



# Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment



**Biweekly Bulletin August 12, 2009**

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

### New members

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

- Judith Hartley, MPH, Midway, Georgia
- Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH, Washington, DC
- Vanessa Ryder, Olympia, Washington
- Cathy Vaillancourt, PhD, Montreal, Canada

## Upcoming Events

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

### 1) A Media Training Workshop with Suzanne Turner

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Thursday August 13 or noon - 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 (choose one session)

Washington, DC

at the National Research Center for Women & Families Conference Room, 1701 K Street NW, Suite 700 (building entrance is on 17th Street near K Street)

Sponsor: National Research Center for Women & Families

News is shaped by PR experts, most of them highly paid to get the message out. How can researchers, experts who care about the public good, and nonprofit organizations that don't have big bucks make sure that their voices are also heard? Turner Strategies has designed and developed communications campaigns that have helped pass more than 40 pieces of legislation. Their team has worked for nonprofit organizations as well as Fortune 500 companies, devising effective branding and marketing campaigns. Thanks to their guidance, participants in this workshop will learn strategies and useful information that they can use to make their voices heard on important issues. Media training usually costs hundreds of dollars per hour; this is a great opportunity to get three hours of great training at an affordable price. Lunch will be served.

Price: \$95 per participant from 501(c)(3) organizations, \$200 per participant for all others. If you sign up after August 5, add \$20.

Contact: Emily Hartman, 202-223-4000 or [info@center4research.org](mailto:info@center4research.org)

### 2) Community Involvement Training Conference

Tuesday through Thursday, August 18 - 20, 2009

Seattle, Washington

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

This eleventh training conference brings together more than 450 people from EPA and its federal, state, tribal and local partners who plan and implement environmental community involvement, partnership, stewardship, outreach and education programs. The theme for the 2009 conference is "Reaching across Boundaries: Sharing Challenges and Opportunities." The theme acknowledges that boundaries exist all around us and can pose challenges to effectively solving environmental problems. However, if stakeholders can move across boundaries, they can identify mutual challenges and opportunities that can lead to sustainable environmental benefits. During the conference we will explore communication skills and processes, organizational/institutional issues and behavioral shifts as ways to reach across boundaries to achieve these environmental benefits.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Community Involvement Conference Coordinator, [ciconference@emsus.com](mailto:ciconference@emsus.com)

### **3) Pass a Safe School Siting Policy**

Wednesday August 19, 2009

noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Center for Health, Environment & Justice

This is the third of a three-part conference call series on community impacts of the lack of laws preventing the building of schools on or near sources of pollution. Objectives include 1) identifying different strategies in passing a school-siting policy, 2) understanding the steps toward creating a campaign strategy and media plan, and 3) understanding general best practices in passing policy.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

### **4) 2nd National Safe Routes to School Conference**

Wednesday through Friday, August 19 - 21, 2009

Portland, Oregon

at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Sponsor: National Center for Safe Routes to School and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Safe Routes to School is an international movement with the goal of making it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school on a daily basis. An increase in walking and bicycling improves community and personal health, benefits the environment, increases safety, and helps to decrease traffic and congestion around schools. The most successful programs incorporate the five E's: education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement and evaluation. The programmatic themes for this year's conference are 1) transportation infrastructure and safety, 2) Empowering families and youth, 3) education and encouragement program development, 4) health and evaluation, and 5) Growing the SRTS movement.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Bike Transportation Alliance, 503-226-0676 or [info@bta4bikes.org](mailto:info@bta4bikes.org)

### **5) Nurses Championing the Health of Minority Communities through a Greener Environment**

Saturday August 22, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at Thomas Jefferson University, Bluemle Life Sciences Building, Room 101, 10th & Locust Streets

Sponsor: Theta Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Sorority Inc.; Women's Health & Environmental Network; Thomas Jefferson University Hospital's Office to Advance Population Health; supported by a grant from Health Care Without Harm

Vital information about how exposures to harmful ingredients can impact health is not reaching minority communities. As the public's most trusted professionals, nurses have a critical role to play in sharing current findings with vulnerable populations. This training will be on safer personal care products, sustainable food and making health care safer and healthier for people and the environment. This program is designed for nurses working in minority communities in the Philadelphia region. Nursing contact hours will be awarded.

