

Children's Environmental Health International Initiatives

This is an international mailing list provided by [WHO](#) and [UNEP](#)
dedicated to promoting healthy environments for children

March 2010

Global Campaign to Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

WHO is calling for partners to embark on a global campaign to eliminate paediatric diseases related to lead

Lead is a recognized neurotoxicant during early life. Acute and chronic exposures (especially *in utero*) make children the most vulnerable population. Lead poisoning is entirely preventable.

The key steps to prevent childhood lead poisoning are:

1. **Follow-Through:** Complete the phasing-out of leaded gasoline in all countries;
2. **Phase-Out:** Eliminate all other non-essential uses of lead, among them leaded paint, leaded solder in canned food and drinks, lead in pottery, children's toys, traditional medicines and cosmetics, and in pipes and plumbing fixtures;
3. **Blood Level Measurement:** Establish blood lead levels of concern that are consistent with current science on low-level lead toxicity in children;
4. **Standards:** Set and enforce standards for lead in soil, dust, water, air, food and consumer products;
5. **Disposal:** Establish and implement programmes for the safe management of disposal of lead batteries and other electronic waste containing lead;
6. **Surveillance:** Extend the screening and

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Press Releases

[International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti](#)

United Nations member states and international partners pledged \$5.3 billion for the next 18 months to begin Haiti's path to long-term recovery from the January 12 earthquake. Over 150 countries and international organizations gathered at UN headquarters in New York in support of the people and Government of Haiti.
UN (31/03/2010)

[A Haiti fit for its children and young people](#)

Humanitarian organizations have stressed the importance of ensuring children, young people and their families are at the centre of all rebuilding efforts
UNICEF (30/03/2010)

[Time to Cure Global Tide of Sick Water](#)

Transforming wastewater from a major health and environmental hazard into a clean, safe and economically-attractive resource is emerging as a key challenge in the 21st century
UNEP (22/03/2010)

[Urgent actions needed to address arsenic threats in Bangladesh](#)

Urgent action is needed to address arsenic contamination of water and food in order to mitigate its impact on the health of millions of

monitoring of blood lead levels, especially in preschool children and pregnant women;

7. **Analysis:** Improve the analytical capability of laboratories in each region of the world and increase the analytical sensitivity of blood lead monitoring;
8. **Communication:** Exchanging information/raising awareness on the effects of lead on health and the sources of exposure.

All stakeholders – governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, scientists, health care providers, caretakers, community groups, private industry – have roles and responsibilities for the prevention and control of childhood lead poisoning.

To join us or for further information:
childrensenvhealth@who.int

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

[Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints](#)

March saw the release of the first newsletter, the website and the call for partners of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints. Joint publication of WHO and UNEP. [Please visit the website](#)

[UNFCCC publishes reports summing up results of 2009 UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen](#)

The UN Climate Change Secretariat publishes official report on the results of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. The report consists of two parts: one on formal proceedings and one on the decisions adopted by the relevant body. UNEP (31/03/2010)

[Capacity-Building Tool for the Responsible Use of Pesticides and their Containers](#) Available in Spanish online, PAHO (23/03/2010)

Bangladeshi people
UNICEF (22/03/2010)

[New Chemicals Recommended for Listing Under the Rotterdam Convention](#)

Two pesticides - endosulfan and azinphos methyl to be included in Rotterdam Convention's "Prior Informed Consent" procedure
UNEP (19/03/2010)

[Access to safe drinking water improving; sanitation needs greater efforts](#)

With 87% of the world's population or approximately 5.9 billion people using safe drinking-water sources, the world is on track to meet or even exceed the drinking-water target of the Millennium Development Goals but greater efforts are still necessary
WHO (15/03/2010)

[Fiji and Solomon Islands hit by two hurricanes: UNICEF ready to respond](#)

Two cyclones, Tomas and Ului, strike Fiji and Solomon Islands
UNICEF (15/03/2010)

[Climate change and POPs focus of new international study](#)

A major international study into the influence of climate change and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) on human health and the environment announced
UNEP (12/03/2010)

[UNICEF to provide support to nearly one million children affected by earthquake in Chile](#)

A second earthquakes hit Chile resulting in the destruction of some of the poorest areas of Chile, amongst the chaos are hungry and vulnerable children
UNICEF (11/03/2010)

