



# Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](#)



Biweekly Bulletin February 10, 2010

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to children's environmental health. They are archived and searchable on our website:

[http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins).

## ICEH Highlights

### Additions to CHE's Online Calendar

CHE's [searchable calendar of events](#) now lists upcoming deadlines for funding proposals and calls for conference abstracts. We invite partners to submit events and deadlines for inclusion in the calendar.

### New Members

The Initiative on Children's Environmental Health welcomes these new members:

- Sultana Afrooz, DO, Laurel, Maryland
- Erica Finsness, MHP, Seattle, Washington
- Nancy Guberti, MS, CN, Eastchester, New York and Greenwich, Connecticut
- Mary Hayes, Toronto, Canada
- Barbara J. Katz, MD, MPH, Boston, Massachusetts
- Alexandra Klug, Olympia, Washington
- Allen Lewis, MD, Aurora, Illinois
- Julia Marino, Albany, California
- Mary Rivkin, PhD, Baltimore, Maryland
- Ralph Scott, Washington, DC
- John Sundquist, Coburg, Oregon
- Avril Swan, MD, San Francisco, California
- Deborah Thompson, Baltimore, Maryland
- Glenys Webster, MRM, Vancouver, Canada
- Matthew Wolter, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## Announcements

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

### [New report: Mind, Disrupted.](#)

"Mind, Disrupted: How Toxic Chemicals May Affect How We Think and Who We Are" examines 61 toxic chemicals present in project participants in the context of rising rates of autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other learning and developmental disabilities.

### [Call for applications: National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency invites applications. The 2010 award will go to one program in each of the three categories (health plans, health care providers and communities in action) for their outstanding leadership in improving health outcomes for people living with asthma. The deadline for submission is March 16, 2010.

**[EPA holds public comment period on Buick City cleanup proposal, hearing Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.](#)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 opens a public comment period tomorrow on a range of cleanup options that address historical contamination on the Southend portion of the former General Motors Buick City property in Flint, Mich.

**[Call for proposals: Community Action for a Renewed Environment.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency is making nearly \$2 million available in 2010 to reduce pollution at the local level through a community-based program that builds partnerships to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources close to home. Proposals are due by March 9, 2010.

**[Job opening: Los Angeles, California.](#)**

Occidental College invites applications for a one-year full-time visiting position at the assistant professor level for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters in the Urban and Environmental Policy (UEP) Program. All materials are due by April 1, 2010.

**[Job opening: New York State.](#)**

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice is seeking a part-time campaign organizer for a new New York State campaign to green schools inside and out. Position can be located at a home office, with frequent travel to Albany, New York City and other targeted urban areas or college campuses.

**[Job opening: Oakland, California.](#)**

Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice (ACRJ) is seeking an energetic, organized, motivated individual with experience in grassroots organizing and movement building to join our team as the EMERJ Movement Building Manager.

**[Job opening: Portland, Oregon.](#)**

Josiah Hill III Clinic has an opening for an 0.8 FTE program coordinator to be responsible for leading and supporting project delivery, predominately to low-income and diverse communities, in the Portland Metro area. The application deadline is Sunday February 21st. Email a cover letter, resume, and three references to [jobs@jhillclinic.org](mailto:jobs@jhillclinic.org), listing Program Coordinator in the subject line.

## Upcoming Events

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

**1) 2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit**

Tuesday through Friday, February 16 - 19, 2010  
Atlanta, Georgia  
at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Association of County & City Health Officials, Association of Schools of Public Health and others listed on the website

The 2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit, "Partners in Preparedness: Engaging a Community for a Successful Public Health Response," will strengthen and enhance the capabilities of public health professionals and other participants to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [phprep@naccho.org](mailto:phprep@naccho.org)

**2) Reducing PBDEs in the Columbia River Basin**

Thursday February 25, 2010

Portland, Oregon  
at the Ambridge Events Center, 1333 NE Martin Luther King Drive

