

HECANET December 2004



A service provided for HECA by [UNEP](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

* To reflect activities in the next issue of HECANET send information to heca@nyo.unep.org

- (1) HECA Developments
- (2) WHO Regional Office for Europe - European Centre for Environment and Health – recent CEH publications
- (3) WHO Indoor Air Thematic Briefing
- (4) UNEP - Children's World Summit for the Environment
- (5) UNEP - International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment
- (6) International Society of Doctors for the Environment Latin America/Argentinean Society of Doctors for the Environment
- (7) OneWorld Water & Sanitation Guide - New Section
- (8) International Research and Information Network on Children's health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)
- (9) Unidad De Salud Medioambiental Pediátrica. Memoria De Actividades 2004. Pehsu-Valencia
- (10) 5th General Assembly of the German Network on Children's Health and Environment

ARTICLES

December started with a flurry of articles regarding the lasting impact that the world's worst industrial disaster, which occurred 20 years ago in Bhopal, on children's health and lives, and ended with the tragic stories of the enormous toll that the Asian Tsunami has had on the region's children, and their vulnerability to water-borne diseases in its aftermath. During the month, the media also covered a number of new studies, including on: air pollution in Asian cities; the susceptibility of fetuses to DNA damage caused by combustion-related pollutants; the long-term effects of air pollution on lung development in children; health of the Russian Inuit; the link between household cleaning products and asthma; the ability of autistic children to protect themselves from toxic metals; possible risks to unborn babies from shampoos and hand lotions; and a new US national study on the role environmental factors play in rising rates of childhood illness. There were also articles that dealt with the health effects of the mining industry on local communities (in Peru, Indonesia and the US). Also of note was the new policy statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics on the health hazards to children from ambient air pollution, and an article regarding the need for incorporating environmental health into pediatric medical and nursing education. Summaries of articles grouped under the following themes appear below, with links to their full texts:

- (1) AIR POLLUTION: (a) General (b) Indoor air pollution, (c) Outdoor air pollution
- (2) CHEMICALS: (a) General, (b) Lead, (c) Pesticides, (d) Mercury
- (3) WATER AND SANITATION
- (4) ASIAN TSUNAMI/QUAKE

(5) MISCELLANEOUS

Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) is a world-wide alliance to reduce environmental risks to children's health that arise from the settings where they live, learn, play, and sometimes work, by providing knowledge, increasing political will, mobilizing resources, and catalysing intense and urgent action.

HECANET is an international mailing list dedicated to promoting healthy environments for children. The list provides updates on the activities of the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) and its members, as well as an overview of media coverage of children's environmental health issues and relevant meetings, research findings and information and advocacy resources.

** [Past Issues](#)*
** [Subscribe](#)*

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

(1) HECA Developments

The Children's Health and Environment Programme of the WHO European Regional Office is re-launching a project on a collection of case studies, from Member States, on actions or interventions to improve children's health and environment. The project began in 2004 and an initial draft collection of case studies was launched at a side event at the Budapest conference last summer. In this regard, a Children's health and environment questionnaire (CHEQ) has been prepared. This questionnaire is directed to those organizations implementing actions to protect children from environmental risks, and may be a good opportunity for those interested in documenting local actions. Deadline for submission is 18 February 2005. More information is available on the [HECA web-site](#).

(2) WHO Regional Office for Europe - European Centre for Environment and Health - recent CEH publications

WHO/Europe: [How can injuries in children and older people be prevented?](#): A synthesis of the best available evidence, including a summary of the main findings and policy options for public health and health care decision-makers in the WHO European Region. Legislative, environmental modification and educational approaches all have a part to play in preventing or reducing childhood injuries, and their interactive effects are encouraging.

WHO/Europe: [Case studies summary book on children's health and environment](#) : A collection of 68 experiences on protecting children from environmental risk factors carried out in 21 countries of the WHO European Region.

WHO/Europe: [Report on Burden of disease attributable to selected environmental factors and injuries among Europe's children and adolescents](#): This major study, which first assessed the impact of the environment on child health in the European Region, shows that indoor and

outdoor air pollution, unsafe water conditions, lead exposure and injuries account for 30% of the total burden of disease in 0-19 year old children. It also estimates the number of lives (and disabilities) that could be saved by reducing the exposure of the child population to these hazards in the Region.

WHO/Europe and the European Environment Agency (EEA) launched '[Honoloko](#)', a game for 10 to 14 year-olds, at the at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Budapest. Set on a virtual island called Honoloko, this game is meant to raise children's awareness about health and environment issues by showing the impact of everyday choices on human health and the environment through visuals and scores. Honoloko is being produced in 26 languages, including in Russian, so that children all over Europe can enjoy and learn from it. A pre-release version is currently available in English, Russian and Hungarian.

WHO/Europe: [Kick off of European project on child safety action plans](#) WHO is a partner in this European project seeking to establish a framework and system facilitating countries in building up action plans that address child safety. The child safety action plans project is funded by the European Commission and coordinated by the NGO European Child Safety Alliance.

(3) WHO Indoor Air Thematic Briefing

WHO has just published its first Indoor Air Thematic Briefing. This new WHO series of 2-4 pagers aims to provide a broad readership with accessible facts and figures covering specific aspects of the indoor air pollution and household energy field. "[Indoor air pollution, household energy and the Millennium Development Goals](#)" is now available at online. A print-ready poster entitled "[Indoor smoke - breaking down respiratory defences](#)" can also be downloaded.

(4) UNEP - Children's World Summit for the Environment

UNEP and the Aichi Prefectural Government of Japan will host the first [Children's World Summit for the Environment](#) in Toyohashi and Toyota cities, Japan, from 26 to 29 July 2005. The Summit will bring together up to 1,000 children, aged 10 to 14 years, and adult chaperones to review the implications of environmental problems to their livelihood. The Summit will endeavour to increase children's understanding of environmental issues through the sharing of experiences and opinions and will provide an opportunity for them to collectively voice their concerns for the environment. It will also inspire them to initiate and implement community environmental projects and to remove ethnic barriers while creating new relationships that will last well beyond the Summit.

