



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin April 22, 2009

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning and developmental disabilities and environmental health. They are archived and searchable on our website: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

LDDI Highlights

Next LDDI call

LDDI's next call is scheduled for **Thursday April 30th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern**. The focus of this call will be enhancing LDDI-related communications, messaging, website and related materials. Staff from the Raben Group, which is being hired to work with LDDI this year on communications and outreach, will participate on the call. Also, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' (AAIDD's) report from their conference in December 2008, including recommendations for communications and advocacy, will be available by the time of the call for review and discussion. Information for the call will be circulated on the LDDI listserv closer to the time. Contact Elise Miller: elise@healthandenvironment.org

News feed from the Collaborative on Health and the Environment

CHE has begun publishing a daily news feed on its website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>. Articles and announcements, including those that will be used in these biweekly bulletins, are now available daily, plus a limited number of events that are published too late to include in this bulletin. Individuals can subscribe to the feed via RSS.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Film -- Black Mold Exposure

in various cities around the US from April 21 - June 16, 2009
at select theaters

Sponsor: Looking Glass Entertainment Company

"Black Mold Exposure" explores the bizarre illnesses associated with exposure to toxic mold and the film participants' difficult task of regaining their health and lives in an atmosphere of political and social intolerance and disbelief.

Price: varies

Website: <http://www.blackmoldexposuremovie.com/>

Contact: contact@blackmoldexposuremovie.com

2) Webinar -- National Healthy Schools Day

Monday April 27, 2009

9:00 a.m. Pacific time/noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS)

National Healthy Schools Day, coordinated by Healthy Schools Network, is an important day to promote and celebrate healthy school environments that are conducive to learning and protect occupant health. In recognition of the annual event, CHPS will present a free one-hour webinar with Professor Vivian Loftness of the Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture and Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics. Professor Loftness will review the 2006 National Research Council report Green Schools: Attributes for Health and Learning, which examines the potential of green school design for improving education. An assessment of the complex connection between overall building conditions and student achievement will be included in the discussion, as well as a question-and-answer session.

Price: free

Website: <http://chps.net:80/events/NHSD2009.htm>

3) 2009 Disability Policy Seminar

Monday through Wednesday, April 27 - 29, 2009

Washington, DC

at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 400 New Jersey Avenue, Northwest

Sponsor: The Arc of the United States, United Cerebral Palsy, AAIDD, AUCD and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

More information will be available at the website below.

Price: unknown

Website: <http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?&pid=1642&srcid=183>

Contact: Maria Alfaro, 800-424-3688 or maria@aaidd.org

4) Approaches to Managing Mold in Buildings

Monday through Wednesday, April 27 - 29, 2009

Orlando, Florida

at the Hilton Hotel Walt Disney Resort

Sponsor: University of Tulsa Indoor Air Program and Continuing Engineering & Science Education, with others listed on the flyer

This conference will present the latest research and applied outcomes to use in field practice from key national and international experts.

Price: see the website

Website: <http://www.utulsa.edu/iaqprogram/>

Contact: University of Tulsa Continuing Engineering & Science Education, 918-631-3088 richard-shaughnessy@utulsa.edu

5) 2009 National Conference that Combines the Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference and the Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees Conference

Tuesday through Friday, April 28 - May 1, 2009

Orlando, Florida

at the Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Studios

Sponsor: Lead and Environmental Hazards Association

This conference will provide an opportunity to examine new program directions and best practices; ways to stretch limited resources and build and sustain lead-poisoning prevention, lead hazard control and healthy housing programs; how to pursue funding opportunities; how to best undertake inspection, risk assessment, project remediation and clearance; and how to utilize federal regulations to advance program objectives.

