

# The Challenge: Human Diseases and Environmental Hazards

**CHRONIC DISEASES AND DISABILITIES** have reached epidemic proportions in the United States. Currently 125 million men, women and children – almost half of all Americans – suffer from diseases and health conditions such as:

- Asthma
- Autism
- Learning and Developmental Disabilities
- Cancers
- Diabetes
- Endometriosis
- Parkinson's Disease
- Infertility

Scientific evidence is increasingly revealing links between these diseases and disabilities and environmental factors. And scientists are telling us that this generation of children is the first in modern history that may not be as healthy as their parents. Direct medical costs of these diseases exceed \$500 billion yearly. The human costs are incalculable.

The good news is that it does not have to be this way. Health impacts from environmental factors can be prevented. The new research is identifying remarkable opportunities to take positive steps that will allow Americans to lead healthier lives. Yet few people know about these opportunities. Some involve personal choices. Others require public action.

CHE's mission is to help people – especially those whose lives have been affected by health problems caused by environmental factors – to learn what science is revealing, empower themselves to protect their health and become engaged in efforts to help the next generation realize their full potential.

## About CHE



### THE COLLABORATIVE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(CHE) is a diverse partnership of organizations and individuals who share the common goal of improving human health by reducing exposure to toxicants in our bodies and the environment.

#### CHE SEEKS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER:

- To further constructive debate and cooperative efforts;
- To foster productive action on human environmental health issues; and
- To disseminate the best scientific information about these concerns.

**CHE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2002** at a conference of medical, scientific, patient advocacy and environmental leaders. Over 2000 Partners joined in the first four years and the partnership continues to grow.

#### CHE PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- Health-affected individuals and groups
- Health professional and scientific associations
- Researchers and scientists
- Community organizations
- Public health and government agency representatives
- Environmental health and justice advocates
- Policymakers
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Funders
- Students
- Educators

**PLEASE VISIT** [www.HealthandEnvironment.org](http://www.HealthandEnvironment.org) for a full list of CHE Partners.

## How to Participate



**PARTNERS CAN GET INVOLVED** in a number of ways:

#### LISTEN AND PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP CALLS

Each month CHE hosts a conference call on timely environmental health issues featuring presentations from leading scientists, health professionals and other experts from multiple fields. Subjects covered previously include environmental cardiology, endocrine disruption, nanotechnology, thyroid conditions, biomonitoring, neurodegenerative diseases and many other topics.

#### JOIN A WORKING GROUP

A number of working groups have been established to address specific environmental health issues and to create opportunities for more focused dialogue and activities. These areas include: asthma, cancer, breast cancer, electromagnetic fields, infertility, learning and developmental disabilities and Parkinson's disease. In addition to convening conferences and creating issue-specific initiatives, working group participants have also developed consensus statements, white papers, fact sheets and new policies on environmental health.

#### JOIN A REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Regional partnerships bring CHE Partners together to share resources and information on region-specific environmental health issues, convene conferences, sponsor lectures and engage in other collaborative activities. Regional partnerships are active in Alaska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington.

#### STAY CURRENT WITH CHE RESOURCES

CHE scientists produce and disseminate scientific briefing papers, which summarize the state of research that links various health outcomes with environmental factors for the informed layperson. Monthly CHE newsletters provide updates on science, policy and advocacy. CHE's information partner, [www.EnvironmentalHealthNews.org](http://www.EnvironmentalHealthNews.org), offers daily updates about environmental health news and science.



# Become a CHE Partner

**TO JOIN CHE** as an individual or organizational Partner, please visit [www.HealthandEnvironment.org](http://www.HealthandEnvironment.org) for an online application.

By agreeing to the CHE Consensus Statement and joining CHE, you:

- Have the option to participate in conference calls, working groups and regional partnerships
- Receive four emails or less per month
- Pay no dues

Joining CHE gives you access to cutting-edge science on environmental health issues and opportunities to engage with other concerned people from diverse sectors.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact us at [info@HealthandEnvironment.org](mailto:info@HealthandEnvironment.org)

# Contact Us

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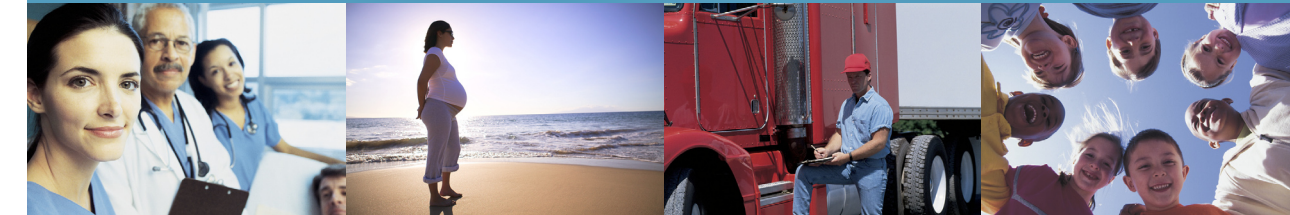
*CHE is chaired by Philip R. Lee, MD, former United States Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services and a Professor at the medical schools of Stanford University and the University of California.*

CHE's administrative headquarters are located at Commonweal, a health and environmental research institute in Bolinas, California.

## The Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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## THE COLLABORATIVE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CHE)

is a diverse partnership network of individuals and organizations working collectively to advance knowledge and effective action to address growing concerns about the links between human health and environmental factors.