Sponsor: Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group

This watershed-based workshop will provide a forum to discuss strategies for reducing toxic contamination in the Columbia River Basin and involve local watershed councils, communities, agriculture, industry, tribal, federal and state governments, and nonprofit organizations. Please preregister by February 15th.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jason Braaten, 503-326-3250 or [braaten.jason@epa.gov](mailto:braaten.jason@epa.gov)

### **3) Leadership In Green Health Care Course**

February 27 - April 24, 2010

Sponsor: Teleosis Institute

Leadership In Green Health Care prepares health professionals to become leaders in the emerging discipline of Sustainable Medicine. Sustainable medicine recognizes the link between the environment, medicine and human health and seeks to provide better health care while protecting our limited environmental and medical resources. The Leadership in Green Health Care course reviews the most up-to-date theory and research behind sustainable medicine and introduces participants to the best practices for initiating green health care -- from greening their offices, to offering affordable and renewable medical treatments, and promoting community and environmental health. Participants collaborate online to exchange strategies and pioneer ideas for effecting change within their communities and medical practices. The online, interactive dialogue among like-minded professionals creates a supportive and inspiring learning environment. Continuing education credits are available for physicians and nurses.

Price: \$945 for nonmembers, \$695 for members of Practice Greenhealth, \$350 for students in the health-care field

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

### **4) Lead-Safe Remodeling and Renovation Train-the-Trainer Program**

Monday and Tuesday, March 1 - 2, 2010  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Sponsor: Alliance for Healthy Homes in partnership with NeighborWorks Training Institute

This class will help prepare organizations to become accredited trainers under EPA's new Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) rule. By April 2010, this rule will require virtually every contractor working in pre-1978 homes to complete an 8-hour course in lead safe work practices or face a Federal fine of up to \$37,500 a day. The Train-the-Trainer course does not certify participants to be accredited trainers under the rule, but rather gives participants background on the requirements of EPA's rule and instruction on how to most effectively deliver the new lead safe work practices course for renovators.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [NeighborWorks Training Institute](#)

### **5) First International Conference on Environmental Pollution, Restoration, and Management**

Wednesday through Friday, March 3 - 5, 2010

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
at Hotel Equatorial

Sponsor: Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology; Department of Environmental Protection of Vietnam; Institute for Nuclear Science and Technology in Hanoi; Southeast Environmental Research Center, Florida International University

The goal of this conference is to bring environmental scientists from the developed and developing countries together to exchange experiences and to discuss existing environmental issues. During the conference, an interactive meeting is scheduled for environmental scientists and managers to engage one another and discuss issues and solutions to environmental problems. This conference is designed to initiate and to further strengthen ongoing collaborations between environmental scientists from all over the world. Public health is one of the conference topics.

Price: \$430 for residents of developed nations, \$60 for residents of developing nations, or \$200 for students from developed countries

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Tham Hoang, [hoangt@fiu.edu](mailto:hoangt@fiu.edu)

#### **6) Environmental Justice and Air Quality at the US-Mexico Border: Case Studies**

Thursday March 4, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room HSB D-209

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

The speaker will be Dr. PJE Quintana, associate professor at San Diego State University.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

#### **7) Second Annual Northwest Environmental Health Conference**

March 5 - 6, 2010

Portland, Oregon

at Oregon Health and Sciences University

Sponsor: Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Student Nurses Association, Oregon Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Multnomah County Environmental Health Services, Health Care Without Harm and others

This conference will host leading scientists, researchers and healthcare professionals in the field of environmental health and will focus on stimulating robust dialogue regarding the impact of the environment on health and healthcare practices. March 5th will cover current basic science, new approaches to patient care, facilities management and community practice, as well as policy issues surrounding environmental health. March 6th will be comprised of workshops providing hands-on training utilizing environmental health technology and toolkits for practitioners, educators, and advocates.

Price: March 5th: \$50 or \$25 for students; CNE credits and/or parking are available for additional fees

March 6th: Workshops are \$25 or \$15 for students

[Visit the website](#)

#### **8) 2010 NJEHA Educational Conference & Exhibition**

Sunday through Tuesday, March 7 - 9, 2010

Atlantic City, New Jersey

at the Tropicana Resort and Casino

Sponsor: New Jersey Environmental Health Association

This conference will offer informative and stimulating seminars, featuring expert speakers covering a wide range of environmental and public-health topics; an introduction to a multitude of new and existing technologies, products and services; and networking opportunities with local, state and national public health professionals.