Price: unknown

Contact: 1-800-JEFF-NOW

#### **6) EUROPEI 2009: Epidemiology for Clinical Medicine and Public Health**

Wednesday through Saturday, August 26 ? 29, 2009

Warsaw, Poland

at the Old Library, Warsaw University

Sponsor: IEA-EEF European Congress of Epidemiology

The program will cover all modern epidemiological disciplines, including cardioepidemiology, cancer epidemiology, perinatal and reproductive health epidemiology, infectious diseases epidemiology, rheumatoid diseases epidemiology, neuroepidemiology, genetic epidemiology, pharmacoepidemiology, environmental epidemiology, occupational epidemiology, nutritional epidemiology, social epidemiology and others.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [secretariat@euroepi2009.org](mailto:secretariat@euroepi2009.org)

#### **7) 4th Annual International Conference on Nanotechnology - Occupational and Environmental Health**

Wednesday through Saturday, August 26 - 29, 2009

Helsinki, Finland

Sponsor: unknown

The conference will discuss global health and safety issues surrounding engineered nanoparticles and nanotechnologies, especially in connection with occupational and environmental health. The conference will also provide insights into the latest research results and actions to assure the safety and thereby the future success of nanotechnologies. More details will be available closer to the conference date.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

#### **8) Facilitation Skills for Scientists and Resource Managers**

Tuesday through Thursday, September 1 - 3, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacramento, California

at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard Street

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course is intended to be a practical approach to improving group meetings. It is oriented specifically to the needs of scientists and resource managers. After core facilitation skills are practiced, the class will be tailored to the students' development needs. Participants will be asked to complete a pre-workshop skills profile. Students are presented with a wide array of tools and opportunities to practice new facilitation skills. The class includes continuing education units.

Price: \$695, or \$595 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

### **9) National Breastfeeding Conference**

Friday through Sunday, September 4 - 6, 2009  
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory Australia

Sponsor: Australian Lactation Consultants Association Ltd (ALCA)

The topic for this conference is "Breastfeeding: A Key Public Health Issue." More information will be made available at the website below.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer James, [info@alca.asn.au](mailto:info@alca.asn.au)

### **10) Prenatal Tobacco Smoke and Postnatal Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Child Neurodevelopment**

Tuesday September 8, 2009  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Michael Weitzman, MD, professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, New York University School of Medicine, will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 800-424-3688

### **11) Children's Environmental Health: Safe and Healthy School Environments**

Wednesday September 9, 2009  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Atlanta, Georgia

at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global Communication and Training Center, 1600 Clifton Road

Sponsor: Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at Emory University, collaborating with US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4; Department of Health & Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Children spend a significant amount of time in one environment -- school. They need a safe, healthy setting in which to thrive, learn and succeed. This program is designed to assist in making this a reality. The keynote speaker will be Howard Frumkin, MD, MPH,

DrPH. Registration deadline is August 28, 2009.

Price: \$30 includes lunch and materials

[Visit the website](#)

### **12) A Critical Link: The Environment and Women's Health**

Thursday September 10, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Burlington, Vermont

at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center

Sponsor: Planned Parenthood of Northern New England with funding from Seventh Generation, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, The John Merck Fund and The Ceres Trust

In recent years there has been an increased awareness of the connections between environmental contaminants, fertility, and health - and a growing body of evidence supporting these concerns that link reduced fertility to pregnancy loss, adverse birth outcomes, reproductive tract abnormalities, learning disabilities in children, and various cancers to environmental contaminants. It is becoming increasingly clear to those of us who work for women's health that we must begin to turn our attention to the environmental toxicants that are affecting the ability of couples to become pregnant, have a healthy pregnancy, and give birth to healthy children. At Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, we feel a responsibility as a health-care organization to help our patients and communities make the link between human health and the products we put in our bodies, and in our homes and schools. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Sandra Steingraber.