(5) UNEP - International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment

The majesty and misery of the world's cities will be at the heart of this year's [International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment](#), sponsored by UNEP, the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment and Bayer AG. The 2004-2005 competition will focus on the theme "Green Cities". It will, for the first time, have a global competition as well as regional competitions and will be organized in cooperation with partners in the regions. The competition is open to children between the age of 6 and 14 years around the world and all entries should reach the relevant UNEP regional offices before 31 January 2005. Paintings may be submitted as hard copies or through the [Tunza web-site](#)

(6) International Society of Doctors for the Environment Latin America/Argentinean Society of Doctors for the Environment

On December 15th AAMMA – ISDE.LA, World Health Organization Europe and Climate Action Network Europe (CAN EU) organized a panel on "Is climate change dangerous to human health?" at the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 10). The organizations outlined the importance of developing urgent and preventive actions to protect population, specially children and elders from the impacts caused by climate change. Dr Lilian Corra, representing ISDE lectured on "Children's health impact of Climate Change". AAMMA – ISDE.LA will soon publish a report of the event on its [website](#). A [description of the event](#) is available on the website of the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

(7) OneWorld Water & Sanitation Guide - New Section

The latest [OneWorld.net Water & Sanitation Guide](#) is available on-line. The aim of this Guide is to provide a broad introduction to the subject of Water and Sanitation in the developing world, suitable for a global audience of students, academics, journalists, civil society practitioners, and individuals interested in sustainable development. The Guide seeks to demonstrate how poverty is linked to inadequate provision of clean water and safe sanitation, and to illustrate issues relevant to attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in this sector. The Guide also points to resources supporting practical campaigning or deeper research interests in Water and Sanitation. The previous update on OneWorld Water & Sanitation online Guide was the [Health Section](#), which contains a page from the Rehydration Project on [Diarrhoea and How to Prevent it](#).

(8) International Research and Information Network on Children's health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)

[INCHES](#) is calling all its members to send fact-sheets about any item on children's environmental health. They could be in any language, ranging from lead poisoning, asthma, allergies, chemical, ventilation at school, etc. We are trying to build a very complete overview which we also share with the HECA network. Please [send an electronic version](#) or hard copy to the INCHES address: INCHES, P.O. Box 163, 6950 AD Dieren, the Netherlands.

Several INCHES members participated in the EU conference under Dutch presidency on December 1-3 in Egmond, the Netherlands, which was planned as follow-up to the European Health and Environment Ministers (Budapest, June 2004) and provided a forum to discuss the European Commission's proposed an 'Environment and Health Action Plan' for the years 2004 – 2010, which several NGOs and governments felt lacked details and "actions". The meeting was attended by several hundred participants representing national governments, EU commission and parliament, industrial and citizens' NGOs, and scientists. The core of the meeting was organized in 7 parallel workshops dealing with the topics: Environment and Health Indicators, Human Bio-monitoring, Research on E&H, Indoor Air, Communication with citizens, Training, education, and capacity building, and Transport and Health. NGO representatives, among them many from European ISDE or INCHES affiliates, actively contributed to the workshops and were successful in influencing the outcomes. The official outcomes were presented and discussed in a final session. The official outcome is expected to be available on CD ROM shortly.

There will be some possibilities in the coming weeks to comment on the next steps of the EU Action plan.

Workplan with WHO: In order to get an official relationship with WHO INCHEs provided a workplan that detailed the activities planned in cooperation with WHO, including the EU-funded project on developing training material on children's environmental health. It includes activities for HECA, where Peter van den Hazel is acting as co-chair of the steering committee. It also relates to cooperation in organising meetings on children's environmental health. The board of INCHEs hopes that the official relationship status will be obtained in spring 2005.

(9) Unidad De Salud Medioambiental Pediátrica. Memoria De Actividades 2004. Pehsu-Valencia

An update on the [Paediatric Environmental Health Speciality Unit Valencia](#), which is a [WHO Paediatric environmental health centre](#), can be found in Spanish on their web-site.

(10) 5th General Assembly of the German Network on Children's Health and Environment

5. Jahrestagung Netzwerk Kindergesundheit und Umwelt - 21-22 January 2005 in Bonn, Germany.

ARTICLES

(1) AIR POLLUTION: (a) General

[Study finds high air pollution levels in Asian cities](#) Estimates by WHO suggest that the impact of outdoor air pollution in Asian cities is substantial and warrants the attention of policy-makers. Each year urban air pollution contributes to approximately 800,000 deaths and 4.6 million lost life-years. Women and children face the maximum exposure to indoor air pollution. Aarti Dhar. [Hindu](#), India. 7 December 2004.

[India tops Asian air pollution charts](#) Rapid industrial growth and streets choked with cars put Asian cities among the worst in the world. "We tend to ignore the fact that air pollution is the second biggest cause of maternal and child mortality". India has a particularly serious problem in terms of indoor air pollution. Uttara Choudhury. [AFP](#), India. 7 December 2004.

(b) Indoor air pollution

[Low-grade coal a killer](#) Children growing up in squatter camps are damaged for life by exposure to carbon dioxide (CO²) and sulphur dioxide (SO²) when burning low-grade coal in the townships. This coal, bought by poor families. Elise Tempelhoff. [News 24](#), South Africa. 6 December 2004.

[So Are You Safe Inside? No Chance](#) Millions of families in the countryside heat their abodes and cook with open fires, using cheap fuels that belch carbon monoxide and other noxious fumes at levels up to 500 times international safety limits. Rural women and children often spend hours each day in poorly ventilated kitchens, breathing this putrid air. Bryan Walsh. [Time Asia](#). 13 December 2004.

(c) Outdoor air pollution

[Ambient Air Pollution: Health Hazards to Children](#) Children and infants are among the most susceptible to many of the air pollutants. This policy statement summarizes the recent literature linking ambient air pollution to adverse health outcomes in children and includes a perspective on the current regulatory process. American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement. Pediatrics. 6 December 2004.

[Pediatricians strengthen warning on air pollution's effects](#) The nation's leading group of pediatricians has strengthened its stand on the dangers that air pollution poses to children, and offers new recommendations on how to help solve the problem. There has been a lot of new scientific information about the health hazards related to air pollution. HealthDayNews. AZCentral.com 9 December 2004.

[Womb Pollution?](#) If you're pregnant and living in a city with unacceptable air quality, consider this: A study by Columbia University's Center for Children's Environmental Health demonstrates that developing fetuses are more susceptible to DNA damage caused by combustion-related pollutants than their mothers are, despite protection by the placenta. Katie Scaief. Emagazine. November/December 2004.

[Air Pollution Impairs Lung Development in Children](#) Mounting evidence suggests that exposure to air pollution has long-term effects on lung development in children; reductions in lung function have been observed in studies in Europe and the US. A NIEHS-supported research team performed an epidemiologic study on children in California. Jerry Phelps. Environmental Health Perspectives. December 2004.

