of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder has skyrocketed—by 33 percent from 1997 to 2002. Scientists have yet to definitively explain the trend. Researchers have found that children as young as five showed a significant reduction in ADHD symptoms when they engaged with nature. Richard Louv. Orion. 21 July 2005.

[New school in Ashland will be energy efficient](#) When Ashland High School students enter their new building next January, they'll be learning in an environment that is healthier, allows them to be more productive and dramatically decreases the school's energy costs. [Purchase required]. Jon Brodtkin. Newton Daily News Tribune, Massachusetts. 19 July 2005.

[New school to be 'green.'](#) It will employ green design principles, a practice becoming more standard in new construction. Green buildings incorporate energy-saving features and often recycled and nontoxic materials. Thus, they are healthier for their inhabitants and the environment. Dan Gigler. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania. 21 July 2005.

[DEP: Schools safe from hazardous waste sites](#) City parents can rest assured that sending their children to school will not expose them to any dangers related to hazardous waste sites. Will Richmond. Fall River Herald News, Massachusetts. 28 July 2005.

[A whiff of politics in Gotham's garbage](#) Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the City Council are trying to decide the best way to dispose of New York City's garbage — 12,000 tons of residential refuse a day. "It's what is the best plan for the children and communities of our city to move from environmental racism to environmental justice." Charisse Jones. USA Today. 19 July 2005.

[Many household items can be hazardous to child's health](#) Mouthwash can be harmful to children. If that surprises you, you may not be aware of other ordinary household items hazardous to children, says Debra Holtzman, a lawyer and author of

"The Safe Baby: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Home Safety". [Registration required]. Ellen Tomson. St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minnesota. 22 July 2005.

(d) Asia

[Pollution poisons China's progress](#) In its pell-mell rush to create a xiaokang, or well-off society, Beijing is sacrificing its environment and public health. People here regard their drinking water as little better than liquid poison. But unable to afford bottled water for all of their daily needs, most adults continue to drink it. They buy mineral water only for their children. David J. Lynch. USA Today. 4 July 2005.

[In China's dash to develop, environment suffers severely](#) China's environmental woes are so large that they've begun to generate social instability. Choking on vile air, sickened by toxic water, citizens in some corners of this vast nation are rising up to protest. More than 30,000 children die each year in China from diarrhea that's due to contaminated water. Tim Johnson. Knight Ridder Newspapers. 21 July 2005.

[Greening the urban environment](#) "Green Cities: Plan for the Plant," the theme for the World Environment Day was appropriate. Diseases and poverty are common and quality of life has deteriorated. Exposure to toxic substances (e.g., atmospheric lead) impacts the mental growth of children. Children learn more slowly and miss much of their schooling. F. H. Mughal. Dawn, Pakistan. 25 July 2005.

[Disease Traced to Extreme Weather](#) 4 decades of disease records from Bangladesh shows that extreme rainfall, drought or high temperatures can sharply increase cholera rates, a pattern that bolsters claims that global warming will increase disease outbreaks. There is evidence for the role of climate variability in cholera rates. [Registration Required]. Charles Piller. Los Angeles Times. 4 August 2005.

[Torrential Rain Reveals Booming Mumbai's Frailties](#) The death toll numbers are staggering. Why did the downpour cause such a calamity? For years, environmentalists and civic activists have been screaming about what they regard as the unchecked development of the city. [Registration Required]. Somini Sengupta. New York Times. 3 August 2005.

[Students risk death—at school](#) Rain drips from the frail asbestos ceiling, narrowly missing naked electrical wires stripped of their insulation. In one there was no toilet or drinking water. At the Bazaar Ward school, Kurla, the committee was horrified to find a pest control office full of "explosive and hazardous pesticides". Farah Baria. Mumbai Newline, India. 24 July 2005.

(e) Middle East

[UN Denial of Billions in Gulf War Health Compensation Denounced](#) Denial of billions of dollars in compensation to Saudi Arabia for adverse health effects of the 1990-1991 Gulf War means there is little to discourage future targeting of natural resources. An Iranian claim of \$72 million for respiratory effects of the Kuwait oil well fires on children was denied. Environment News Service. 25 July 2005.