Price: see the [Registration Brochure](#)

[Visit the website](#)

### **9) 13th Annual Meeting & Indoor Air Expo**

Sunday through Tuesday, March 7 - 9, 2010

Tampa, Florida

at the Embassy Suites Downtown & Tampa Convention Center

Sponsor: Indoor Air Quality Association

The meeting program includes sessions sponsored by the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ), the Indoor Environmental Standards Organization (IESO), and the University of Tulsa. The president of ISIAQ, Dr. Richard Shaughnessy, and the IESO Consensus Body Chairman, Dr. Robert Brandys, will both be giving presentations, as well as dozens of leaders from private industry.

Price: see the [brochure](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 301-231-8388, ext. 20

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[Mediterranean diet may lower risk of brain damage that causes thinking problems.](#)**

*Tuesday, February 09, 2010*

The study found that people who ate a Mediterranean-like diet were less likely to have brain infarcts, or small areas of dead tissue linked to thinking problems. Newswise.

### **[Herbal cures 'a toxic mix.'](#)**

*Tuesday, February 09, 2010*

Many herbal medicines are contaminated with potentially lethal doses of heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury, belying their reputation as low-risk "natural" products. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[See a related article: [Selenium toxicity in dietary supplements](#)]

### **[Are the undisclosed ingredients in lipstick bad for you?](#)**

*Tuesday, February 09, 2010*

Makeup - many of us love it - but most of us have no idea that some of our favorite beauty products contain harsh chemicals and potentially harmful ingredients. Daily Green.

### **[Study links estrogen hormone therapy to asthma.](#)**

*Tuesday, February 09, 2010*

Estrogen-only hormone replacement therapy may increase the risk of developing asthma after the menopause, scientists said on Monday. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Infection, early birth linked to asthma](#)]

### **[Soft drink consumption may increase risk of pancreatic cancer.](#)**

*Tuesday, February 09, 2010*

Drinking two or more soft drinks a week can double the risk of developing pancreatic cancer, a new study claims. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

### **Heart to heart.**

*Monday, February 08, 2010*

For all the strides we've made against heart disease, it still accounts for 26 percent of all deaths in the U.S. A push for better preventive care hasn't solved the problem. So four leading cardiologists open up about how to combat America's No. 1 killer. Newsweek.

### **Credibility key in 9/11 health trials.**

*Monday, February 08, 2010*

As the first cases in a massive battle over illnesses linked to 9/11 near trial, an Associated Press investigation has found that several of the initial 30 suits contain inconsistent or exaggerated claims about how the workers got sick or how much time they spent at ground zero. Associated Press.

### **China threatens world health by unleashing waves of superbugs.**

*Sunday, February 07, 2010*

Studies in China show a "frightening" increase in antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as staphylococcus aureus bacteria, also know as MRSA . There are warnings that new strains of antibiotic-resistant bugs will spread quickly through international air travel and international food sourcing. London Telegraph, United Kingdom.

### **The total antioxidant content of more than 3100 foods, beverages, spices, herbs and supplements used worldwide.**

*Sunday, February 07, 2010*

This database is to our best knowledge the most comprehensive Antioxidant Food Database published and it shows that plant-based foods introduce significantly more antioxidants into human diet than non-plant foods. Nutrition Journal.

### **Worrisome chemical found in canned foods.**

*Sunday, February 07, 2010*

A new Consumers Union study shows just one serving of tested canned vegetable soup has nearly twice the amount considered average exposure. In fact, researchers found BPA in most of the 19 tested name-brand canned foods. Oklahoma City Oklahoman, Oklahoma.