Price: \$365; discounts are available for additional participants from the same organization; see the website for details

Website: <http://leadmoldconferences.com/events2/>

Contact: weilcm2@comcast.net

6) USAAA 2009 Regional Conference

Thursday April 30 - Sunday May 3, 2009

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sponsor: US Autism & Asperger Association, CoMeD and the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church

The conference theme is "Whole Health and Wellness: Challenges and Opportunities for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADD, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, and Learning Disabilities." With fifteen of the world leading autism spectrum disorder speakers, 10 non-concurrent sessions and panel discussions, every day is packed with information including treating physicians, educational therapies, nutritional interventions, legal issues, and more. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: see <http://www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEventDetails?ID=1201&EID=4001>

Website: http://www.usautism.org/2009_new_jersey_conference/2009NJ_usaaa_conference_overview.htm

Contact: see http://www.usautism.org/contact_us.htm

7) Health Effects Institute 2009 Annual Conference

Sunday through Tuesday, May 3 - 5, 2009

Portland, Oregon

at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Sponsor: Health Effects Institute

Presentations will related to health effects of traffic-related air pollution, emissions from new fuels and technologies, ultrafine particles, and effects of actions to improve air quality.

Price: \$425 full conference or \$125 for a single day

Website: <http://www.healtheffects.org/annual.htm>

Contact: HEI, 617-488-2300

8) CHE Science Café Call

Thursday, June 4, 2009

10:00 a.m. Pacific time/1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Join CHE as we host our first Science Café call featuring Steve Gilbert, PhD, with the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders. Dr. Gilbert will discuss Toxipedia (<http://www.toxipedia.org>), a tool he created that uses a modified wiki approach. Now with a contract from the National Library of Medicine and funding from King County and the Washington Department of Ecology, he will be able to further develop the site and lessen the information gap between those with knowledge on environmental public health and those that need the information to lead healthier lives.

Price: free

Website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/articles/che-events/6037>

9) Chemical Policy and Environmental Justice in Connecticut State: A Case Example of Taking Action!

Tuesday May 5, 2009

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Environmental Health Initiative, sponsored by the John Merck Fund

Environmental justice refers to the fact that low-income communities and communities of color bear a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards, including chemical hazards, and suffer the resulting health effects. Mark A. Mitchell, MD, MPH, FACPM, will speak on the cumulative, confounding and disproportionate exposure to chemicals in environmental-justice communities that are in addition to the exposures found in most communities. He will also touch on health effects of these exposures in communities of color and low-income communities. In addition, he will talk about why he became involved in grassroots organizing. Focusing on the inner-cities of Connecticut, he will then talk about how EJ communities are fighting back to reduce these exposures and to change these policies that make them less healthy at a local, state and national level. He will also talk about what is needed in order to assure that chemical policy reform addresses environmental-justice issues.

Price: free

Website: http://www.ehinitiative.org/Projects/tele_con.htm

Contact: Laura Abulafia, Laura@aaidd.org

10) Environmental Toxins and Children's Neurodevelopment

Wednesday May 6, 2009

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Neurodevelopmental disabilities result from complex interactions among genetic, environmental and social factors acting on children during vulnerable periods of development. Research demonstrates that pervasive toxic substances, such as mercury, lead, PCBs, dioxins, pesticides and others, can contribute to neurobehavioral and cognitive disorders. This seminar looks at what is known about early-life susceptibility to these preventable causes of harm, and at research concerning "safe" thresholds of exposure. Special attention is paid to the effects of common neurotoxicants on auditory processing.

Price: members \$79, nonmembers \$99; group rates are available

Website: [http://www.asha.org/eweb/OLSDynamicPage.aspx?](http://www.asha.org/eweb/OLSDynamicPage.aspx?Webcode=olsdetails&title=Environmental+Toxins+and+Children%5C's+Neurodevelopment+(Live+Web%2FTelephone+Seminar))

[Webcode=olsdetails&title=Environmental+Toxins+and+Children%5C's+Neurodevelopment+\(Live+Web%2FTelephone+Seminar\)](http://www.asha.org/eweb/OLSDynamicPage.aspx?Webcode=olsdetails&title=Environmental+Toxins+and+Children%5C's+Neurodevelopment+(Live+Web%2FTelephone+Seminar))

11) Healthy Buildings, Active Learners: Improving Indoor Environments for Oregon Schools

Thursday May 7, 2009

Cottage Grove, Oregon

at the Village Green Resort, 725 Row River Road

Sponsor: Oregon Schools Indoor Air Quality Partnership

This one-day conference will address air-quality issues for K-12 schools across Oregon. We encourage anyone interested in healthy buildings to attend this informative and hands-on event, including school administrators, facilities managers, custodians, teachers, nurses, PTA/PTO members, parents, and community leaders.