Price: \$60, students \$35, \$80 if CEUs are awarded.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

### **13) 7th Annual Children's Environmental Health Conference**

Friday September 11, 2009

Baltimore, Maryland

at the Mt. Washington Conference Center

Sponsor: Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE)

This conference enables MACCHE to advance its goals of working with regional partners to mitigate the adverse impact of environmental pollutants on the health of children within the Mid Atlantic states and beyond.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

### **14) Saving Our Kids, Healing Our Planet**

Saturday and Sunday, September 12 - 13, 2009

Newark, New Jersey

at the University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey Medical School

Sponsor: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, The Autism Center, The Institute for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Vital Interventions Accessible

Saving Our Kids, Healing Our Planet is at the forefront of a new movement focused on sustainable living practices and safe and effective methods for preventing and recovering our children from ADHD, autism, allergies, asthma, obesity, diabetes etc. It is a forum where parents, teachers, therapists and physicians gather and learn from leading experts about safe and effective methods for preventing and treating many of the chronic

conditions affecting our children today. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Maureen McDonnell, RN, 609-240-1315

## Announcements & Articles

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

### [Job opening: Women's Voices for the Earth, Missoula, Montana.](#)

WVE seeks a development specialist with an excellent track record and significant experience securing major gifts and foundation grants. Applications will be accepted until August 28, 2009, or until the position is filled.

### [Job opening: Good Guide, San Francisco.](#)

Good Guide is seeking a full-time chief scientific officer to help refine and expand their methodologies for evaluating the environmental, social and health performance of products. A PhD or MD degree is required, with 15+ years experience in research, an internationally recognized record in publishing, policy engagement, or industry leadership.

### [EPA seeks public input on clean water enforcement action plan through online forum.](#)

EPA has launched an online discussion forum to receive public input on the future direction of EPA's national water enforcement program. The public will be able to provide feedback through the EPA website, between now and August 28, giving them a forum to address any concerns about EPA's efforts to protect the water in their communities. US Environmental Protection Agency

### [EPA seeks public comment on proposed changes to list of impaired waters for Missouri](#)

The Agency is requesting public comment on its proposed decision to add or restore a total of 17 water bodies and corresponding pollutants to Missouri's 2008 impaired waters list. US Environmental Protection Agency.

### [EPA posts peer review of renewable fuel standards lifecycle analysis.](#)

The peer review of the renewable fuel standards lifecycle analysis is now available online. US Environmental Protection Agency.

### [EPA seeks public comment on Univar cleanup plan.](#)

US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has proposed a ground water contamination cleanup plan for the Univar Inc. facility at 59865 Market St., South Bend, Indiana. The public is invited to provide written comments on the plan until October 9th.

### [Insights with host Hugh Downs launches new series on environmental health.](#)

The senior producer for the series said, "Environmental health is getting traction today and our series will be aiding people to obtain answers to important questions about the environment and how it affects our health."

### [Environmental Health 101: Should I test my home for mold?](#)

*Tuesday, August 11, 2009*

Mold will grow on many building materials that are damp for extended periods. The key to preventing mold growth is controlling moisture. Examiner.com.

### [China to monitor endemic arsenic, fluoride poisoning.](#)

*Tuesday, August 11, 2009*

China will start to monitor the endemic poisoning of coal-burning arsenic and fluoride as environmentally-related illnesses continue to plague coal-rich central and western regions, the Ministry of Health said Monday Xinhua News Agency, China.



[See a related article: [China: Where poisoning people is almost free](#)]

### **[Bird flu virus a possible trigger for Parkinson's.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 11, 2009*

The idea that viruses can trigger neurodegenerative disease has remained controversial. Now researchers report new evidence for such a link: Mice infected with the H5N1 avian influenza virus lose the same dopamine-releasing neurons that are destroyed by Parkinson's disease. Science.

### **[Pollutants in breast milk may fluctuate during nursing.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 11, 2009*

Levels of contaminants in breast milk are more complicated than once thought; instead of a constant decline during nursing, levels may fluctuate from beginning to end, finds a new study that contradicts the long-held belief that the pollutants steadily wane. Environmental Health News.