[World Water Day 2010 Highlights Solutions and Calls for Action to Improve Water Quality Worldwide](#)

New report *Clearing the Waters: A Focus on Water Quality Solutions* released on World Water Day, discusses how investment in low-cost water technologies, such as drip irrigation and treadle pumps, could lift poor farming families out of extreme poverty

UNEP (22/03/2010)

[Towards an Arsenic Safe Environment in Bangladesh](#)

Report stresses the urgency of the problem of arsenic contamination of drinking water in Bangladesh, urging that more has to be done to provide safe drinking water to the people of Bangladesh. UNICEF (22/03/2010)

[Report for MDG Summit highlights successes and gaps for children and women in progress towards MDG achievements](#)

Report highlights the significant improvements and shortfalls in global efforts to meet millennium development goals and improve the lives of children and women around the world. UNICEF (16/03/2010)

[WHO releases new malaria guidelines for treatment and procurement of medicines](#)

WHO release new guidelines for the treatment of malaria, and the first ever guidance on procuring safe and efficacious anti-malarial medicines. WHO (9/03/2010)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Air Pollution

[Formaldehyde Exposure and Asthma in Children: A Systematic Review](#)

This review combined data from a series of published cross-sectional studies. The authors

[UNICEF airlifts emergency supplies for school children in Mongolia](#)

Supplies airlifted to assist nearly 4,000 school-age children in the hardest hit areas of the dzud winter emergency in Mongolia

UNICEF (2/03/2010)

In the Media

[Bad chemistry: The poison in the plastic that surrounds us](#)

The debate of the harmful effects and regulations on the use of BPA continues

The Independent (31/03/2010)

[Grieving Kettleman City mothers tackle a toxic waste dump](#)

Mothers who have either miscarried or given birth to a child with birth defects fight for justice against toxic waste dump

Los Angeles Times (31/03/2010)

[Folk 'cure' sold locally high in lead](#)

Traditional morning sickness remedy found to contain high levels of arsenic and lead

News Record (29/03/2010)

[Iraqi children's growth stunted by war](#)

Study shows that the conflict in Iraq may be damaging children's health by stunting growth of under-fives.

BBC (28/03/2010)

[Toxic Chinese jewellery continues to attract unwary consumers](#)

The sale of cheap 'toxic' jewellery imported from China puts consumers at risk in Vietnam

Vietnam Net (26/03/2010)

[Sickness Stalks Indian Farmers Using Chemical Banned in Europe](#)

Health concerns over the use of endosulfan, an insecticide banned in 60 countries, in southern India

Business Week (25/03/2010)

[Ban smoking in cars to save children, say doctors](#)

Royal College of Physicians call for urgent action after figures revealed passive smoking triggers 22,000 cases of asthma and wheezing in children

found a significant positive association between formaldehyde exposure and childhood asthma and recommend that additional epidemiologic studies need to be conducted. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

[Evolution of Particulate Matter and Associated Metal Levels in the Urban Area of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#)

This study investigated the particulate matter and metals in urban areas of Rio de Janeiro and found unusually high levels of Zinc.

Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology

Chemicals

[Cadmium Increases Human Fetal Germ Cell Apoptosis](#)

This study showed that exposure to cadmium at low concentrations, alters the survival of male and female germ cells in humans. These data indicate that the current environmental levels of cadmium could be deleterious to early gametogenesis. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

[Probabilistic Modeling of Dietary Arsenic Exposure and Dose and Evaluation with 2003—2004 NHANES Data](#)

This study investigated the role of dietary exposure from food to toxic inorganic arsenic in the general U.S. population. The results suggest that the US population may be exposed to total and inorganic arsenic more from eating some foods than from drinking water. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

[Association of Low-Dose Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants with Global DNA Hypomethylation in Healthy Koreans](#)

In light of the understanding that global DNA methylation levels are inversely associated with

every year

The Daily Mail (25/03/2010)

[Factory causing lead poisoning still not shut down](#)

The metal recycling company responsible for the lead contamination that caused the illness of 45 children still continues to operate

Global Times (25/03/2010)

[Higher birth-defect rate seen in Chernobyl area](#)

Study reveals the rates of certain birth defects are higher than normal in one of the Ukraine regions most affected by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster

Reuters Health (24/03/2010)

[Lead poisoning toll up to 45 with cases expected to rise](#)

The number of children diagnosed with lead poisoning in Central China's Hunan province has risen to 45 with more cases expected to arise.

