



Office of Children's Health Protection

PROTECTING CHILDREN WHERE THEY LIVE, LEARN, AND PLAY



EPA Policy on Evaluating Health Risks to Children

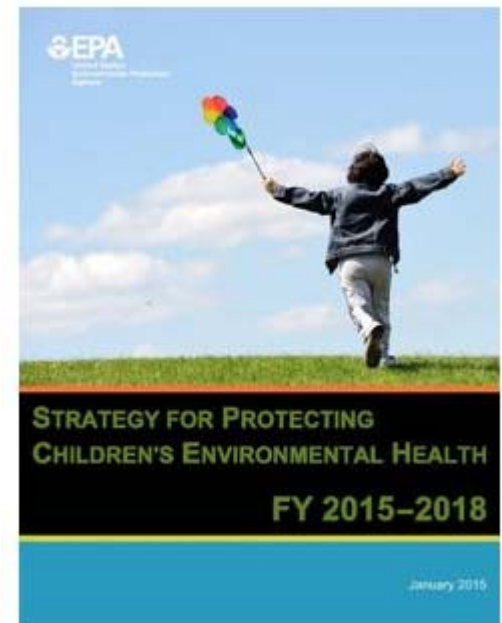


- November, 1995: EPA develops a policy for evaluating health risks to children
- It is the policy of the EPA to consider the risks to infants and children consistently and explicitly as a part of risk assessments generated during its decision making process, including the setting of standards to protect public health and the environment.
- October, 2013: Administrator McCarthy reaffirms policy

Federal Government Action

Protecting Children from Environmental Health Risks

- **April, 1997: President Clinton issues Executive Order 13045: Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks**
 - **Federal Agencies:**
 - a) Shall make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children; and
 - b) Shall ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health or safety risks.
 - **Establishes the President's Task Force**
- **May, 1997: Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) established**
- **January, 2015: EPA finalizes agency wide Strategy for Protecting Children's Environmental Health**



Office of Children's Health Protection

Existing Tools and Resources

- **Youth Curriculum: This program was designed to excite kids about environmental health and empower them to take steps in their everyday lives to improve the environment for their community and reduce their environmental risk.**