### **['Substantial reduction' in tobacco sales to minors.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 11, 2009*

Retail sales of tobacco products to people under 18 are at the lowest level they have been in years, says a report being released today by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. USA Today.

### **[Don't give swine flu drugs to under-12s.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 11, 2009*

Children under the age of 12 should not be given Tamiflu or Relenza, the two antiviral drugs that form the cornerstone of the government's fight against swine flu, because their side-effects outweigh any benefits, Oxford University researchers said yesterday. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [Canada dismisses warning about flu drug](#)]

### **[Breast-feeding linked to lower cancer risk.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 11, 2009*

There is new evidence that breast-feeding is associated with a lower incidence of breast cancer among a group of younger women who are at particularly high risk: those with breast cancer in the family. New York Times.

### **[Germ-killing chemical from soaps, toothpaste building up in dolphins.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 11, 2009*

A new study found that one-third of the bottlenose dolphins tested off South Carolina and almost one-quarter of those tested off Florida carried traces of the antibacterial chemical triclosan in their blood. Now some scientists are calling for its removal from consumer products because it is building up in the ocean's food web. Environmental Health News.

### **[Chemical companies, U.S. authorities knew dangers of Agent Orange.](#)**

*Monday, August 10, 2009*

U.S. chemical companies that made Agent Orange and the government and military authorities who ordered its spraying on Vietnam knew the human health toll it could take, according to official and unofficial documents detailing the history of the deadly defoliant. ThanhNien News, Vietnam.

### **[The melamine incident: Implications for international food and feed safety.](#)**

*Sunday, August 09, 2009*

There is a need to strengthen collaboration between food safety authorities worldwide to efficiently exchange information, and to enable tracking and recalling of affected products in order to ensure food safety and protect public health. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Health fair kicks off National Health Centers Week.](#)**

*Sunday, August 09, 2009*

The fair was a celebratory kickoff of National Health Centers Week, which is the second week of August each year. Herald-Mail, Hagerstown, Maryland.

**[Lead: 7 tips for limiting exposure.](#)**

*Saturday, August 08, 2009*

Lead exposure and poisoning is avoidable. Prevention is still the best option for protecting your health. Examiner.com.

**[Pesticide use on hospital lawns reviewed.](#)**

*Friday, August 07, 2009*

The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority is reviewing its use of chemicals on grass and grounds of hospitals after an environmental activist asked why a neighbourhood health centre was spraying toxic pesticides. CBC News.

**[Cancer risk disparities between Hispanic and Non-Hispanic white populations: The role of exposure to indoor air pollution.](#)**

*Friday, August 07, 2009*

Hispanics appear to be disproportionately affected by certain hazardous air pollutants from indoor and outdoor sources. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See another news article: [Hispanics who move to U.S. face higher cancer rates](#)]

**[Mercury storage debated at Dept. of Energy meeting in Andrews.](#)**

*Friday, August 07, 2009*

The possibility of storing mercury is stirring up debate in Andrews tonight where a vocal opposition is warning of major dangers as the Department of Energy presents their plan. Odessa KOSA TV, Texas.

**[Special report: A school without windows.](#)**

*Friday, August 07, 2009*

Richmond residents face problems like violence, poverty and pollution, but a group of teachers and students in the city have another concern. They have been fighting to change something that is rarely discussed in U.S. schools: indoor air quality. New America Media.

**[New findings spur EPA to rethink perchlorate regulation.](#)**

*Friday, August 07, 2009*

The debate over perchlorate now moves to the U.S. EPA, which requested public comments this week on possible regulation of perchlorate in drinking water. The agency said it is particularly concerned about the possible impact of perchlorate on the health of very young children. Greenwire.