[See related articles about research: [Study finds a link between plastics chemical BPA and childhood asthma](#), [Human placenta cells die after BPA exposure](#) and [BPA affects male rat fertility for generations](#), plus articles about legislative action from Wisconsin: [State Senate OKs BPA ban in baby bottles](#) and from Washington State: [Senate votes ban on BPA in kids' containers](#)]

### **Toxic coal-tar cleanup to cost New York \$3 billion.**

*Sunday, February 07, 2010*

Gas and electric groups are cleaning up more than 250 coal-tar pollution sites across the state. Middletown Times Herald-Record, New York.

[See a related article from Missouri: [How big of a problem is coal tar?](#)]

### **Water, soil still a killer at Bhopal's ground zero.**

*Sunday, February 07, 2010*

Twenty-five years after the Bhopal gas tragedy, one of the biggest industrial disasters in history, India's pollution watchdog has found huge quantities of chemicals in underground water and soil in a 2.4-km radius of the Union Carbide factory. New Delhi Hindustan Times, India.

### **Are birth defects caused by IVF?**

*Sunday, February 07, 2010*

Researchers will launch a major study next week to test the theory, shown in lab studies, that test-tube babies are more likely to suffer genetic abnormalities, putting them at higher risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease in later life. London Daily Express, United Kingdom.

### **Toxic trinkets.**

*Sunday, February 07, 2010*

Cadmium, a carcinogenic heavy metal, has surfaced as the latest villain lurking in the

kids' toy and jewelry aisles. Montgomery Advertiser, Alabama.

[See a related article: [Walmart pendants recalled as Disney bans cadmium](#) and another from Qatar: [New regulations to set import standards](#)]

### **The chemical revolt.**

Sunday, February 07, 2010

BPA in baby bottles. Phthalates in children's books. Lead in toys. As parents' awareness of potential toxins in the home has grown in recent years, so has their anxiety. Minnesota has helped lead the way to regulate worrisome chemicals, and federal reform. St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minnesota.

[See related articles: [Put up your dukes at home: The hazard could even be in your tap water](#), [Old story of pollution: new urgency this time](#) and [Congressional hearing focuses on regulating household toxins](#)]

### **The center for children's environmental health.**

Saturday, February 06, 2010

A Pennsylvania Department of Health Study cited air-quality conditions in Berks County have been in violation of national air quality standards for carbon dioxide, ozone, lead, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide since 2004. Kutztown University Keystone, Pennsylvania.

### **USDA ends livestock tracking program.**

Saturday, February 06, 2010

The Obama administration is killing a national livestock tracking program that never got off the ground amid widespread complaints by farmers and ranchers. The federally run ID system was proposed after the discovery of the nation's first case of mad cow disease in 2003. Des Moines Register, Iowa.

### **Ancient human teeth show that stress early in development can shorten life span.**

Friday, February 05, 2010

Ancient human teeth are telling secrets that may relate to modern-day health: Some stressful events that occurred early in development are linked to shorter life spans. Science Daily.

### **Deadly disease on the rise.**

Friday, February 05, 2010

Asbestos was banned in most buildings in the 1970s, but the number of mesothelioma cases in Milwaukee and around the country keep going up. Milwaukee WTMJ-TV, Wisconsin.

[See a related article: [Inspectors say schools fail to protect pupils and staff from asbestos](#)]

### **Dust harbors new fire retardants associated with hormone, sperm changes.**

Friday, February 05, 2010

As one class of flame retardants is phased out due to health concerns, new types [organophosphorous flame retardants] -- sometimes with widespread exposure and unknown effects -- may be phased in. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article about PBDE retardants: [Scientists link flame retardants and reduced human fertility](#)]

### **USDA tightens requirements to assure school lunch safety.**

Friday, February 05, 2010

The USDA announced sweeping steps Thursday to "assure the safety and quality of food" purchased for the National School Lunch Program, which includes tightening requirements on ground beef suppliers, testing the beef more often and more thoroughly, and improving communications within the USDA. USA Today.

### **ADHD and lead: Poisoning the mind.**

Friday, February 05, 2010

A just published paper lends supports to the idea that attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder may be caused by exposure to lead. Economist.