[Asia: Choking on Growth](#) Rapid economic development has led to filthy air. It was Hui Ouyang's fear for her 7 year-old son's health that finally made her leave the pollution of Beijing. "An adult can endure it. But a child cannot." For years, the boy struggled with respiratory ailments that would worsen on days when the air was dark with smoke, dust and car exhaust. Bryan Walsh. Time Asia. 13 December 2004.

[Asthma rising among Delhi kids](#) Delhi's pollution levels may have gone down, but cases of asthma especially among children continue to be on the rise. One-fourth of the children in the pre-school age are recurrent wheezers. Pollution is still much above the critical level. Some of children may have had their first attack about 3 to 4 years back when the levels were high. Times of India. 18 December 2004.

[Hazards of haze](#) Tiny specks loom large as air-quality concern. On six days the air was deemed unhealthy for sensitive people, such as babies, the elderly and folks with chronic illness. The particles are invisibly tiny specks that, if inhaled, can travel deep in the lungs and work their way into the bloodstream. Edie Lau. Sacramento Bee, California. 13 December 2004.

[EPA Says 223 Counties Fail Air Standards](#) EPA says that 223 counties in 20 states don't meet new air quality health standards because of microscopic soot from diesel-burning trucks, power

plants and other sources. "The Bush administration frankly deserves a lump of coal for its failure to protect the health of our children from power plant pollution." John Heilprin. Associated Press. 17 December 2004.

Air quality rapped Canada's poor air quality is posing health risks including causing skyrocketing cases of asthma, says the head of the Canadian Medical Association. "We know that in Canada about 20 children and about 500 adults die each year from asthma alone, not to mention cardiac disease ... and they are tied to bad air days," Schumacher said. [Purchase required]. Sun Ottawa. 9 December 2004.

Driving Bans Loom in Europe for Unfiltered Diesels Drivers of diesel-powered cars without particle filters could face occasional bans in many European city centers next year under new EU air quality rules. The regulations seek to limit particulate matter that pollutes the air and has been linked to a series of health problems, especially in children, the elderly and sick. Sabine Siebold. Reuters. 3 December 2004.

Fuming over exhausts: DEP cracks down on poisonous diesel emissions from school buses State environmental officials are taking aim at pollution caused by school buses by invoking a seldom-enforced law that limits most vehicle idling to no more than five minutes. [Purchase required]. Daily News, Massachusetts. Jon Brodtkin. 7 December 2004.

(2) CHEMICALS: (a) General

Children Still Bear Bhopal Burden Crawling painfully, Shakira Ehsan moved to the door of her shanty, across from an abandoned pesticide plant. 2 years before she was born, it was the site of the world's worst industrial disaster. 20 years later, she is one of the thousands of child victims who have carried its toxic burden long past their childhoods. Nirmala George. Associated Press. 3 December 2004.

Bhopal disaster remembered "For the last 20 years, I've been visiting the hospital and government offices, begging for compensation to take care of my two children," said Leelaben Aherwar, whose baby girl survived but began showing signs of mental and physical retardation soon after. Her son, born a few years later, suffers from similar problems. Nirmala George. Associated Press. 3 December 2004

The Bhopal generation: young, bitter and politicised The suffering after the world's worst industrial disaster continues among the young. The disaster seemed to have a predilection for children. Those under ten died in the greatest number and hundreds of pregnant women miscarried spontaneously. Like Shoaib, those who survived have been marked indelibly. Raekha Prasad. Times, London. 3 December 2004.

Bhopal's poisonous legacy Since the Bhopal disaster, we've learned that we all carry the chemical industry's toxic products in our bodies. Every man, woman, and child on the planet has a body burden of chemicals that are linked to cancer, birth defects, asthma, learning disabilities, and other diseases. Gary Cohen. Boston Globe. 2 December 2004.

[City of poison](#) Bhopal residents limp through toxic sludge 20 years after Union Carbide chemical leak. A generation beyond history's deadliest industrial disaster, slum dwellers continue to steep in the toxins of Union Carbide, the U.S. company now owned by Dow Chemical. They course through their water, soil, breast milk and bloodstreams. Mike McPhate. San Francisco Chronicle. 5 December 2004.

[Bhopal Accident Marks 20th Anniversary](#) Union Carbide claims that 3,800 people were killed, while Indian officials say up to 15,000 may have died. Indian officials estimate that nearly 600,000 more have become ill or had babies born with congenital defects over the last 20 years. A. G. Som. Associated Press. 2 December 2004.

[European Parliament asks India to decontaminate Bhopal site](#) The European Parliament has asked the Indian government to clean up the continuing effects of the poisonous gas leak that killed thousands in Bhopal 20 years ago. The parliamentary resolution said the chemicals left behind "continue to poison the water supply, causing cancer and birth defects". Indo-Asian News Service. 17 December 2004.

[Toxic wildlife threatens health of Russian Inuit](#) The report, '[Persistent Toxic Substances, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North](#)' shows Russia's Arctic regions are heavily toxic and high levels of POPs threaten human health. "Children are affected in the most critical points of their development - as a fetus and while breastfeeding." Jane George. Nanatsiaq News, Nunavut. 3 December 2004.

[Industry 'denies chemical risks'](#) Children are especially vulnerable. Clear scientific evidence linking some substances with childhood illnesses is being rejected by the European chemical industry, a senior WHO official says. Alex Kirby. BBC. 2 December 2004. News website environment correspondent

[Exposure study of household chemicals and kids](#) U.S. EPA has put on hold a research project designed to define children's exposure pathways to relatively ubiquitous household chemicals, such as phthalates, brominated flame retardants, and perfluorinated compounds. Catherine M. Cooney. Environmental Science and Technology. 8 December 2004.

[EU project looks into effects of neurotoxicants](#). With the number of children suffering from learning and behavioural disorders seemingly on the increase, scientists fear that exposure of new born or unborn children to neurotoxicants (chemicals in the environment that can damage the nervous system) are responsible. Cordis News Service. 12 December 2004.

[Are household chemicals connected to the rise in asthma?](#) Frequent use of household cleaning products and other chemicals could be linked to asthma among Britain's children. A study of respiratory health among young children has shown a clear connection between breathing problems and mothers' use of such products. Press Release. Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children. 23 December 2004.

[Cleaning products 'wheezing link'](#) Exposure to cleaning products while in the womb could be linked to persistent wheezing in young children, University of Bristol research suggests. There is

gathering evidence that environmental exposures early in life, including in the womb, may influence the development of asthma. [BBC](#). 23 December 2004.