Price: \$25 includes lunch

Website: <http://www.mrsnv.com/evt/home.jsp?id=2455>

Contact: Beverly Stewart, 503-718-6146 or beverly@lungoregon.org

12) PubMed®

Thursday May 7, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Tempe, Arizona

at the Arizona State University Noble Science and Engineering Library, 601 East Tyler, Noble Instruction Room, 1st floor

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

This full-day class is designed to teach students how to use PubMed® which includes MEDLINE citations. The class also includes an overview of the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®) and its importance as a tool to both searchers and indexers. PubMed® is awarded 7.5 MLA continuing education credits.

Price: free

Website: <http://nnlm.gov/ntcc/classes/schedule.html>

13) Responsible Chemical Management: Collaborative Efforts with Schools

Thursday May 7, 2009

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

San Francisco, California

at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco

Sponsor: National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, EPA Office of Compliance, EPA Office of Cross Media Programs, EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Performance Track Participants Association, and corporate sponsors listed on the website

This training, part of the 6th Annual National Environmental Partnership Summit, is based on real-life school chemical management programs. For a fraction of the time and money it takes to clean up after a chemical accident, you will walk away from the session with best practices for collaborating with others to prevent such accidents and protect K-12 students and staff.

Price: \$40

Website: <http://www.environmentalsummit.org/agenda.cfm?xdl=807#SLOT807>

14) PubMed Clinics of North America: A Problem-based Approach to PubMed Searching

Friday May 8, 2009

1:00 p.m.

Tempe, Arizona

at the Arizona State University Noble Science and Engineering Library, 601 East Tyler, Noble Instruction Room, 1st floor

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

The three-hour workshop will focus on a problem-based approach in learning to search the PubMed database. Through case studies, group exercises and hands-on practice, participants will become more efficient PubMed searchers. The class is geared for intermediate and advanced PubMed searchers. Three continuing education credits are available.

Price: unknown

Website: <http://nnlm.gov/ntcc/classes/schedule.html>

15) CleanMed 2010

Monday through Wednesday, May 18 - 20, 2009

Chicago, Illinois

at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive

Sponsor: see <http://www.cleanmed.org/2009/sponsors/default.htm>

CleanMed 2009 is the sixth international conference to catalyze environmental improvements in the health-care sector. The conference draws a diverse mix of over 600 health care leaders, materials/purchasing managers, environmental health and safety staff, nurses and providers, architects, designers, and medical and building product vendors from across the United States. The conference activates environmentally preferable advances in health care. Keynote speakers will be Ray Baxter, PhD, and Howard Frumkin, MD, MPH, DrPH.

Price: see <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=652141>

Website: <http://www.cleanmed.org/2009/>

Announcements & Articles

[Free online continuing education course for health professionals on pediatric environmental health.](#)

The Online Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit Training is an environmental health anticipatory guidance training module. This training module is based on Physicians for Social Responsibility's Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit, which has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and provides continuing education hours and credits.

[FDA seeks comments on economically motivated adulteration of food.](#)

The US Food and Drug Administration is accepting comments regarding a public meeting on May 1st pertaining to economically motivated adulteration (EMA). Comments can be submitted online through August 1st.

[EPA seeks comments on E15 request.](#)

EPA is seeking public comments on a waiver application to increase the amount of ethanol that can be blended into a gallon of gasoline to up to 15 volume percent (E15). US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Perchlorate in Baby Formula Fact Sheet.](#)

This fact sheet answers questions about CDC's recent study of perchlorate in infant formula published in *The Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Call for proposals: Community Health Projects Related to Brownfield/Land Reuse.](#)

The purpose of the program is to identify and address public health and issues with Brownfield/land reuse sites. This program addresses one or more of the "Healthy People 2010" focus area(s) of Access to Quality Health Care Services, Educational and Community-Based Programs, Environmental Health, Health Communication, Mental Health and Mental Disorders, Nutrition and Overweight, Occupational Safety and Health, Physical Activity and Fitness, and Public Health Infrastructure. Applications are due June 8th.

