
Children's Environmental Health International Initiatives

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

October 2010

Developmental Milestones in Children's Environmental Health

This month the children's environmental health (CEH) movement reaches the age of 21 years, an important milestone. The movement began in California in October 1989 with the launch of The Kids in the Environment Project, designed to train health professionals about environmental health and children. This project subsequently evolved into the Children's Environmental Health Network, a national organization headquartered in Washington, DC. Pediatricians' interest in children's unique susceptibility to environmental hazards probably dates further back, at least to 1954, when fallout from a nuclear weapons test on Bikini Island in the South Pacific caused acute radiation burns among people living on neighboring islands. Two boys exposed to fallout when they were infants developed severe hypothyroidism and short stature in mid-childhood. Young children were more severely affected than adults; among 35 children < 15 years of age, 3 developed carcinoma of the thyroid, compared with 2 among 46 persons who were ≥ 15 years of age at exposure (Merke and Miller 1992). These cases highlighted children's special vulnerability to ionizing radiation. Because of concerns about fallout from

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Press Releases

[UNICEF Executive Director launches innovative approach to the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission in Kenya](#)

UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake joined the Kenya Government and other partners to roll out an innovative approach to prevent the transmission of HIV from mothers to their babies (PMTCT). The initiative includes a combination of interventions and supplies such as a "Mother-Baby-Pack" of antiretroviral drugs and antibiotics, which women can easily administer at home. UNICEF (29/10/10)

[UNICEF assists in disseminating cholera prevention information in Haiti](#)

In addition to providing medical supplies, UNICEF is assisting government and humanitarian aid partners in carrying out cholera information and training sessions with health care workers and hygiene promoters so they are better prepared to raise public awareness in the capital of Port-au-Prince. UNICEF (28/10/10)

weapons testing and fears of nuclear war, in 1957 the American Academy of Pediatrics established what is now known as the Committee on Environmental Health to address these issues. For 53 years this committee has been the world leader in advocacy and education about risks to children from environmental hazards, publishing the first book on pediatric environmental health in 1999 (Etzel 1999).

Despite these activities, modern medical and nursing school curricula in the United States have been slow to include information about the environment's impact on child health. To counteract this phenomenon, the CEH movement advocated for the development of specific research programs and training programs to introduce nursing and medical students to the concepts of children's vulnerability to environmental hazards. The CEH movement also encouraged academic and health organizations to study the impact of the environment on infant and child health. As a result, beginning in 1998, numerous Centers for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research, funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, were established in U.S. universities to study and prevent a range of childhood diseases and outcomes that can result from environmental exposures.

Although the CEH movement began in the United States, within a decade it had become an international movement. In 1999 the World Health Organization (WHO) set up a Task Force for the Protection of Children's Environmental Health and began developing training materials on children's health and the environment for an international audience

['Tunza' Children's Conference Makes Declaration on Biodiversity](#)

Participants attending the Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment culminated in a Declaration on Biodiversity. UNEP (28/10/10)

[Africa seizes chance against polio](#)

Africa seizes an unprecedented chance to drive out polio when 15 countries across the continent launch a synchronized mass immunization campaign to reach 72 million children, capitalizing on gains made this year. A total of some 290 000 vaccinators have been mobilized to go door-to-door to deliver two drops of oral polio vaccine (OPV) to every child under five in areas considered at "highest risk" of polio transmission. WHO (26/10/10)

[Nagoya 2010: TUNZA conference unites young voices on biodiversity](#)

The International Children's Environment Conference brought together over 220 children and chaperones from around 40 countries. In this forum the children were given the opportunity to share their experiences concerning the environment, climate change and environmental protection. UNEP (26/10/10)

[Statistics a powerful tool to drive change for the world's most vulnerable children](#)

UNICEF experts are calling attention to the essential role that data and statistics play in the development of effective policies and programmes that help improve the lives of children and women around the world. UNICEF (20/10/10)

[More disaster looms for children caught in Sa'ada emergency](#)

UNICEF is sounding a loud alarm over

(Pronczuk de Garbino 2005; United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, WHO 2002), including a Training Package for Health Care Providers, a set of peer-reviewed slide sets covering the major environmental issues for children (WHO 2010c). These slide sets (available free from WHO) have been used extensively to teach practicing physicians about pediatric environmental health issues not usually covered in the traditional medical school or postgraduate curriculum. In 2005, the International Pediatric Association, in collaboration with the WHO, launched the International Pediatric Environmental Health Leadership Institute to provide special training for doctors and nurses on children's health and the environment using the WHO Training Package for Health Care Providers (WHO 2010c).