[Asthma in kids linked to household cleaning products and chemicals](#) Researchers from Bristol University have indicated that household chemicals such as bleach, paint stripper, carpet cleaners are causing childhood asthma and wheezing. Researchers followed 14,000 kids from birth. [Medical News Today](#). 23 December 2004.

[Household chemical products linked to child asthma: study](#) Ordinary household products like bleach, carpet cleaners and paint strippers can cause asthma in children. A study which followed more than 7,000 children since birth found that wheezing and asthma were linked to the cleaning products and other chemicals found in the home. AFP. [Yahoo! Health](#). 23 December 2004.

[Household Products May be Linked to Asthma](#) University of Bristol researchers indicate exposure to common household cleaning products such as bleach, paint stripper and carpet cleaners may cause wheezing problems in children. Children may be twice as likely to suffer from asthma if they live in a home where these products are used than if they do not. D.R. Boyer. [Elites TV](#). 23 December 2004.

[Cleaning products and asthma: there are facts to be considered](#) A link between young children being exposed to some cleaning products and developing asthma in later life has been suggested by researchers.

The experts looked into families' use of cleaning products such as bleach, paint stripper and carpet cleaner. [News from Russia](#). 23 December 2004.

[Household Chemicals 'Linked to Asthma'](#) Information involving 7,019 families from the Children Of The 90s project was used to investigate respiratory health among young children. Researchers asked pregnant women to report how often they used a list of chemical-based products. Press Association. [icTeesside.com](#). 23 December 2004.

[Household chemicals in direct link to asthma rise](#) Household chemicals, including bleach, disinfectant and cleaning fluid, have been blamed for the huge surge in childhood asthma in Britain. Incidence of the disease has tripled since the 1970s. Britain has one of the highest rates of wheezing children in the world. Nigel Hawkes. [Times](#), London. 23 December 2004.

[When Water Can Be Bad for Kids](#) Adults can tolerate perchlorate-contaminated water, but too much might hurt fetuses and the young. Exactly how much is too much may soon be known. If ingested in high-enough amounts, perchlorate blocks iodide uptake into the thyroid gland, an essential function that aids the development of fetuses, newborns, and children. Burt Helm. [Business Week](#). 15 December 2004.

[Kids: Chemical danger in plastic bottles](#) Plastic feeding bottles for babies present a hidden danger. Studies show that new and old plastic baby milk bottles and feeding teats could adversely affect a child's reproductive system. When plastic is heated, or damaged, a chemical called bisphenol A leaches from it. [Purchase required]. Sarah Sabaratnam. [New Strait Times](#), Malaysia. 28 December 2004.

[Jadugoda mines pose health risks](#) In all his 18 years, Duniya Oram has never been able to walk. His sister, Aloukik, suffers the same fate. Their neighbour in Jadugoda's Ichara village, Manu Rajak, can ride a tricycle, but little else. According to their families, they are all victims of Jadugoda's uranium mines. Monideepa Banerjee. NDTV, India. 3 December 2004.

[My Turn: A word of warning about gold mining](#) A word of caution to Juneau as it considers the Kensington gold mine. Our children have some of the highest lead levels in the country. Entire neighborhoods and towns have been deemed unsafe for habitation, and families have been faced with the choice of moving away or accepting the health risks. Barbara Miller. Juneau Empire, Alaska. 2 December 2004.

[Illness linked to area ZIP codes](#) SUNY Albany professor's study maps health risks and pollutants. In 2000, he published a study that said children in ZIP code areas with persistent organic pollutant waste sites had a 30% greater chance of being hospitalized for five infectious diseases. Corydon Ireland. Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, New York. 9 December 2004.

[Study: Autistic children struggle to protect selves from toxic metals](#) Some autistic children have a weakened ability to protect themselves from toxic metals in their bodies. Such children have a severe deficiency of glutathione, the body's most important tool for detoxifying and excreting heavy metals such as mercury and lead. Sandy Kleffman. Contra Costa Times, California. 13 December 2004.

[Shampoo 'risk' to unborn babies](#) Unborn children may be at risk from the shampoos and hand lotions used by their pregnant mothers, it was claimed yesterday. James Meikle. The Guardian, London. 6 December 2004.

[Shampoo 'risk to unborn babies'](#) A chemical found in shampoo and hand lotions may damage the developing nervous system. A US study found methylisothiazolinone can affect the growth of parts of developing nerve cells which help them communicate with their neighbours. Researchers are concerned about the potential effect on human fetuses. BBC. 6 December 2004.

[Shampoos with Methylisothiazoline May Pose Risk for Unborn Babies](#) Scientists at The University of Pittsburgh have indicated that some unborn babies could be at risk from shampoos and hand lotions containing Methylisothiazoline if their mothers use them during pregnancy. Medical News Today. 6 December 2004.

[Shampoo Preservative Concerns](#) New research is raising concerns about the safety of a preservative that is commonly found in shampoos and other commercially available cosmetics. The biggest potential concern is for the fetuses of pregnant women exposed to high doses of MIT on the job. The agent is widely used in industrial settings. Salynn Boyles. WebMD/CBS News. 6 December 2004.

[Does shampoo pose risk to pregnant women?](#) Experts contest claim that cosmetic preservative could harm fetuses. Doubt has been cast on the safety of a chemical that is widely used in

shampoos, hand creams and other cosmetics. [Subscription required]. Mark Peplow. Nature. 3 December 2004.

[DuPont, EPA Spar Over Chemical in Teflon](#) Disputing the government's charges, DuPont contended it was not legally obligated to share information about the potential harm from a chemical used to make Teflon. EPA says DuPont failed to provide a document confirming there was a nostril and eye birth defect in a 4-month-old child. John Heilprin. Associated Press. 16 December 2004.

[FDA tests Md. milk, finds chemical from explosives](#) Perchlorate can cause mental retardation and lower IQs in children and attack the thyroid glands, hurting their ability to make hormones necessary for growth and development, according to the organization. Tom Pelton. Baltimore Sun. 1 December 2004.

[Toxic chemical found in U.S. food samples](#) A U.S. FDA study shows a toxic chemical found in nature and used in rocket fuel has come up in tests on lettuce and milk samples. The Environmental Working group said perchlorate, which can cause thyroid problems and birth defects, was found in 217 of 232 samples of lettuce and milk in 15 states. UPI. Pittsburgh Tribune Review. 1 December 2004.