**[Reduce fetal exposure to BPA and phthalates, experts say.](#)**

*Friday, August 07, 2009*

With Health Canada recently banning plastic baby bottles made from bisphenol A and proposing to ban certain toys, the question arises: what about pregnant women and their fetuses, which are even more susceptible? Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[See related articles: [Health Canada studying effect of chemicals on infant genitals](#) and [Phthalates may increase risk of preterm births](#)]

**[Tackling toxicology and environmental health.](#)**

*Thursday, August 06, 2009*

As the new head of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, home to the National Toxicology Program, Linda Birnbaum says her priorities are low-dose effects, differential susceptibility, and science communication with the public. Science News.

**[Traffic pollutants may fuel adult asthma.](#)**

*Thursday, August 06, 2009*

A new study provides more evidence that breathing in traffic-related pollutants is unhealthy -- for kids and adults. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Limiting allergy triggers may cut kids' asthma risk](#)]

**[Rural well water linked to Parkinson's; California study implicates farm pesticides.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 05, 2009*

Rural residents who drink water from private wells are much more likely to have



Parkinson's disease, a finding that bolsters theories that farm pesticides may be partially to blame, according to a new California study. Environmental Health News.

#### **[FDA: Arthritis drugs a cancer risk.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 05, 2009*

Federal regulators added stronger warnings yesterday to a group of best-selling drugs [tumor necrosis factor blockers] used to treat arthritis and other inflammatory diseases, saying they can raise the cancer risk in children and adolescents. Associated Press.

#### **[Insect repellent ingredient used by thousands of holidaymakers can cause children to fit.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 05, 2009*

Insect repellents [containing DEET] used by millions of holidaymakers each year are potentially toxic and should not be used by children and pregnant women, scientists have warned. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

#### **[Environmental health 101: What is nature-deficit disorder?](#)**

*Tuesday, August 04, 2009*

Nature-deficit disorder names the link between behavioral problems (including obesity, loneliness, depression, attention problems and greater social isolation) and minimal time spent outside. Examiner.com.

#### **[Diverse health and environmental coalition calls for sweeping changes in U.S. chemical safety law.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 04, 2009*

A broad coalition of health and environmental organizations unveiled today a set of key requirements for reforming the nation's antiquated chemical safety law, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). World-Wire.

#### **[PCB dump site raises worries: Proximity to aquifer at issue among scientists in Texas.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 04, 2009*

Over the next several years, an estimated 2.65 million cubic yards of PCB-laden sediment will be dredged from the Hudson River and taken by railcar to rural Andrews County, Texas. Saratoga Saratogian, New York.

*[See another article about the problems of disposing of toxic materials cleaned from a contaminated site: [Ala. county: Coal ash site environmental racism](#)]*

#### **[Anxiety, inattention, poor decisions increase in kids with higher lead levels.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 04, 2009*

Higher blood lead levels in children were associated with specific learning and behavior changes, including more anxiety and deficits in planning, abstract thinking and determining appropriate behavior, finds this large study from India. Environmental Health News.

*[See other articles about children and lead: [Lead-based consumer paint remains a global public health threat](#), [More D.C. kids had elevated lead than stated](#), [Parents told to dust more in lead hotspots](#) and [California criticizes police firing range in Redondo Beach](#)]*

#### **[Millions of children in U.S. found to be lacking Vitamin D.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 04, 2009*

Millions of U.S. children have disturbingly low Vitamin D levels, possibly increasing their risk for bone problems, heart disease, diabetes and other ailments -- according the first national assessment of the crucial nutrient in young Americans. Washington Post.

*[See a related article: [Low vitamin D levels linked to metabolic syndrome](#)]*

#### **[Perfluoropolymer degrades in decades, study estimates.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 04, 2009*

The breakdown of the main fluorinated ingredient in stain repellants and paper coatings is a significant source of fluorinated compounds such as PFOA in the environment. PFOA remains in people's bodies for years and causes developmental and other adverse effects in animals. Environmental Science & Technology.

**[Gases from chemicals are a potential health disaster.](#)**

*Monday, August 03, 2009*

Do you love the "new" smell? That interior of a new car, a freshly painted room or a newly installed carpet? Experts are discovering that the "new-smell" chemicals you are breathing can be harmful to your health. Canwest News Service.