This Editorial, by Ruth Etzel, summarises the history of the CEH movement and introduces articles that show substantial progress has been made in research to understand the role of the environment in the illnesses of childhood and adolescence. The author notes that much remains to be done to ensure that our burgeoning knowledge is translated into preventive actions for children.

[Read the full Editorial](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Air Pollution

[Respiratory Health Effects of Exposure to Low-NOx Unflued Gas Heaters in the Classroom: A Double-Blind, Cluster-Randomized, Crossover Study](#)

Although there are long-standing concerns about adverse effects of gas appliances

staggering rates of child malnutrition in Sa'ada, a northern governorate that has been affected by conflict in recent years. Nearly half of the 26,246 children aged 6-59 months screened in five western districts of Sa'ada in July 2010 were found to be suffering from global acute malnutrition. UNICEF (20/10/10)

[Social protection needed to protect and support children affected by HIV and AIDS](#)

The Parliament of Namibia, Inter Parliamentary Union and UNICEF host a regional parliamentarian meeting to champion child sensitive policies. The forum aims to build consensus amongst parliamentarians for efforts to scale up safety nets for the most vulnerable, especially children affected by HIV and AIDS. UNICEF (20/10/10)

[World Bank Reactivates Food Fund Amid Concern Over Food Volatility](#)

The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors has approved extending the life of the Bank's Global Food Crisis Response Program (GFRP) to June 2011, amid concern over heightened food price volatility and its impact on poor countries. The GFRP was set up to help countries deal with the rapid food price rises. It was designed to address immediate needs and to support safety net programs such as food for work, conditional cash transfers, and school feeding programs for the most vulnerable people. World Bank (18/10/10)

[WHO: control of neglected tropical diseases is feasible](#)

Breakthrough strategies confront a group of chronic infectious diseases that currently impair the lives of 1 billion people. The strategies, if implemented

on respiratory health, the potential adverse effect of low-nitrogen oxide (NOx) unflued gas heaters on children's health has not been studied. In a double-blind, cluster-randomized crossover study conducted in 400 primary school students attending schools in New South Wales, Australia, the authors compared respiratory health effects and air quality consequences of exposure to low-NOx gas heaters with exposure to non-indoor-air-emitting flued gas heaters in school classrooms. The authors found that concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and formaldehyde were significantly higher during exposure to unflued versus flued gas heaters. Although there was no evidence of adverse effects on lung function, respiratory symptoms were increased during exposure to the unflued versus flued gas heaters. Specifically, exposure to the unflued gas heaters was associated with increased cough reported in the evening and wheeze reported in the morning; the association with wheeze was greater in atopic subjects.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Allergy and Sensitization during Childhood Associated with Prenatal and Lactational Exposure to Marine Pollutants](#)

The authors studied whether sensitization and development of allergic disease is associated with duration of breast-feeding and perinatal exposures to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and methylmercury. The duration of breast-feeding and history of asthma and atopic dermatitis were recorded in children at clinical examinations at 5 and 7 years of age. PCB and mercury concentrations were determined in blood samples obtained at parturition and at follow-up. Serum from 7-year-old children was analyzed for total IgE and grass-specific IgE. The authors report that the total IgE concentration in

widely, can substantially reduce the disease burden, breaking a cycle of infection, disability. WHO (14/10/10)

[2010 Global Hunger Index: The Crisis of Child Undernutrition](#)

Malnutrition among children under two years of age is one of the leading challenges to reducing global hunger and can cause lifelong harm to health, productivity, and earning potential, according to the 2010 Global Hunger Index. IFPRI (11/10/10)

[UNEP tree-planting campaign takes root in East Africa](#)

Hundreds of people from different walks of life are planting trees across East Africa in the latest activities to be registered under Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign (BTC) run by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Organised by UNEP's Children and Youth programme (Tunza), the event seeks to demonstrate to young people how to protect and restore their environment. UNEP (8/10/10)