[Environment group slams Ottawa for allowing use of chemical in farmed salmon](#) Carpenter doesn't want to overstate the risk for the general population, but said women who are pregnant or trying to conceive should avoid it. It's just another example of chemicals in our food that we don't know much about. Amy Carmichael. Canadian Press. 12 December 2004.

[Romney urged to ban chemicals](#) The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, a coalition of 140 groups, called on Gov. Mitt Romney Monday to issue an executive order requiring the substitution of certain chemicals found in "hundreds" of toys, cleaning products, and pesticides. Newton Tab, Boston. 22 December 2004.

(b) Lead

[Again, Gov't Pushes Back Phaseout of Leaded Gas](#) The Government is unable to fulfill its promise of eliminating leaded gasoline by early 2005. According to UNEP, Jakarta is the world's third most polluted megacity. High lead content in human blood, particularly children, can cause anaemia, lower intelligence, autism and irreversible damage to the kidney and liver. Richel Dursin. IPS. 30 December 2004.

[Maryland Firm Gets Extension for Toxic Cleanup in Peru](#). Doe Run would focus on reducing lead poisoning. According to an independent study, nearly all of La Oroya's 18,000 children have high levels of lead. A program with the Peruvian health ministry teaches children to wash their hands to reduce lead they might pick up. Sara Shipley/Peter Shinkle. St. Louis Post-Dispatch. 8 December 2004.

[Program aims to end child lead poisoning](#) The city is starting a prevention program with the goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in 10 years. Mayor Campbell announced an awareness

and prevention campaign. In 2003, 2,240 Cleveland children under 6 tested positive for lead, nearly double the national average and at the top of poisonings among major cities. [Beacon Journal](#), Ohio. 23 December 2004.

[Agencies aim to wipe out lead poisoning](#) Public and private agencies are joining forces to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in 10 years. With Cleveland's childhood lead poisoning rates among the highest in the country, partners will work to raise awareness about the dangers of lead and ways to prevent poisoning. Regina McEnery. [Plain Dealer](#), Ohio. 22 December 2004.

[State aims to cut lead poisoning in children](#) On the east side of Detroit, in one of the most lead-sickened neighborhoods of the city, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed new laws Tuesday aimed at protecting children and their families from lead poisoning. Marsha Low. [Detroit Free Press](#). 22 December 2004.

[Granholm signs bills intended to protect children against lead poisoning](#) Landlords could face jail time and a hefty fine for leasing a house or apartment they know has lead-based paint under new legislation. "Families need to know if they are exposing their children to lead poison, because it is 100 percent incurable but 100 percent preventable". Amy F. Bailey. Associated Press. 21 December 2004.

[Seattle schools ahead on lead](#) In adopting a new water-quality policy this week, Seattle Public Schools put itself in the forefront of a growing movement to reduce children's exposure to lead and other potential health hazards in school drinking water. Sanjay Bhatt. [Seattle Times](#). 3 December 2004.

[Seattle School Board approves new drinking water standards](#) The Seattle School Board has approved spending up to \$15 million to ensure the district has some of the cleanest school drinking water in the nation, after contamination was found in many fountains. Associated Press. [U.S. Water News Online](#). December 2004

[Government recalls children's necklaces](#) The government announced the recall of children's necklaces because they contain high levels of lead. The government bans children's products from containing high levels of lead due to the risk of lead poisoning. Associated Press. [ABC News](#). 17 December 2004.

[Feds recall kids' lead-tainted jewelry](#) As part of an ongoing investigation of lead in children's jewelry, the federal government Friday recalled about 155,000 children's necklaces because they contain high levels of the toxic heavy metal. Stephanie Zimmermann. [Chicago Sun Times](#). 18 December 2004.

[Latest Study Finds Lead in Jewelry Made for Teens](#) A new study shows that a significant amount of jewelry marketed to teenagers has a high lead content. The study follows last summer's report that vending machine jewelry marketed toward young children had high lead levels. Joseph Shapiro. [NPR All Things Considered](#). 16 December 2004.

[Some kids' jewelry may cause poisoning](#) Some jewelry your kids get from the nation's largest retailers could cause brain damage and even wipe points from their IQ, researchers have found. Andrew Shain. [Knight Ridder](#). 12 December 2004.

[Targeted Grants to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning; Notice of Funds Availability](#) EPA is soliciting grant proposals from eligible entities to conduct activities to reduce incidences of childhood lead poisoning in vulnerable populations. Notice. [US/Environment Protection Agency](#). 1 December 2004.

[State lead-paint list contains just 88 properties](#) A state registry promoting rental properties safe from lead paint lists just 88 such locations, nearly three years after the program started. Lead poisoning has been associated with many health problems, including learning disabilities. [Associated Press](#). 2 December 2004.

[Christmas Lights Come With Warning About Lead](#) The label read, "Handling these coated electric wires in this product exposes you to lead, a chemical known in California to cause cancer, birth defects or harm. Wash hands after use." [News Channel 5](#), Cleveland. 8 December 2004.

(c) Pesticides

[Unsafe pesticides are sold freely in India](#) Endosulfan causes foetal disorders. All cause learning disabilities and diminished mental capacity in children. Very few new and improved pesticides are being registered-we are making do with old ones with no clue as to the maximum residue limits. 99% pesticide poisoning deaths each year are in developing countries. View. [Times of India](#). 23 December 2004.

[U.S. Rethinks Human Studies on Pesticides](#) Human studies involving pesticides are making a comeback in the US, despite intense criticism from public interest groups. Children are especially vulnerable to because they absorb more of the substances relative to body weight than adults, and have developing organs that are less able to break down toxic chemicals. Katherine Stapp. [IPS](#). 21 December 2004.

[Study finds illegal pesticide levels in fruit and vegetables](#) Fresh fruit and vegetables have been found to illegally contain up to three-and-a-half times the level of pesticides deemed safe for children, according to a new study. [Purchase required]. Danielle Demetriou. [Independent](#), London. 6 December 2004.

[Dow Chemical Is Told to Curtail Pesticide Sales](#) US/EPA told Dow Chemical Co. it can no longer sell a controversial pesticide used to protect new homes from termites. Some recent studies have linked Dursban to neurological and developmental damage in animals and young children, but Dow officials say these experiments are flawed. Juliet Eilperin. [Washington Post](#). 29 December 2004.