China Daily (24/03/2010)

[BPA found beached and at sea](#) High levels of BPA found in beach sand and coastal seawater around the world, possibly leaching from the paint used in boats

Science News (23/03/2010)

[F.D.A. Asks Pediatricians to Stop Using a Diarrhea Vaccine for Now](#)

Pediatricians in the US to stop giving children a diarrhea vaccine until federal scientists can figure out why the product contains unnecessary pig virus

New York Times (23/03/2010)

[Air pollution sending children to hospital](#) New report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that air pollution accounts for at least 4 per cent of hospitalisations of babies and children

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (22/03/2010)

[FDA cracks down on tobacco marketing to youths](#)

FDA puts in new restrictions on sales of cigarettes to those under 18.

Los Angeles Times (18/03/2010)

blood levels of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), xenobiotics that accumulate in adipose tissue, this study investigated whether these associations extend to a population with much lower concentrations of POPs. The authors found that low-dose exposure to POPs, in particular organochlorine (OC) pesticides, was associated with global DNA hypomethylation in apparently healthy Koreans. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

[Association of Intrauterine and Early-Life Exposures with Diagnosis of Uterine Leiomyomata by 35 Years of Age in the Sister Study](#)

This article investigated the effects of early-life exposures to hormonally active compounds and other factors that may affect later response to estrogen or progesterone and hence may influence development of uterine leiomyomata (fibroids). *Environmental Health Perspectives*

[Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptor- \$\gamma\$ Mediates Bisphenol A Inhibition of FSH-Stimulated IGF-1, Aromatase, and Estradiol in Human Granulosa Cells](#)

This study investigated whether Bisphenol A (BPA), a potent endocrine disruptor used as a plasticizer, affected human ovarian granulosa cell function. Overall, the data demonstrate that BPA induces PPAR γ , which mediates down-regulation of FSH-stimulated IGF-1, SF-1, GATA4, aromatase, and E2 in human granulosa cells. These observations support a potential role of altered steroidogenesis and proliferation within the ovarian follicular compartment due to this endocrine disruptor. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

[Evaluation of Silver Nanoparticle Toxicity in Skin in Vivo and Keratinocytes in Vitro](#)

Products using the antimicrobial properties of

[END OF LIFE: India's Poor Recycle World's E-Waste Into Wealth](#) India's poor trying to salvage and reuse toxic e-waste in US dumping ground India West (18/03/2010)

[250 kids diagnosed with high lead levels](#) Hundreds of children with lead poisoning from the pollution of factories in Central China's Hunan province. China Daily (17/03/2010)

[CT scan use 'risk to children'](#) Warning from radiology expert about the risks of CT scans in children The Australian (16/03/2010)

[Study: Lead Poisoning Could Lurk in Spices](#) Lead found in Indian spices provide additional source of children's neurotoxin The Times (15/03/2010)

[Arsenic in apple juice: How much is too much?](#) Arsenic levels high in apple juice cause concern in the US St Petersburg Times (14/03/2010)

[Dramatic decline of male births in indigenous communities tied to industrial pollution](#) Skewed birth ratios in indigenous communities may be linked to exposure to PCBs and other persistent organic chemicals Indian Country Today (13/03/2010)

[3 Rulings Find No Link to Vaccines and Autism](#) Three separate cases ruled that thimerosal, a preservative containing mercury, does not cause autism The New York Times (12/03/2010)

[Childhood weight tied to endometriosis risk](#) Being thin in childhood increases a women's likelihood of developing endometriosis Reuters Health (12/03/2010)

[Fears over toxic sunscreen](#) Nanoparticles used in some sunscreens to make them transparent might

silver nanoparticles (Ag-nps) may be found in health and consumer products that routinely contact skin. This study was designed to assess the potential cytotoxicity of Ag-nps in human epidermal keratinocytes (HEKs) and their inflammatory and penetrating potential into porcine skin in vivo. This study provides a better understanding Ag-nps safety in vitro as well as in vivo and a basis for occupational and risk assessment. Ag-nps are nontoxic when dosed in washed Ag-nps solutions or carbon coated. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

[Environmental Levels of para-Nonylphenol Are Able to Affect Cytokine Secretion in Human Placenta](#)