[See a related article: [Exposure on tap: Drinking water as an overlooked source of lead](#)]

**[Urinary concentrations of metabolites of pyrethroid insecticides in the general U.S. population: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 1999-2002.](#)**

Thursday, February 04, 2010

Pyrethroid insecticide exposure in the U.S. population is widespread and their presence in the urine of US residents indicate that children may have higher exposures than adolescents and adults. Environmental Health.

[See a related article: [Comparison of current-use pesticide and other toxicant urinary metabolite levels among pregnant women in the CHAMACOS Cohort and NHANES](#)]

**[Some skin-lightening creams conceal dark side.](#)**

Thursday, February 04, 2010

In pursuit of a lighter complexion, some people could be putting their health at risk. Tampa Tribune, Florida.

**[EPA rule could spike home repair costs.](#)**

Thursday, February 04, 2010

New rule mandates contractors must be certified for projects that could disturb lead-based paint in buildings constructed before 1978 -- to prevent lead contamination. Grand Rapids WOOD-TV, Michigan.

[See a related article: [Removing paint now requires extra caution](#)]

**[Consumer exposure to biocides - identification of relevant sources and evaluation of possible health effects.](#)**

Wednesday, February 03, 2010

Exposure to biocides from household products may contribute to induction of sensitization in the population. Environmental Health.

**[Report: Smelter not health threat.](#)**

Wednesday, February 03, 2010

Breathing the air, drinking tap water or playing in soil in neighborhoods near the lead-contaminated U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery site in East Chicago won't harm people's health, a federal agency announced Tuesday. Merrillville Post-Tribune, Indiana.

**[Experts say 40 percent of cancers could be prevented.](#)**

Wednesday, February 03, 2010

Forty percent of the 12 million people diagnosed with cancer worldwide each year could avert the killer disease by protecting themselves against infections and changing their lifestyles, experts said Tuesday. Reuters Health.

**[Study finds Parkinson's disease hot spots.](#)**

Wednesday, February 03, 2010

People with Parkinson's disease are more likely to be found in the Northeast and Midwest, and whites and Hispanics are more likely to have it than blacks and Asians. Those are two of the key findings of a new study on the debilitating neurological disorder. Suncoast News, Florida.

[See a related article: [Industrial solvent linked to increased risk of Parkinson's disease](#)]

**[Researchers find clue to SIDS in brain chemical.](#)**

Wednesday, February 03, 2010

Researchers looking for the cause of sudden infant death syndrome found reduced levels of the brain chemical serotonin among a group of babies who died from SIDS, compared with other babies. Wall Street Journal.

**[Obese boys more likely to begin puberty late: Study finds fat-puberty link that is opposite of girls'.](#)**

Wednesday, February 03, 2010

Male children whose body-mass index is consistently highest through early and mid-childhood are significantly more likely than thinner boys to have delayed puberty. Los Angeles Times, California.



**[Children suffering health problems in Port-au-Prince camps.](#)**

*Wednesday, February 03, 2010*

Children are increasingly suffering health problems in Port-au-Prince's crowded encampments - and the situation will worsen as Haiti continues to reel from the earthquake. So a major campaign was launched to vaccinate children in the capital. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [Haiti earthquake: Push to send FEMA trailers to Haiti stirs backlash](#)]

**[Cadmium found in adult jewelry: 1 store pulls item.](#)**

*Wednesday, February 03, 2010*

Concern about the heavy metal cadmium in jewelry grew Tuesday as a California environmental group said new testing of adult necklaces and bracelets bought at three leading retailers detected high levels of the toxic material -- as much as 75 percent by weight. Associated Press.

[See related articles: [2 stores pull necklaces on toxic cadmium concern](#) and [Vermont fights to get lead out: state settles with discount retailer over toxic jewelry](#)]

**[A study finds mental benefit of fish oil.](#)**

*Tuesday, February 02, 2010*

Fish oil pills may be able to spare some young people with signs of mental illness from a progression into fully developed schizophrenia, according to a preliminary study of 81 patients in Austria. Wall Street Journal.

**['The environment ... is where we live.'](#)**

*Tuesday, February 02, 2010*

A New Mexico neighborhood offers a case study in the successes and failures of the environmental justice movement. High Country News.