[Are pesticides threatening the health of tribal lands?](#) Pesticides have generated many worries throughout Indian country. What special concerns relate to pregnant women and children? Educational initiatives deal with topics relevant to maternal and child health, basic

pesticide safety and health practices. Tribal Medicine Program. Native Education and Health Initiative. 28 December 2004.

Focus now on compensation for victims Aerial spraying of a pesticide by the Plantation Corporation, Kerala in its cashew plantations was reported to have caused serious illness among the people living around the estates. The people had complained of health problems such as cerebral palsy, mental and physical retardation and congenital abnormalities. K.P. Pushparaj. Hindu, India. 9 December 2004.

Farmers continue using chemical slated for phaseout Methyl bromide was slated for a worldwide ban in 2005 under the Montreal Protocol. "We worked sometimes close to schools, and I think that if it hurt me like this, it'll hurt the children," he said, thinking of his own kids, who live near fields of lettuce and strawberries. "Why are they allowing this?" Juliana Barbassa. Associated Press. 7 December 2004.

(d) Mercury

Some Kids May Have Autism Risk From Mercury Some children may have an inherited weakness that may predispose them to develop autism when exposed to mercury from fish or other sources. When compared to normal children, autistic children showed a significant impairment in every 1 of 5 measurements of the body's ability to maintain a glutathione defense. Maggie Fox. Reuters. 14 December 2004.

Gene flaw may link autism, vaccine additive A study offers support to the theory that a vaccine preservative called thimerosal may contribute to the cause of autism. It has found a genetic flaw that may explain why autistic children may not be able to excrete mercury and other heavy metals. Bob Miller. Southeast Missourian. 13 December 2004.

Mercury admission Newmont Mining Co. admitted Wednesday that it had released 17 tons of mercury into the air in less than five years in Indonesia but insisted the emissions had no health impact on area villagers. But, "Everybody breathes it - pregnant women, children, infants, people with health problems," NRDC commented. Jeff Smith, Rocky Mountain News, Denver. 23 December 23, 2004

Indonesia to prosecute U.S. firm Newmont A government commissioned probe concluded last month that sediment in the waters of Buyat Bay, off Indonesia's Sulawesi Island near the gold mining operation, contained significant levels of arsenic and mercury. Residents of villages near the bay began complaining of tumors, skin lumps and blotches, migraines and pregnancy complications. UPI. 8 December 2004.

Fighting back At mines in Peru and Indonesia, Denver-based gold company Newmont faced bitter, sustained opposition. Photo 18: A medical student examines the stomach of Jahra Paparo in Buyat Bay. Paparo has two lumps in the body, and three of her grandchildren have strange symptoms such as lumps, dizziness, and skin disease. Michael Riley/Greg Griffin. Denver Post. 13 December 2004.

[Toughest limits on mercury left out, activists say](#) EPA is not even considering the strictest possible curbs on mercury pollution as it finishes drafting new pollution regulations, according to advocates. EPA is considering strategies for reducing mercury pollution, which can cause brain damage in fetuses, for example, when women eat tainted fish. Bart Jansen. Portland Press Herald. 2 December 2004.

[Alerting everyone about mercury](#) Posting warnings in multiple languages is a simple, inexpensive step that can protect many more Californians from mercury poisoning. Methylmercury, the form of mercury found in fish, is a potent neurotoxin that can irreversibly damage the nervous system of developing fetuses and young children. Andy Peri/Torm Nompraseurt. San Francisco Chronicle. 23 December 2004.

[I-Team Mercury Rising: Part II](#) Mercury Damaging Wisconsin's Brains, Fertility. In adults, mercury can damage the brain, nervous system, fertility and organs. In developing fetuses, the neurotoxin is even more dangerous. Yet the EPA says every year more than 600,000 babies are born at risk for a host of problems. Channel3000, Wisconsin.

(3) WATER AND SANITATION

[A Thirsty World](#) Water buckets and chlorine tablets are among the most needed sundries for South Asian relief workers seeking to quell a shortage of clean drinking water greatly magnified by last week's colossal tsunami disaster. The disaster highlights the plight of more than 1 billion people worldwide who currently lack access to clean drinking water. Editorial. Los Angeles Times. 30 December 2004.

[Finally, the world's drinking glass is more than half full](#) More than half the globe's people have drinking water piped into their homes, according to WHO and UNICEF. Such progress, along with the spread of sanitation systems, has reduced hygiene-related illnesses, pushed students into school, and begun to break the cycle of urban poverty. Jeffrey MacDonald. Christian Science Monitor. 30 December 2004.

[300 million Chinese drinking harmful water because of pollution: official](#) Some 300 million people are drinking unsafe or harmful water because more than 70% of China's rivers and lakes are polluted. The government has set the lofty goal of providing safe drinking water to every rural family by 2020, although it has yet to work out how it will do so. AFP. Terra Daily. 22 December 2004.

[The Elton John of Mozambique believes in the power of water](#) We use our music to raise awareness about sanitation, water, hygiene and HIV Aids. One song called "Wash your hands" underscores the importance of clean water, good sanitation and hygiene as central to economic development. [Purchase required]. Basildon Peta. The Independent, London. 22 December 2004

[How safe is the water?](#) While rated highly, US water shows traces of detergents and even drugs. A scare rippled through Washington, D.C., earlier this year when residents learned their drinking water contained lead, a metal linked to lower IQs in children and other maladies. The lead had

leached into the water from aging pipes and fixtures. Lori Valigra. Christian Science Monitor. 30 December 2004.

Proposed policy change would weaken sewage treatment "If this policy is finalized, more Americans will get sick from waterborne diseases, which are life threatening for small children, the elderly, cancer patients, and others who are already weakened by illness." Joan Lowy. Scripps Howard News Service. 1 December 01, 2004.

(4) ASIAN TSUNAMI/QUAKE

The lost generation Up to half the 60,000 victims of the tsunami are children, says UN. Tens of thousands more are orphaned, and face threat of disease. Waterborne diseases such as typhoid and cholera, as well as malaria, would take their toll on the youngest and weakest survivors. [Registration required]. Justin Huggler/Andrew Buncombe. The Independent, London. 29 December 2004.

Nations mourn thousands of children lost Children are the biggest victims of the quake-born tidal waves. UNICEF estimates at least one-third of the tens of thousands who died were children. Our major concern is that the kids who survived now survive the aftermath. Children are the most vulnerable to disease and lack of proper nutrition and water. S. Srinivasan. Associated Press. 28 December 2004.