Lesson 1: Environmental Health 101

Lesson 2: Pesky Pests and Household Hazards

Lesson 3: Breathing Easy: Keeping the Inside of Our Homes Healthy and Clean

Lesson 4: Be Sun Smart

Lesson 5: Climate Change and You

Lesson 6: Keeping All of Our Waterways Clean

Lesson 7: Healthy Water Inside

Lesson 8: Sustainable Eating, Healthy Foods,
and Community Gardens

Lesson 9: All Together Now - Air, Water, Food,
and Shelter

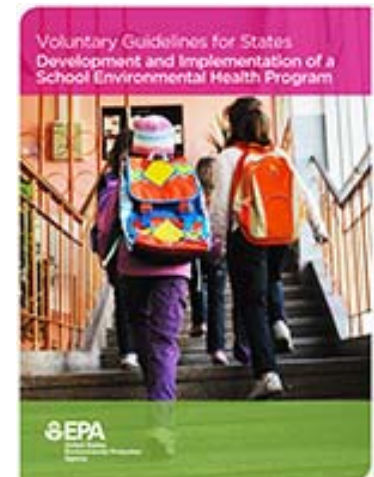


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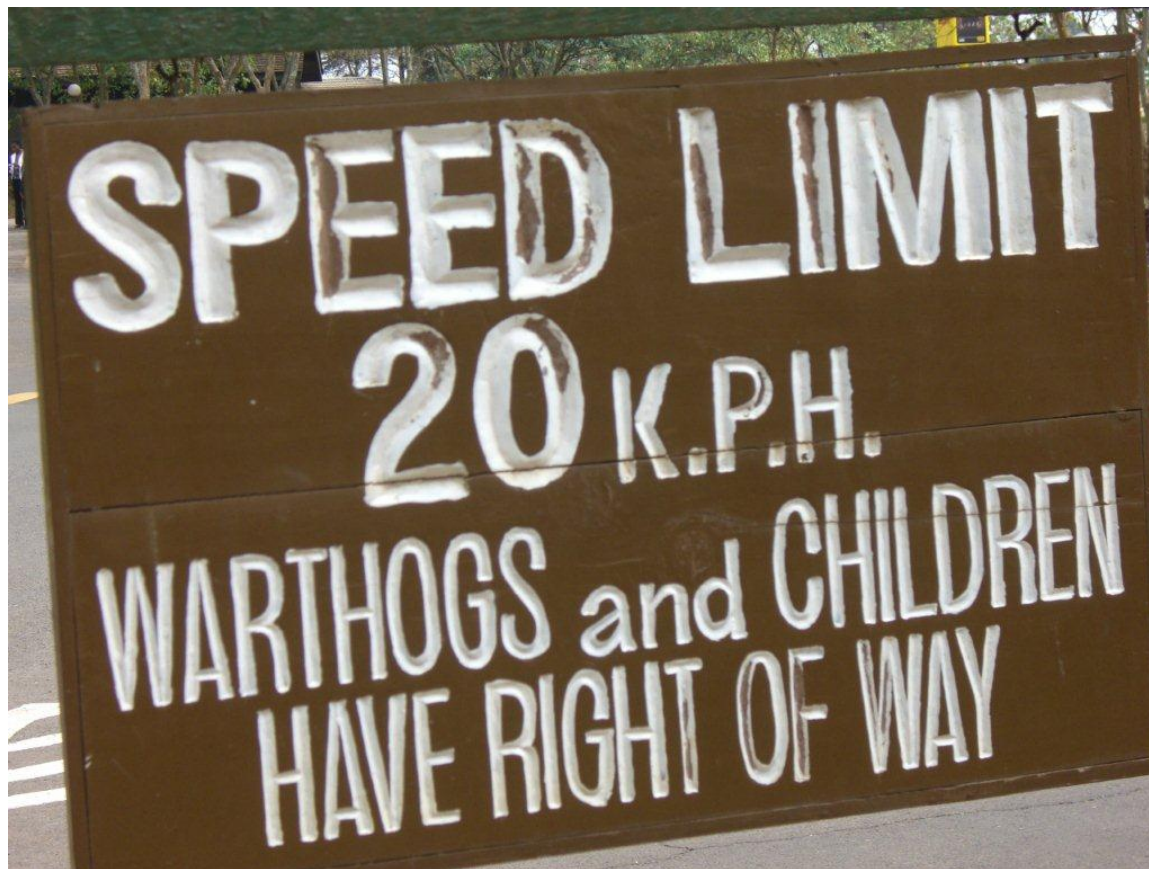
Existing Tools and Resources



- **School Siting Guidelines**
<http://www.epa.gov/schools/guidelinestools/ehguide/>
 - Can help local school districts (local education agencies or LEAs) and community members evaluate environmental factors to make the best possible school siting decisions.
- **State School Environmental Health Guidelines**
<http://www.epa.gov/schools/guidelinestools/siting/>
 - EPA's *Voluntary Guidelines for States: Development and Implementation of a School Environmental Health Program* will help states establish and sustain environmental health programs for K-12 schools.
- **Childcare Website**
<http://www2.epa.gov/childcare>
 - Training and Curriculum Resources
 - Checklists and Tools
 - Information for Providers about Specific Environmental Health Issues in Child-Care Settings