**[Radiation agency offers informational lecture for 'downwinders.'](#)**

*Tuesday, February 02, 2010*

Since the U.S. Government tested nuclear weapons between July 1945 and November 1962, scientists and doctors have identified the deadly effects of radiation poisoning. Prescott Daily Courier, Arizona.

**[NIH policy urges CT makers to track radiation dose.](#)**

*Tuesday, February 02, 2010*

The National Institutes of Health plans to require that all makers of CT and other radiation-producing scanners used at NIH clinics have software that tracks a patient's radiation dose and logs it into an electronic medical record. Reuters.

[See related articles: [As technology surges, radiation safeguards lag](#), [Medical group urges new rules on radiation](#), [Radiation dose less with digital mammograms](#), [Airport scanners will soon use radiation to detect explosives and chemicals](#) and [Body scanning raises radiation exposure, committee says](#)]

**[China begins emergency check of dairy products.](#)**

*Tuesday, February 02, 2010*

China has begun an emergency nationwide inspection of dairy products following reports that tainted foodstuffs the government had ordered destroyed in 2008 were still being sold, according to a report Tuesday in China Daily. New York Times.

[See a related article: [China pledges clampdown as melamine-laced milk returns](#)]

**[Prison computer recycling put staff, inmates at risk, NIOSH finds.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

Federal prisoners and staff overseers were exposed for years to excessive levels of toxic heavy metals during computer recycling operations, according to a report from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Government Computer News.

**[TTC buses idle ... and idle in the cold.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

Idling buses are left to spew harmful diesel fumes because expensive Swedish technology installed nearly a decade ago has never worked properly. Toronto Sun,

Ontario.

**[The intellectual property fight that could kill millions.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

The hothouse environment of Indonesia is ground zero for a potential bird flu pandemic. But a fight over ownership of flu genes is blocking the efforts to track deadly infections on the move. Discover.

**[Fluorochemicals go short.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

Nearly all humans, and a large proportion of wildlife, are contaminated with environmentally persistent long-chain perfluoroalkyl compounds. That revelation, around for a decade now, has brought dramatic change to the fluorochemicals industry. Chemical & Engineering News.

**[EPA targets chemical often dumped in Chicago sewers.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

Scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently discovered that the metal plating industry is dumping high levels of PFCs into sewers in Chicago and Cleveland, and likely is doing the same thing in scores of other cities. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

**[Disposing of old medicines can be tricky business.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

Researchers have long been finding residues from pharmaceuticals and personal care products in our lakes and rivers. Some of them are endocrine disruptors and can cause fish to develop both male and female characteristics. Minnesota Public Radio, Minnesota.

**[Utah scientists hope to close in on mercury source.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

Scientists may finally be closing in on the source of mercury fouling Utah's Great Salt Lake -- several years after U.S. Geological Survey tests showed the lake had some of the highest mercury readings ever recorded in a United States water body. Associated Press.

**[Soy formula associated with higher risk of fibroids in women.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

Women who were fed soy-based infant formula as babies are 25 percent more likely to develop uterine fibroids than those who were breastfed or given milk-based formula. Environmental Health News.

**[Environmental toxins and learning disorders.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

An aggregate of chemicals in the environment are likely leaching into our children's bodies -- both before and after birth -- and could be wreaking havoc with their brains. The Parent Paper, New Jersey.

**[Toxin probe eyes link to Tijuana.](#)**

*Monday, February 01, 2010*

Nearly six years ago, cleanup efforts began on the site of Metales y Derivados, a notorious former American-owned lead smelter in Tijuana whose neighbors long had complained of health problems, including birth defects, that they blamed on the toxic-waste site. San Diego Union-Tribune, California.

**[Water dangerous over decades.](#)**

*Sunday, January 31, 2010*

With 12 to 90 parts per billion of arsenic, large swaths of the east valley's groundwater supply is unsafe if consumed over several decades, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says. Palm Springs Desert Sun, California.

**[WHO urging public to have homes tested for radon.](#)**

*Sunday, January 31, 2010*

Central Kentucky's karstlands have long been a healthy source of tourism dollars, but that same topography carries increased health risks from radon gas, the leading source

of lung cancer for nonsmokers. Bowling Green Daily News, Kentucky.