**[Hair care industry moving toward greener alternatives.](#)**

*Monday, August 03, 2009*

Several area stylists said natural and organic products work better and make hair healthier than most synthetic lines. Harrisburg Patriot-News, Pennsylvania.

**[Tox21: New dimensions of toxicity testing.](#)**

*Monday, August 03, 2009*

New tests using automated systems that assess how chemicals interact with cellular processes may generate more accurate assessments of risks to people than current approaches, largely dependent upon animals. But will it work, and will it be enough for safety assessments? Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[Chemicals can turn genes on and off: new tests needed, scientists say.](#)**

*Monday, August 03, 2009*

Each of us starts life with a particular set of genes, 20,000 to 25,000 of them. Now scientists are amassing a growing body of evidence that pollutants and chemicals might be altering those genes -- not by mutating them, but by sending subtle signals that silence them or switch them on at the wrong times. Last week a National Academies workshop examined the evidence and implications. Environmental Health News.

**[Professor finds link in cancer, manganese.](#)**

*Sunday, August 02, 2009*

A recent study by a Wake Forest University School of Medicine researcher has found that, like cholesterol, there may be a good kind -- airborne -- and a bad kind -- groundwater -- of exposure to the chemical element. Winston-Salem Journal, North Carolina.

**[African dream turns sour for orphan army.](#)**

*Sunday, August 02, 2009*

Gap's decision to develop garment production in Lesotho heralded an era of opportunity, but a Sunday Times investigation has exposed an unforeseen consequence of that commitment -- the dumping of tons of waste, much of it dangerous, at unsecured municipal sites. London Times, England.

[See a related article: [Sifting through the mounting problem of e-waste](#)]

**[Mapping cancer.](#)**

*Saturday, August 01, 2009*

In a unique public health research project, one of Maine's oldest mapping companies and its newest genetics institute are attempting to answer questions about how the natural environment, man made toxins, and genetic factors are linked to the state's highest-in-the-nation cancer rate. Bangor Daily News, Maine.

[See a related article about environmental health tracking in Oregon: [A map to better health](#)]

**[Not enough Bay Area kids vaccinated, docs say.](#)**

*Saturday, August 01, 2009*

Too many children are undervaccinated in the Bay Area, leaving them vulnerable to illnesses that were once thought nearly eradicated and making it easier for some diseases to get a foothold in communities and spread, public health experts say. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

**[Farmers, families could benefit from pilot project.](#)**

*Saturday, August 01, 2009*

It's a pilot project called Farms to Food Banks. If it works, the project will have fed children Kentucky-grown food, fought obesity, taught nutrition and kept Kentucky family farms going all in one stroke. Lexington Herald-Leader, Kentucky.

### [Accepted ozone levels impair healthy lungs.](#)

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

Exposure to atmospheric ozone levels currently considered safe under federal clean air regulations can significantly impair lung function in healthy individuals, researchers found. MedPage Today.

### [Childhood radiation therapy ups breast cancer risk.](#)

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

The results of a study confirm that girls who undergo radiation for cancer in childhood have an increased long-term risk of developing breast cancer, regardless of their age at the time of treatment. Reuters Health.

### [A clash of old and new scientific concepts in toxicity, with important implications for public health.](#)

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

We challenge the validity of assuming that high dose testing can be used to predict low dose effects for contaminants that behave like hormones. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### [Oregon AG moves to block 'E-cigarette' sales.](#)

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

The Oregon Department of Justice filed two settlements Thursday that prevent two national travel store chains from selling "electronic cigarettes" in Oregon. The action is the first of its kind in the country. Bend KTVZ TV, Oregon.

### [Death by mint oil: Natural pesticides.](#)

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

Increasingly, well-known insecticide manufacturers, retailers and even professional pest-control services are rolling out solutions derived from natural materials like animals, plants, bacteria and minerals, potentially safer than their synthetic counterparts. Wall Street Journal.

### [HP delays toxic phase-out.](#)

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

HP has delayed a planned phase-out of toxic chemicals [polyvinyl chloride (PVC), brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and other materials] from its computer products until 2011, citing a lack of suitable alternatives. GreenBiz.com.