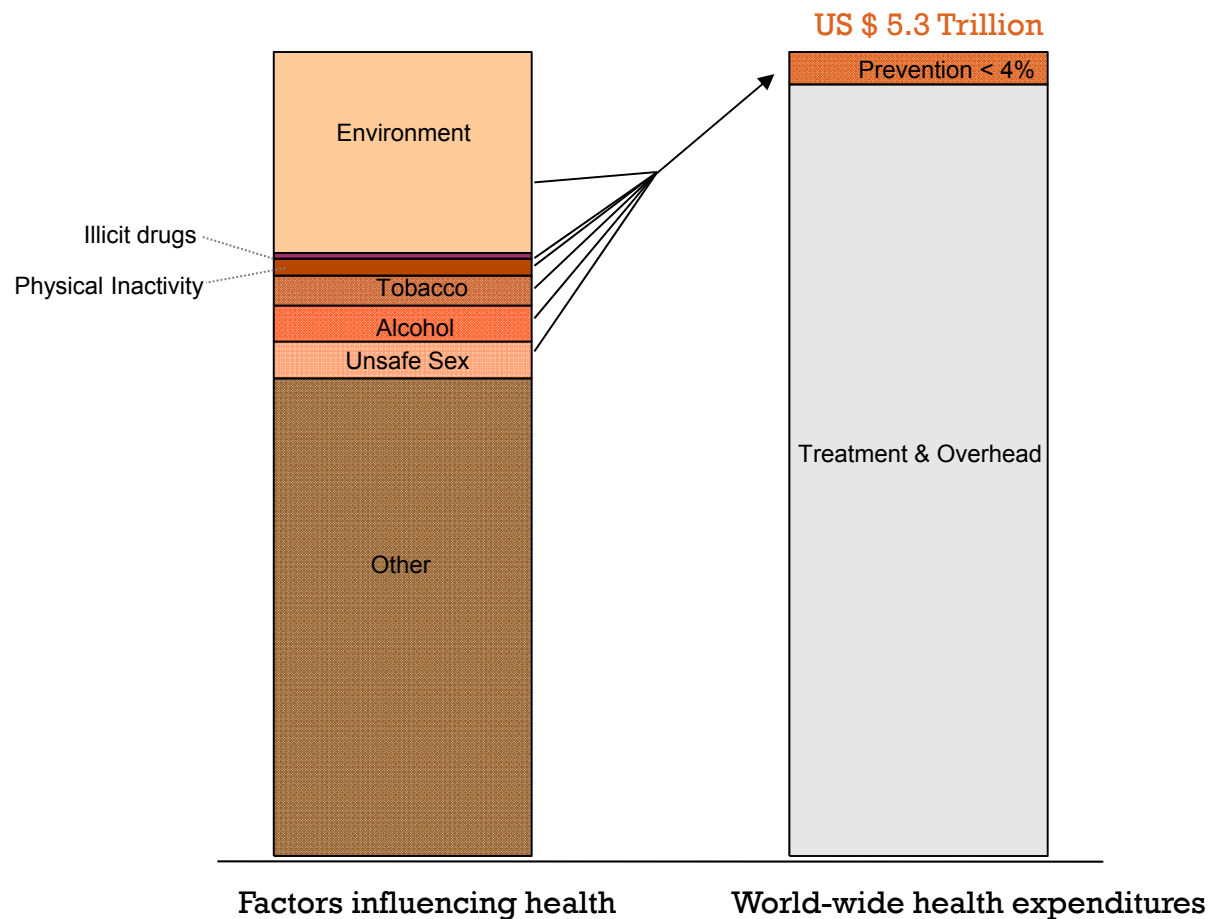


In children: up to 36% of disease could be prevented by modifying the environment



Health Determinants versus Spending

Only a very modest share of resources are allocated to prevention today. The good news is that returns on investment in prevention can be extremely high partly because it is so grossly under-resourced.



Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units

- **Funded by EPA and CDC/ATSDR**
- **PEHSU are academically based, typically at university medical centers, and are located across the United States, Canada and Mexico.**
- **PEHSUs improve environmental health for children by:**
 - educating health professionals and others about environmental health risks children face,
 - consulting with pediatric health care providers on how best to address known or suspected exposures to toxic hazards in the environment, and
 - responding with environmental health guidance, during natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires that impact children.

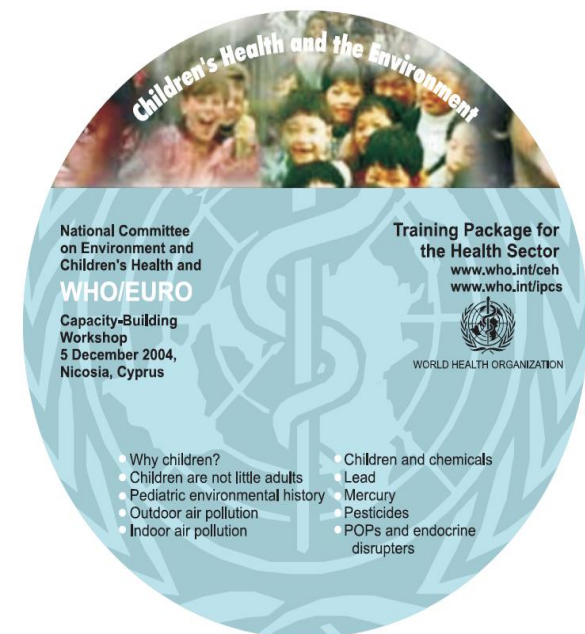
Over the course of 4 years (2010–2013), the North American PEHSU network delivered nearly 1500 presentations on topics from a general introduction to children's health and the environment to focused presentations on air pollution, asthma, lead poisoning, and mold. The programs reached nearly 210,000 participants.