This study investigated the effect of para-Nonylphenol (p-NP), a metabolite with estrogen-like activity widely used in the chemical industry and manufacturing, on cytokine secretion in human placenta. The effects of extremely low doses of p-NP on the placental release of cytokines raise considerable concerns about maternal exposure to this endocrine disruptor during pregnancy. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

Water And Sanitation

[Protection from annual flooding is correlated with increased cholera prevalence in Bangladesh: a zero-inflated regression analysis](#)

This study found that while protection from flooding in Bangladesh had no effect on whether a household experiences cholera where cholera is reported, protection from flooding increased the number of cholera cases. In summary, the construction of dams or other water impoundment strategies for economic or social motives can have profound and unanticipated consequences for waterborne disease. *Environmental Health*

also be toxic

The Age (12/03/2010)

['Eating for two' may harm baby](#) A study in pregnant mice found that diets which were high in fat or carbohydrates had an effect on almost 2,000 genes in the developing offspring
Times Online (9/03/2010)

[Low birth weight may affect adult lung health](#)
Middle-aged adults who were born at a relatively low weight may have more breathing difficulties than those who were bigger newborns
Reuters Health (8/03/2010)

[What's Best for Kids: Bottled Water or Fountains?](#)
Reports discusses the pros and cons of tap vs. bottled water
National Geographic (3/03/2010)

[50 Ugandan students feared dead in landslides](#)
Landslides engulf building containing school children leaving more than 50 pupils missing and among hundreds feared dead as avalanches of mud slammed into three villages
Los Angeles Times (3/03/2010)

[Secondhand smoke damages arteries in teens: study](#)
Children as young as 13 who have evidence of secondhand smoke in their blood also have visibly thicker arteries
Reuters (2/03/2010)

[Arsenic contaminated water threat to southern Punjab inhabitants](#)
Southern Punjab is under serious threat of high-level arsenic contamination in the drinking water causing cancer, still births, post-neonatal mortality and other diseases
The Nation (1/03/2010)

CONFERENCE DECLARATIONS

[Parma Declaration on Environment and Health](#)
Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health "Protecting children's health in a changing environment" Italy, 10 – 12 March 2010

Climate Change

[Global Climate Change and Infectious Diseases](#)

Article discusses how climate change will have enormous implications for human health, especially for the burden of vectorborne and waterborne infectious diseases

The New England Journal of Medicine

Reproductive Health

[Barrier Capacity of Human Placenta for Nanosized Materials](#)

This study suggests that nanomaterials have the potential for transplacental transfer and underscore the need for further nanotoxicologic studies. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

[Interaction between GSTM1/GSTT1 Polymorphism and Blood Mercury on Birth Weight](#)

This study suggests that the interactions of mercury (Hg) which is toxic to both the reproductive and nervous systems, interacts with GSTM1 and GSTT1 polymorphisms to play a role in reducing birth weight. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

General

[A qualitative analysis of environmental policy and children's health in Mexico](#)

This article reviews the health impact of industrialization and increasing population on environmental pollutant exposure in the children of Mexico. The authors identified and assessed the adequacy of existing international and Mexican governance instruments and policy tools to protect children from environmental hazards. *Environmental Health*

[Links to past issues and how to subscribe](#)

Have news for us?

If you would like to submit information to future HECANET issues, email us at heca@who.int with the subject line "INFORMATION FOR HECANET".

Collated and distributed with the cooperation of the [WHO Collaborating Centre for Children's Environmental Health, Perth, Australia](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

["Approaching complexities in environment and health"](#)

HENVINET workshop, 14 – 15 April 2010. Brussels, Belgium

[Global Health and Innovation Conference](#)

17 – 18 April 2010. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

[17th International Conference on Children's Health](#)

20 – 21 May 2010. Legnica, Poland
Email: fundacijakonferencja@wp.pl

[Third European IRPA Congress](#)

'Towards safer and effective use of radiation in pediatric healthcare' 14 – 18 June 2010, Helsinki, Finland

[4th International Conference on the History of Occupational and Environmental Health](#)

19 – 22 June 2010. University of California, San Francisco, USA

[Global Humanitarian Forum - Youth Forum 2010](#)

28 June – 1 July 2010. Geneva, Switzerland

[6th World Environmental Education Congress](#)

19 – 23 July 2011. Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

[Children First Symposium](#)

Promoting Ecological Health for the Whole Child
1st October 2010, University of California, San Francisco