A Third of the Dead Are Said to Be Children The undersea earthquake swallowed coastlines from Indonesia to Africa. Officials warned that without clean drinking water, epidemics of cholera and other waterborne diseases could take as many lives as the initial waves. The dead include an exceptionally high number of children. [Registration required]. Seth Mydans. New York Times. 28 December 2004.

Pregnant women 'at grave risk' Tens of thousands of expectant mothers and their babies face fatal risks after the freak waves disrupted access to basic health, a decent diet and emergency obstetric care. Pregnant women and babies also face illnesses caused by vitamin deficiencies, such as anaemia. [Registration required]. Nic Fleming. Telegraph, London. 30 December 2004.

Tsunami/Quake - UNFPA Warns Women and Girls are Especially Vulnerable Seeks Funds to Meet Massive Needs. Among the affected are tens of thousands of pregnant and nursing women, who are especially susceptible to waterborne diseases. UNFPA is working to address the special vulnerability of women and girls in disaster-affected areas. Press Release. UNFPA. 28 December 2004.

Asia Relief Groups Have Three Weeks to Stop Epidemics, WHO Says "While the focus is to save lives and fight diseases, it is also important to address underlying risks, such as solid and liquid waste, industrial chemicals, sewage treatment and the salinization of drinking water," UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer said in a statement. Bill Varner. Bloomberg. 30 December 2004.

[Diseases could double death toll: UN](#) Respiratory and water-borne diseases could break out in areas affected by the tsunami disaster in the next few days. "No doubt people will be affected: kids are drinking stagnant water." "There is a chance that we could have as many dying from communicable diseases as from the tsunami," Dr. Nabarro of WHO, told reporters. CBC News, Canada. 29 December 2004.

[WHO: 5M in tsunami region lack supplies](#) Up to five million people in the tsunami-struck Indian Ocean region lack access to the basic supplies they need to stay alive, such as clean water, shelter, food, sanitation, and health care. We are concerned about children under 5 and pneumonia because they are probably quite weak children. Sam Cage. Associated Press. 30 December 2004.

[From aid to trade: how can devastated region recover?](#) Experts have warned that the tsunami's destruction of even basic living materials may cause a surge in diarrhoeal diseases, particularly among women and children. There is also a risk of increased incidence of malaria. Experts also fear irreversible damage to sea and coastal ecosystems. [Purchase required]. The Independent, London. 29 December 2004.

[Plans Emerge to Combat Disease](#) Clean Water Supplies Are Key to Preventing Potential Disaster. Malaria and dengue - 2 mosquito-borne diseases - may also increase. Piles of debris that hold water give mosquitoes new places to breed. Measles and respiratory diseases traditionally take high tolls in refugee camps, especially among infants and toddlers. David Brown. Washington Post. 29 December 2004.

[International Agencies Mobilize in Effort to Limit Health Risks Posed by Disaster's Aftermath](#) Diarrheal and respiratory diseases can spread rapidly due to poor sanitation and a lack of clean water. Mosquito-borne diseases are a threat. Enforcing hygiene among children to keep them from acquiring diseases is difficult. [Purchase required]. Lawrence Altman. New York Times. 28 December 2004.

[U.N. warns of epidemic threats](#) The United Nations has warned of epidemics within days unless health systems in south and southeast Asia can cope after thousands of people were killed and tens of thousands left homeless by giant waves. Experts said the top five issues to be addressed were water, sanitation, food, shelter and health. Reuters. CNN. 27 December 2004.

[Environmental Issues Emerging from Wreckage of Asian Tsunami](#) As the Asian earthquake and tsunami death toll is now feared to be approaching 100,000 people, emergency humanitarian assistance remains the top priority, but urgent environmental concerns that threaten human health must be addressed, the United Nations Environment Programme said. Press Release. UNEP. 30 December 2004.

[Millions face 2d threat: Disease in water](#) Survivors of the gargantuan tsunami that swept across Asia will face a host of new threats in the coming days and weeks: viruses and bacteria in the water, diseases from human remains, and the vulnerability to bugs and other predators that comes from having no shelter. Stephen Smith. Boston Globe. 28 December 2004.

[Water Is Key to Averting Epidemics Along Coasts](#) Tens of thousands of tsunami survivors are at risk from diseases spread by dirty water, mosquitoes and crowding, and the best medicine is large quantities of clean water, officials of the WHO said. [Registration required]. Lawrence K. Altman And Denise Grad. New York Times. 30 December 2004.

[Quake prompts Asia disease fear](#) Aid agencies are warning of outbreaks of water-borne diseases due to contaminated water in countries stricken by the sea surges. Rotting bodies in the contaminated water would provide ideal conditions for water-borne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, malaria and diarrhoea to thrive and spread among survivors, experts say. BBC. 27 December 2004.

(5) MISCELLANEOUS

[Incorporating Environmental Health into Pediatric Medical and Nursing Education](#) Pediatric medical and nursing education lacks the environmental health content necessary to prepare professionals to prevent, recognize, manage, and treat environmental-exposure-related disease. McCurdy/Roberts/Rogers/Love/Etzel/Paulson/Witherspoon/Dearry. Environmental Health Perspectives. December 2004

[Battle Scars: Global Conflicts and Environmental Health](#) Many Colombian farmers in sprayed areas report skin problems, headaches, vomiting, miscarriages, and deaths of small children--effects that they attribute to the spraying. Residents are not told when spraying will occur for security reasons, so they cannot protect themselves. Valerie Brown. Environmental Health Perspectives. December 2004.

[L'impact de la pollution sur la santé : une question qui fâche...](#) Impact of Pollution on Health: Nearly 30000 anticipated deaths are ascribable to the air pollution. Apart from cancer, other diseases are related to modifications of the environment, particularly in the child. Catherine Petitnicolas/Yves Miserey. Le Figaro, France. 21 December 2004.

[U.S. to Launch Massive Study Into Children's Health](#) Researchers have long wondered about the role environmental factors play in rising rates of childhood ills such as asthma, obesity, autism, learning disabilities and schizophrenia. The study will look at what risks kids are exposed to in the environment from when they're conceived through to early adulthood. Angela Pirisi. HealthDay. 16 December 2004.

[National Children's Study to Select Vanguard Centers and Coordinating Center](#) EPA recently posted a Request for Applications for research to investigate early indicators of environmentally induced disease. This RFA seeks proposals to develop methods and tools that will be useful in longitudinal epidemiology studies. Feature. National Children's Study. December 2004.