World Health Organization

Training doctors: environment as a determinant of health...and disease

- **WHO Training Package on Children's Health and the Environment**
- **Integrated into medical school and nursing school curricula**
- **For pediatricians, family doctors, nurses**
- **New modules on reproductive health and environment**
- **Translated into several languages**
- **Future direction:**
Empowering doctors to teach parents and patients

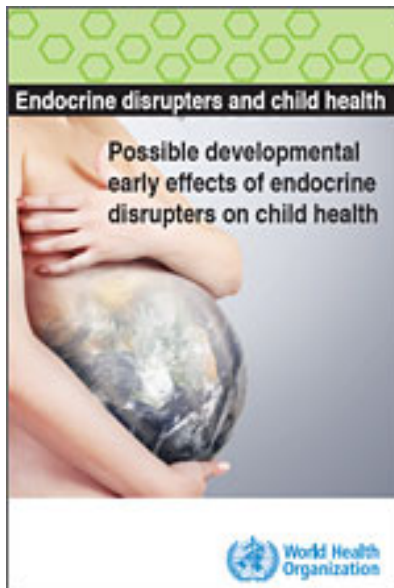
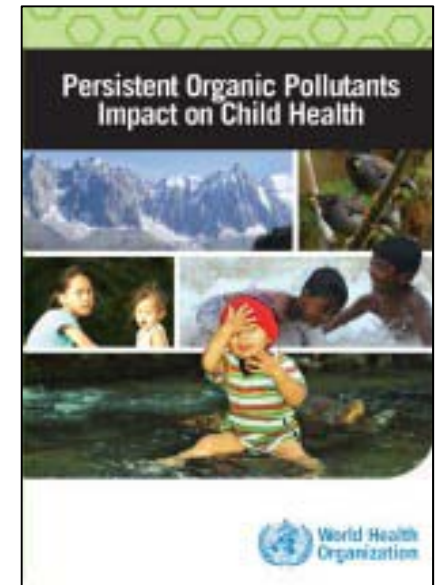


www.who.int/ceh

World Health Organization Publications

Endocrine Disrupting Compounds

- **Published in 2010 to inform and educate health professionals about persistent organic pollutants and their potential impact on child health and development.**
- **Emphasizes the critical importance of primary prevention.**



- **Published in 2012**
- **Focuses on congenital disorders, cryptorchidism and hypospadias, which have an endocrine connection, on thyroid hormone-related problems, and on puberty.**

President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

- Co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency with representatives from 17 federal departments and White House offices
- In 2010, the Obama Administration charged the Task Force with:
 - Identifying priority issues of environmental health and safety risks to children that are best addressed through interagency efforts
 - Developing strategies to protect children's environmental health and safety
 - Recommending and implementing interagency actions
 - Communicating information to federal, state, and local decision makers for use in protecting children from environmental health and safety risks
- A senior staff steering committee coordinates interagency cooperation on Task Force priority areas. Currently, these include:
 - Asthma disparities
 - Healthy homes
 - Chemical exposures
 - Climate change