[Call for proposals: NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research.](#)

This new program will support research on topic areas which address specific scientific and health research challenges in biomedical and behavioral research that would benefit from significant 2-year jumpstart funds. NIH Institute and Centers have selected specific Challenge Topics within each of the Challenge Areas. Applications are due April 27th.

[Call for Proposals: Healthy Communities Grant Program.](#)

EPA Region 1 is accepting proposals for the Healthy Communities Grant Program. Projects must benefit communities at risk (environmental justice areas of potential concern, places with high risk from toxic air pollution, urban areas) and sensitive populations (e.g. children, older adults, others at increased risk). One-page proposals are due May 12th.

[Study documents mercury vapor emission levels.](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Results of a recent study conducted by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Sciences, suggest that most containers used for storage and transportation of used fluorescent lamps to recycling centers do not provide necessary levels of protection against mercury vapors emitted from broken lamps. Reliable Plant.

[Navigating America's 'Poisoned Waters.'](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hedrick Smith details widespread pollution of America's waterways in the PBS Frontline documentary *Poisoned Waters*. The show airs on April 21st. National Public Radio.

[Lead from mom's bones influences baby's gene patterns.](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Lead released from a woman's bones during pregnancy can affect her developing baby's DNA in ways that can alter gene expression and possibly increase the child's lifelong susceptibility to disease. Environmental Health News.

[Legislation takes aim at toxic toys.](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Democrats in the Michigan House of Representatives announced Monday a seven-bill package, called the Children's Safe Products Act, that they said would help parents better protect their children from harmful chemicals. Lansing State Journal, Michigan.

[Tons of released drugs taint U.S. water.](#)

Monday, April 20, 2009

U.S. manufacturers, including major drugmakers, have legally released at least 271 million pounds of pharmaceuticals into waterways that often provide drinking water -- contamination the federal government has consistently overlooked, according to an Associated Press investigation. US News and World Report.

[Poison in the well.](#)

Monday, April 20, 2009

For over two decades, the 11,000 or so residents in working-class Crestwood unknowingly drank tap water contaminated with toxic chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems, a Tribune investigation found. Officials deliberately used a contaminated well to supply the town's water. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Tough laws, higher prices mean fewer kids smoke.](#)

Sunday, April 19, 2009

American adolescents who live in states that comply with tobacco sales laws are less likely to pick up a smoking habit than are those who live where the laws are not vigorously enforced, a new study has found. Gannett News Service.

[EP raises new alarm over mobile base stations.](#)

Sunday, April 19, 2009

The European Parliament has raised new alarms over mobile phone base stations, calling for higher electromagnetic frequency limits, more prudent positioning of the base stations and for operators to share base station resources so as to reduce their numbers. St. Julians Malta Independent, Malta.

[Budget cuts stall clean-up of 'imminent threats' to drinking water.](#)

Saturday, April 18, 2009

A state fund paid for by gasoline taxes was created in 1986 to foot the bill to clean up almost 25,000 sites in Florida. But the legislature has been siphoning off the money... more than \$200 million this year. With no cleanup, the gas plumes keep spreading. Tampa Tribune, Florida.

[Toxic Canada.](#)

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Canada has started its own chemical assessment program. Unlike the EU program, which demands that industry foot the bill for toxicity assessments, the Canadian program is completely financed by the taxpayer. Canwest News Service, Canada

[Pesticide ban 'protects young children.'](#)

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Environment Minister John Gerretsen says Ontario is banning cosmetic use of pesticides to protect children. Hamilton Spectator, Canada.

[CPSC signals delay for lead law and ATVs](#)

Saturday, April 18, 2009

The Consumer Product Safety Commission said Friday that it plans to delay enforcement of a new anti-lead law that has kept all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes designed for children off showroom floors -- not because of concerns over safety, but because some bike parts contain lead. Seattle Times.

['Biosolids' and human health.](#)

Friday, April 17, 2009

On May 3, many will gather for the Residuals and Biosolids 2009 conference in Portland, where awkward jokes about

squeezing profits from human excreta-based crop fertilizer are an inevitability. But the business is no joke. New York Times.

[EPA to review system gauging air emissions.](#)

Friday, April 17, 2009

In a move that could signal a fundamental shift in how industrial pollution is regulated, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has pledged to reconsider how it estimates the amount of toxic chemicals that refineries and petrochemical plants release. USA Today.