### [Environmental health 101: Are compact fluorescent light bulbs really better than incandescent?](#)

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

The up side of compact fluorescent light bulbs is that they are more energy efficient than incandescent light bulbs of an equivalent brightness. However, mercury is an essential component of the compact fluorescent light bulb. Examiner.com.

### [Mercury rising.](#)

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

There are no active mercury mines in the United States today. Some of the mines were properly sealed and cleaned. Some are in the process of being cleaned up. Most have been abandoned without any remediation. According to the best estimates, there are 236 mercury mines in California. San Luis Obispo New Times, California.

### [Steelworks families win birth-defect battle.](#)

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Families who claimed their children's birth defects were caused by exposure to toxic chemicals at a former steelworks have won a landmark ruling against their local council. Edinburgh Scotsman, Scotland.

### [What's in your water?](#)

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between tap and bottled water, and which one is better healthwise? Stroudsburg Pocono Record, Pennsylvania.

**[Playgrounds: They're safer but still can be dangerous.](#)**

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Playgrounds are much safer than they were 30 years ago. Playgrounds with rubber mulch have the lowest rate of injury. Some environmental groups, however, are concerned about the safety of rubber mulch, which can contain lead. USA Today. [See a related article: [Toxicity of play sand worries parents](#)]

**[Study finds pesticide link to childhood leukemia.](#)**

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Patients with childhood leukemia have elevated levels of household pesticides in their urine, according to a new study by the Georgetown University Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Agence France-Presse.

[See a related journal article: [Residential pesticides and childhood leukemia: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#)]

**['BPA-free' bottles leach chemical: study.](#)**

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Health Canada scientists have found bisphenol A leaching into liquid in plastic baby bottles marketed to parents as being free of the toxic chemical. Canwest News Service, Canada.

[See a related article with Health Canada's response: [Toxin amounts in baby bottles tiny: Health Canada](#) and two about government action on BPA and young children: [State warns on bottles with BPA](#) and [Congress to FDA: Prove bisphenol A safe, or ban it](#)]

**[Beach pollution still nationwide problem.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Raw sewage and other pollution continued to foul American beaches in 2008. For the fourth year in a row, more than 20,000 beach closing days were reported in the USA, according to a report released today by the Natural Resources Defense Council. USA Today.

**[Concerned about toxic mercury in some Western Alaska pike, state releases guidelines.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

State and federal officials issued guidelines advising pregnant women and children to limit the amount of northern pike they eat from the Kuskokwim and lower Yukon rivers because of concerns about rising levels of methylmercury in the fish. Tundra Drums, Alaska.

[See a related article about mercury contamination in New Jersey: [Dangerous mercury will be removed](#), another from India: [High mercury content in fish worries experts](#) and concerns from Texas: [Despite warnings, some in Donna still catch, eat toxic fish](#)]

**[U.S. data on children called badly outdated.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Serious shortcomings in national data, including an outdated federal measure of household poverty, are undermining the task of identifying and assisting America's most vulnerable children, according to a report issued Tuesday. Associated Press.

**[Parents warned of teething medicine's dangers.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Prompted by an emergency room visit of a 22-day-old baby for potassium bromide poisoning, the city health department is warning parents about Monell's Teething Cordial, or Cordial de Monell para la Dentición, a product from the Dominican Republic that is sold illegally in the United States. New York Times.

**[Health experts: Using sunbeds can give you cancer.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

International cancer experts have moved sunbeds and other sources of ultraviolet radiation into the top cancer risk category, deeming them as deadly as arsenic and mustard gas. Associated Press.

**FDA finds little mercury risk in fillings.**

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

In a long-awaited and somewhat surprising ruling, the FDA declared yesterday that silver-colored dental fillings contain too little mercury to harm the millions of people - including young children - who've had cavities filled with them, and that only those allergic to mercury need to avoid them. Associated Press.

*Most of the news articles above come from Environmental Health News, <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/>*

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  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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