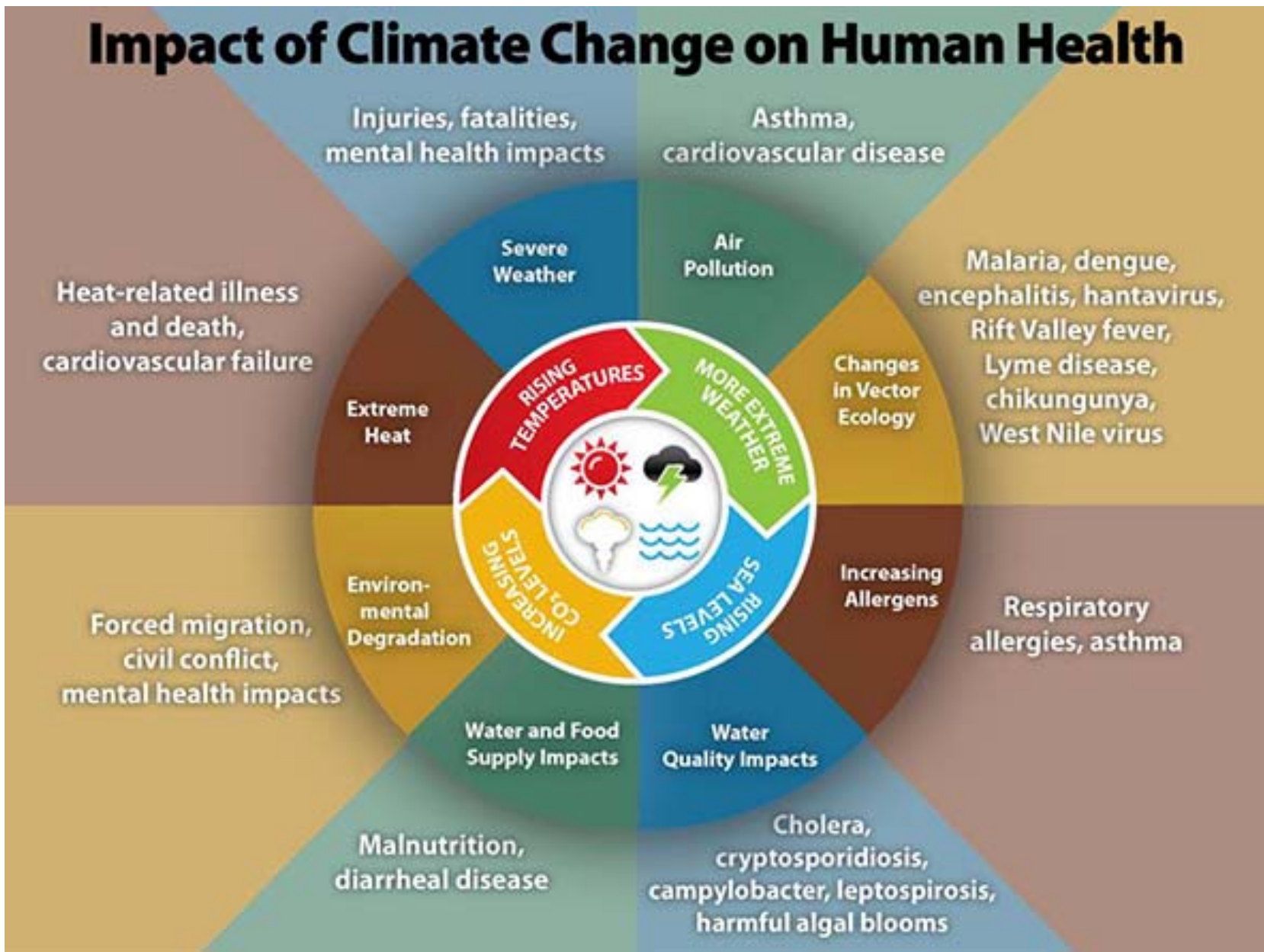
Interagency Coordination

Housing, Health and Asthma

- HUD, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Health and Human Services, have worked with local partners to hold a series of meetings
 - highlighting the value of residential interventions for pediatric asthma and to encourage the initiation of pilot programs that include reimbursement by health insurers
- **Regional Summits of Pediatric Home Asthma Interventions**
 - September 2014: Northwest Tribal Summit on Improving Asthma Outcomes in Children: Securing Sustainable Financing for In-Home Visits
 - Forty-one representatives of tribal, local, state, federal, nonprofit and academic entities in the environmental, health and housing sectors gathered to explore community-designed solutions for advancing the Summit's bold goal:

By 2020, we will reduce asthma urgent care visits for children ages 0–18 by 30 percent in tribal populations in the Northwest by funding and delivering high-quality in-home asthma care.





Source: CDC, *Climate Effects on Health*, 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/>

■ Input from CHE-WA

- How can OCHP help advance your efforts to protect children?

■ Questions