#### **[Climate change to hit public health hard.](#)**

*Sunday, January 31, 2010*

Climate change will have an adverse effect on public health -- particularly that of children -- including malnutrition, waterborne diseases, cholera, skin and eye diseases, and cardiovascular diseases, environmental health experts warned at a forum on Saturday. Dhaka Daily Star, Bangladesh.

#### **[Leaks imperil nuclear industry.](#)**

*Sunday, January 31, 2010*

A leak of radioactive water at Vermont Yankee, along with similar incidents at more than 20 other US nuclear plants in recent years, has kindled doubts about the reliability, durability, and maintenance of the nation's aging nuclear installations. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

*[See a related article: [Expert: No level of tritium safe](#)]*

#### **[What's on the menu? Food facts.](#)**

*Sunday, January 31, 2010*

What's different in Philadelphia will become apparent on April 1, when restaurants with individual menus must list saturated fats, trans fats, carbohydrates, and sodium, in addition to calories, with every item. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

#### **[Grandma breathes easier in smoke-free building.](#)**

*Sunday, January 31, 2010*

The high rate of asthma typically found in kids in housing projects is among factors spurring Boston to ban smoking in public housing. Mold, poor ventilation and pests also exacerbate asthma, but second-hand smoke is a main contributor, experts say. Boston Herald,

*[See a related article: [Thirdhand smoke forms cancer-causing residue indoors that lasts](#)]*

#### **[Air pollution exposure during pregnancy and reduced birth size: a prospective birth cohort study in Valencia, Spain.](#)**

*Saturday, January 30, 2010*

Findings from this study provide further evidence of the need for developing strategies to reduce air pollution in order to prevent risks to fetal health and development. Environmental Health.

#### **[Military environmental hazards bill faces hurdles.](#)**

*Saturday, January 30, 2010*

Congressional jurisdictional issues and Defense Department resistance to accepting responsibility for harming veterans and dependents are major impediments to passing a final bill and ultimately providing medical care. Salem News, Oregon.

*[See related articles from the US: [Toxins in Camp Lejeune water 30 years ago still a problem](#), from the Philippines: [Decades later, U.S. military pollution in Philippines linked to deaths](#) and from Puerto Rico: [Island residents sue U.S., saying military made them sick](#)]*

#### **[Another look at Atrazine.](#)**

*Saturday, January 30, 2010*

One of the most widely used herbicides in the U.S., Atrazine, is being reevaluated by the EPA. Some scientists say the weed killer negatively impacts the environment and human health. But Atrazine's parent company Syngenta stands behind its product. Living On Earth.

*[See related articles: [EPA reviews hints of weed killer's fetal risks](#) and [Weed killer atrazine may be linked to birth defect](#)]*

#### **[Latest study says TCE worse than thought.](#)**

*Saturday, January 30, 2010*

The Environmental Protection Agency has released a new report concluding that TCE, a pollutant found in much of Mountain View's groundwater, is definitely a carcinogen, a finding which could lead the agency to propose tougher cleanup standards. Mountain

View Voice, California.

**[New study on dirty fuel raises health concerns.](#)**

*Friday, January 29, 2010*

New York University Law School's Institute of Policy Integrity released a study last Saturday regarding the substantial environmental, health and economic benefits of converting "dirty" boiler fuel to cleaner-burning fuels in New York City. NYUNews.com.

**[Firms told to halt distribution of 167 banned pesticides.](#)**

*Friday, January 29, 2010*

Sellers of 167 banned pesticides must declare their stockpiles within one month and immediately halt their distribution to farmers and other users, officials ordered Wednesday. Abu Dhabi National, United Arab Emirates.