[Eco-friendly labelling? It's a lot of 'greenwash.'](#)

Friday, April 17, 2009

"All-natural" shampoo. "Planet-friendly" glass cleaner. "BPA-free" baby bottles. The labels on 98 per cent of those good-for-the-earth-and-your-body items you fill your shopping basket with are lying, a new study shows. Toronto Star, Canada.

[Effectiveness of an integrated pest management intervention in controlling cockroaches, mice and allergens in New York city public housing.](#)

Thursday, April 16, 2009

This study implemented and evaluated IPM, compared to traditional practice, for its impact on pests, allergens, pesticide use and resident satisfaction in a large urban public housing authority. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[EPA will mandate tests on pesticide chemicals.](#)

Thursday, April 16, 2009

The Environmental Protection Agency for the first time will require pesticide manufacturers to test 67 chemicals contained in their products to determine whether they disrupt the endocrine system, which regulates animals' and humans' growth, metabolism and reproduction, the agency said yesterday. Washington Post.

[Beware of cosmetics, author says.](#)

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Many beauty products on the market claim to be pure, gentle, clean, natural and hypo-allergenic, but a new book reveals the results of laboratory analysis showing many contain harmful ingredients not listed on the labels. Montreal Gazette, Canada.

[I.Q. harmed by epilepsy drug in utero.](#)

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Pregnant women who took a popular epilepsy drug--also widely used to treat migraines, pain and psychiatric disorders--had children whose I.Q. scores were significantly lower than those whose mothers took a different antiseizure medication, a new study has found. New York Times.

[Diabetes 'impact on brain power.'](#)

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Failure to control type 2 diabetes may have a long-term impact on the brain, research has suggested. BBC.

[Local, state experts challenge published air-quality report.](#)

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Environmental experts now say data in the USA Today report on air quality around schools were misapplied and made unfair assumptions about possible student exposure to toxic chemicals. Reading Eagle, Pennsylvania.

[Is 'better safe than sorry' reason enough for law?](#)

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

A federal proposal to restrict a plastic additive called bisphenol A is focusing attention on a guiding concept known as the "precautionary principle." Morning Edition, NPR.

[How PCBs may alter in utero, neonatal brain development.](#)

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

In three new studies, UC Davis researchers provide compelling evidence of how low levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) alter the way brain cells develop. Science Daily.

[Study finds environmental education programs lead to cleaner air.](#)

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

A first-of-its-kind study funded by EPA shows that environmental education programs are an effective tool in helping to improve air quality in North America. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Australia union warns of nanotech health risks.](#)

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Advanced nano technologies, shrinking manufacturing to molecular level, could bring with them a human health catastrophe to rival past use of cancer-linked asbestos, Australia's top union group said on Tuesday. Reuters UK.

[Non-toxic paints gain popularity with painters and customers alike.](#)

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Spring often brings the urge to clean, perhaps to liven up a room with a fresh coat of paint. Now that can be done with eco-friendly paints that don't give off noxious odours. Canadian Press.

[Health Canada makes it official: BPA is health hazard.](#)

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Canada on Saturday will become the first country to formally declare bisphenol A hazardous to human health and officially inform the baby-product industry it will no longer be able to use the chemical in baby bottles. Canwest News Service, Canada.

[New UA lab researches medicines in water supply.](#)

Monday, April 13, 2009

A new laboratory at the University of Arizona is giving researchers a better understanding of an emerging concern to health officials -- traces of pharmaceutical drugs and other pollutants found in our water supply. Tucson Arizona Daily Star, Arizona.

[Autism risk higher near toxic waste sites.](#)

Monday, April 13, 2009

Autism rates among school children living within a 10- or 20-mile radius of toxic waste sites are nearly twice as likely to have autism compared to children living farther away from such sites. Environmental Health News.

[Werks digs up dirt on clean.](#)

Sunday, April 12, 2009

You don't know what's in that household cleaner underneath the sink -- but one local company does. And the work it does for the nation's largest retailers tracking chemical ingredients in thousands of items could push safer products onto store shelves across America. Albany Times Union, New York.