[Is Environmental Health a Basic Human Right?](#) The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child states that nations will "recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health," and specifically notes that governments will take measures that account for "the dangers and risks of environmental pollution." David A. Taylor. Environmental Health Perspectives. December 2004

[UNICEF: Poverty, War, HIV Hurting Children](#) More than half the world's children are suffering the effects of poverty, war and HIV/AIDS, denying them a healthy and safe childhood, UNICEF's annual report said. One in five had no safe water. One in three had no toilet or sanitation facilities at home. Catherine Mcaloon. [Associated Press](#). 9 December 2004.

[1 billion children in poverty](#) Despite promises, half of world's youngsters at risk-Action has fallen far short of lofty commitments. About 640 million live without adequate shelter, 400 million lack access to safe water, 270 million can't get health services and 121 million — mostly girls — of primary school age don't attend classes. Peter Gorrie. [Toronto Star](#). 8 December 2004.

[One billion 'denied a childhood'](#) More than one billion children around the world face a brutal existence because of poverty, war and Aids, the UN children's agency reports. It says more than one billion children do not have access to at least one of seven commodities deemed essential: shelter, water, sanitation, schooling, information, healthcare and food. [BBC](#). 9 December 2004.

[Reasons for Optimism on Global Health Front](#) Success is possible in the battle against devastating diseases in developing countries, according to [a report](#) documenting 17 case studies of public-health campaigns over the past 30 years that produced important results, such as the dramatic reduction in the incidence of river blindness in rural West Africa. Jim Lobe. [OneWorld.Net](#). 7 December 2004.

[Child cancers steadily increasing](#) The rate of childhood cancer has slowly increased over the last three decades, research has found. "It is likely that a complex combination of environmental and genetic factors are involved." [BBC](#). 10 December 2004.

[Ozone 'hole' pulls bBack, but danger lingers](#) The worst of the ozone hole has pulled back again to Antarctica this southern spring, leaving behind a shadow of uncertainty for the people living at the bottom of the Americas. How many will develop skin cancer in years to come? How many more decades must their children live with dangerous ultraviolet rays? Charles Hanley. [Associated Press](#). 19 December 2004.

[Young Kids Listen to Sun Protection Advice](#) Education programs can help convince primary school children and adults at the beach to use sun-protective hats and clothing to reduce their risk of skin cancer, says a recent study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. [HealthDayNews](#). 3 December 2004.

[Wild and wet weather predictions for Asia](#) In the decades to come, Asia, home to more than half the world's people, will lurch from one climate extreme to another, with impoverished farmers battling droughts, floods, disease, food shortages and rising sea levels. The impacts of climate change will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and the poor. David Fogarty. [Reuters](#). 7 December 2004.

[The Effects of the World Trade Center Event on Birth Outcomes among Term Deliveries at Three Lower Manhattan Hospitals](#) The effects of prenatal exposure to pollutants from the World Trade Center disaster on fetal growth and subsequent health and development remain a concern.

Lederman/Rauh/Weiss/Stein/Hoepner/Becker/Perera. Environmental Health Perspectives. December 2004

[Now mobile phone masts can be built right next to schools](#) Ministers have accepted that mobile phone masts can be built next to schools, despite radiation fears, in defiance of the recommendations of an official inquiry. The decision is expected to lead to an "explosion" of the masts at schools around the country. [Purchase required]. Geoffrey Lean. Independent, London. 19 December 2004.

[Kerala action plan for children released](#) The State Plan of Action for the Child in Kerala-2004, a comprehensive document which consolidates various interventions by the Government in the areas of health, nutrition, education and environment and encompasses all areas of child rights protection and prevention of child abuse, was released by the Chief Minister. Sun Network, India. 9 December 2004.

[Communities of Color and Health Issues](#) Why do communities of color suffer a disproportionate incidence of asthma, heart disease, high blood pressure and infant mortality? NPR's Tavis Smiley gets some answers from PolicyLink CEO and founder Angela Glover Blackwell. Tavis Smiley. National Public Radio, US. December 16, 2004.

[Environmental health: the local link](#) Hippocrates once noted, "If you want to learn about the health of a population, look at the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the places where they live." Air is checked for pollutants that can cause cancer or other serious health conditions such as birth defects, or cause adverse environmental effects. Needham Health Department, Massachusetts. 9 December 2004.

[It's an ill wind](#) Dust clouds drifting from Africa to the Caribbean have a dangerous secret - bacteria and microbes that leave a trail of disease in their wake. A doctor in Trinidad discovered that more children were admitted to hospital with asthma immediately after a dust cloud. Perhaps infectious agents in the dust irritate the lungs of those susceptible to asthma. Ian Sample. Guardian, London. 2 December 2004.

[Farm Kids Fare Better on Asthma Front](#) Children who live on farms have much lower rates of asthma than other children who live in rural areas of the US, says a study in the online issue of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. It's been suggested that environmental and lifestyle factors associated with farm life may help protect children against asthma. HealthDayNews. Yahoo. 3 December 2004.

[Increased Asthma Found Among Iowa Children Living On Hog Farms](#) New research by the University of Iowa has found that the prevalence of asthma is elevated among children living on farms where swine are raised. Children living on swine farms where antibiotics are added to feed have a significantly higher prevalence of the respiratory disease. News Release. University of Iowa. 9 December 2004.

[Kids' asthma, hog farms linked](#) U of I researchers also look at antibiotics fed to livestock. A newly published University of Iowa study suggests that parents living on hog farms should

protect their children from asthma by limiting exposure to dust from hog operations. Perry Beeman. Des Moines, Iowa. 10 December 2004.

[Good choices in development affect health](#). As a pediatrician and public health doctor, it amazes me that good people who would never dream of abusing or endangering their children think so little about the dangers embedded in their communities. Parents spend long hours on crowded freeways inhaling a host of noxious pollutants. Dr. Richard Jackson. Sacramento Bee, California. 12 December 2004.

[Protest against PG&E plant Hunters Point residents say it's sickening their kids](#) A group of residents and environmental activists shut down the main gate of a power plant in Hunters Point on Wednesday to protest pollution they say is sickening neighborhood children and years of what they consider broken promises to close the facility. Charlie Goodyear. San Francisco Chronicle. 9 December 2004.

[On Receiving Harvard Med's Global Environment Citizen Award](#) Once I agreed that people will protect the environment when they realize its importance to their health and to the health of their children/EPA had planned to spend nine million dollars to pay poor families to continue to use pesticides in their homes that have been linked to neurological damage in children. Bill Moyers. Truthout. 1 December 2004.