**[Andrew Wakefield found 'irresponsible' by GMC over MMR vaccine scare.](#)**

*Friday, January 29, 2010*

The doctor who claimed to have discovered a link between measles virus, bowel diseases and autism and thereby sparked widespread fear of the combined MMR jab, conducted unnecessary, invasive tests on children, the General Medical Council found. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See related articles: [Lancet retracts study tying vaccine to autism](#), [L.A. confidential: Seeking reasons for autism's rise](#) and [UC Davis study confirms link between advanced maternal age and autism](#)]

**[Study: Mercury in canned tuna high.](#)**

*Friday, January 29, 2010*

More than half of canned tuna samples from a local grocery store failed to meet the strict Environmental Protection Agency safety level for mercury in fish, according to a new study by University of Nevada, Las Vegas researchers. Las Vegas Review-Journal, Nevada.

**[EPA probes its actions in town with toxic-waste dump.](#)**

*Friday, January 29, 2010*

The U.S. EPA has launched an internal investigation into its permitting and oversight in a San Joaquin Valley farming community dominated by a hazardous-waste facility, agricultural pesticide spraying and truck exhaust that may be contributing to health problems. Los Angeles Times, California.

**[Omega-3 may reduce risk of dental disease: Study.](#)**

*Thursday, January 28, 2010*

The average number of dental disease events was 1.5 times higher in people with low DHA levels, compared to those with the highest average levels of DHA, according to findings published in Nutrition. NutraIngredients.com.

**[Prenatal phthalate exposure may alter children's behavior and cognitive function.](#)**

*Thursday, January 28, 2010*

A study published January 28 in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Health Perspectives suggests that women with higher exposure to phthalates during their pregnancy report more disruptive and problem behaviors in their children, using standardized measures. Newswise.

**[Study: Port emissions may cost Charleston \\$81 million a year.](#)**

*Thursday, January 28, 2010*

A new study says emissions from existing port terminals could cost Charleston County as much as \$54 million dollars a year in health care expenses. Charleston WCSC 5 TV, South Carolina.

**[Texas environmental agency finds high levels of cancer-causing benzene on Barnett Shale.](#)**

*Thursday, January 28, 2010*

Air testing over one of the nation's biggest natural gas fields revealed two sites with extremely high levels of cancer-causing benzene and 19 more with elevated levels of the

chemical, Texas environmental regulators said Wednesday. Associated Press.

**[Warning: Your cell phone may be hazardous to your health.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

Though the scientific debate is heated and far from resolved, there are multiple reports, mostly out of Europe's premier research institutions, of cell-phone and PDA use being linked to "brain aging," brain damage, early-onset Alzheimer's, senility, DNA damage, and even sperm die-offs (many men, after all, keep their cell phones in their pants pockets or attached at the hip). GQ.

[See a related journal article: [Mobile phone radiation health risk controversy: the reliability and sufficiency of science behind the safety standards](#)]

**[KU Med School seeks feedback on environmental issues.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita is seeking feedback for a plan a local group is developing to improve environmental health in the area. Wichita Business Journal, Kansas.

**[Asthma sufferers choke on new smog standards.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

New emissions standards are not strong enough to protect Chicagoans with asthma, a leading environmental health expert is warning. Chicago Page One Examiner.

[See a related article: [Traffic marker? Early exposure to air pollution associated with childhood asthma, Residential traffic exposure, pulse pressure and C-reactive protein: consistency and contrast among exposure characterization methods and Association of biomarkers of systemic inflammation with organic components and source tracers in quasi-ultrafine particles](#)]

**[More states requiring 'green' cleaning products in schools, raising debate about cost, benefit.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

More states are requiring schools and government buildings to use environmentally friendly cleaning products, raising debate about their costs and benefits. Supporters say laws are needed but critics oppose any mandates. Associated Press.

**[Orange County trial will focus on Botox's safety in children's cerebral palsy treatments.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

Kristen Spears, who suffered from severe cerebral palsy, started getting Botox injections at age 6 - to calm her leg spasms. Instead, her mother alleges that the drug killed her. Los Angeles Times, California.

**[Don't let your baby swim.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

Children who start swimming before the age of 2 [in chlorinated pools] may be at increased risk of a common infant lung infection, and possibly asthma and respiratory allergies later in life, a new study suggests. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Public swimming ups risk of gastrointestinal illness](#)]

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

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in environmental health as it relates to learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

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

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

Nancy Snow  
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