[Don't brew your own pesticides.](#)

Sunday, April 12, 2009

As the gardening season takes root, Health Canada is warning consumers to beware the perils of home-brewed pesticides. Edmonton Sun, Canada.

[States lead way on bisphenol A bans.](#)

Sunday, April 12, 2009

While the U.S. Food and Drug Administration struggles with assessing bisphenol A's safety, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan and Minnesota have proposed state laws banning BPA in products aimed at young children. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[Babies carry more BPA, scientists group agrees.](#)

Sunday, April 12, 2009

Scientists from industry, academia and government meeting in Germany last month to reassess concerns about bisphenol A agreed that newborns have between three and 11 times more BPA in their system than adults. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[Consortium rejects FDA claim of BPA's safety.](#)

Sunday, April 12, 2009

An international consortium of industry, academic and government scientists has rejected as incomplete and unreliable the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's case that a chemical found in food containers and other household products is safe. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[The ongoing presence of PCBs.](#)

Saturday, April 11, 2009

The discovery of PCBs at the Natick Paper Board Factory site raised alarms and served as a reminder of the persistence of the man-made chemical despite its having been banned from use in this country for 30 years. Natick Bulletin & Tab, Massachusetts.

[The Piven principle: you can eat too much fish.](#)

Saturday, April 11, 2009

It might sound like Jeremy Piven is telling a fish story, but medical researchers say it's possible that mercury can indeed pose a serious health threat to people who eat too much fish and seafood. Associated Press.

[Confronting the toxicants inside.](#)

Friday, April 10, 2009

Chlorine, mercury, lead and other heavy metals, hormones from drugs and pesticides and something called perchlorate, a chemical used in air bags, electronics, fertilizers and rocket fuel, are all now found in soil, groundwater, drinking water and irrigation water around the country. Gloucester Times, Massachusetts.

[2.5 million non-smoking New Yorkers suffer second-hand smoke toxins.](#)

Friday, April 10, 2009

A study conducted by the New York City Health Department revealed that 2.5 million (57 percent) of adult non-smoking

New Yorkers have elevated cotinine levels in their blood, as compared to 45 percent of non-smoking adults nationwide. Epoch Times.

[Report warns of problems with multivitamins.](#)

Friday, April 10, 2009

More than 30 percent of multivitamins tested recently by ConsumerLab.com contained significantly more or less of an ingredient than claimed, or were contaminated with lead, the company reports. Reuters.

[Health agency covered up lead harm.](#)

Friday, April 10, 2009

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention withheld evidence that contaminated tap water caused lead poisoning in kids. The results of thousands of blood tests that measured lead contamination in children were missing from a CDC report, potentially skewing the findings. Salon.

[Diet alters BPA's effects on mouse egg chromosomes.](#)

Thursday, April 09, 2009

A study with mice finds that diet can modify the harmful effects of bisphenol A. The findings shed light on perceived inconsistencies in BPA research results. Environmental Health News.

[Pollution link with birth weight.](#)

Thursday, April 09, 2009

Exposure to traffic pollution could affect the development of babies in the womb, US researchers have warned. They found the higher a mother's level of exposure in early and late pregnancy, the more likely it was that the baby would not grow properly. BBC.

[Purses, wallets have too much lead, environment group says.](#)

Wednesday, April 08, 2009

An Oakland environmental group on Tuesday warned nearly 20 major retailers and manufacturers that they're selling women's purses, wallets, tote bags and other accessories with lead levels exceeding state standards. Contra Costa Times, California.

[The Somali autism puzzle.](#)

Wednesday, April 08, 2009

Autism, which Somalis call the "western disease", has hit Somali immigrants' kids hard, and experts don't know why. While no data are available on prevalence, Somali parents in Canada are concerned enough to go public about what they say is a sleeping epidemic. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[Lead's dangerous legacy.](#)

Wednesday, April 08, 2009

Hundreds of homes are contaminated by poisonous lead paint in Cincinnati and the city's Health Department is not forcing property owners to fix the problems. Since 2002, more than 570 young Cincinnati children have been poisoned by lead. Cincinnati Enquirer, Ohio.

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 general children's environmental health: <http://www.partnersforchildren.org/bulletins.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 LDDI 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 Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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