[World Bank, Nike Team Up For 'The Girl Effect' Initiative](#)

The Adolescent Girls Initiative partners the World Bank, the Nike Foundation and governments of developing and developed nations to empower girls in poor countries. The two-year-old program is helping girls in Asia, Africa and the Middle East gain the education and skills they need to transition into the workforce. The World Bank (8/10/10)

[A Program Helping Adolescent Girls Will Be Expanded to Haiti and Yemen](#)

The World Bank wants to expand to Haiti and Yemen an international public-private initiative that helps adolescent girls and young women improve their

serum was positively associated both with the concomitant serum PCB concentrations and the duration of breast-feeding. An increased grass-specific IgE concentration compatible with sensitization was positively associated with the duration of breast-feeding and inversely associated with prenatal methylmercury exposure. A history of asthma or atopic dermatitis was not associated with the duration of breast-feeding. Children with atopic dermatitis had lower prenatal PCB exposures than did nonallergic children. The authors conclude that developmental exposure to immunotoxicants may affect the risk of allergic disease. Associations between breast-feeding and subsequent allergic disease in children may, at least in part, reflect lactational exposure to immunotoxic food contaminants.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Short-Term Effects of Air Pollution on Wheeze in Asthmatic Children in Fresno, California](#)

Although studies have demonstrated that air pollution is associated with exacerbation of symptoms in children with asthma, little is known about the susceptibility of various subgroups. The authors examined the possibility that identifiable subgroups of asthmatic children are more likely to wheeze after exposure to ambient air pollution. A cohort of 315 children with asthma (6–11 years of age) was recruited for longitudinal follow-up study. During the baseline visit, children were administered a respiratory symptom questionnaire and an allergen skin-prick test. Three times a year, participants completed 14-day panels during which they answered symptom questions twice daily. The authors used ambient air quality data from a central monitoring station to assign exposures to

lives and economic prospects. World Bank (6/10/10)

[UNICEF expresses concern over the situation of children in southern Yemen](#)

Over the past few weeks, there has been a steady increase in violent clashes, including air strikes, between government troops and armed groups in Southern Yemen. An estimated 2,000 families - around 15,000 people, most of whom are children - have been displaced. In this conflict, as in most, children are among the first victims. UNICEF (1/10/10)

[UNICEF promotes guidelines to aid children's recovery after calamities](#)

In an effort to help communities cope with the emotional and social suffering caused by conflict and natural disasters, UNICEF and partners are exploring how collaboration on common approaches supports the recovery process for children and communities in emergencies. UNICEF (1/10/10)

[Amnesty International Public Statement](#)

Amnesty International welcomes the adoption by the UN Human Rights Council of a resolution which affirms that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Amnesty International (1/10/10)

In the Media

[Traffic link to 'worsening' child asthma](#)

An Australian study into childhood asthma has sounded an alarm over city living, with even apparently safe levels of traffic pollution found to exacerbate the respiratory condition. Australian Associated Press (31/10/10)

various air pollutants. Wheeze was significantly associated with short-term exposures to nitrogen oxide and particulate matter (PM). The association was stronger in children who were skin-test positive to cat or common fungi antigens and in boys with mild intermittent asthma. The authors suggest a need to identify the components of coarse PM that contribute to asthma morbidity and recommend that particular attention should be paid to concomitant environmental exposures that could exacerbate the effects of air pollution.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Particulate Matter Induced Health Effects: Who's Susceptible?](#)

The authors identified a diverse group of characteristics that could lead to increased risk of PM-related health effects including lifestage (i.e., children and older adults), preexisting cardiovascular or respiratory diseases, genetic polymorphisms, and low socioeconomic status. In addition, they crafted a comprehensive definition of susceptibility that can be used to encompass all populations potentially at increased risk of adverse health effects as a consequence of exposure to an air pollutant.

Environmental Health Perspectives

Chemicals

[Serum Concentrations of Antibodies Against Vaccine Toxoids in Children Exposed Perinatally to Immunotoxicants](#)

Previous research found an association between decreased antibody response to diphtheria and tetanus toxoid in children and early postnatal exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In a

[Samurai kids suffered severe lead poisoning](#)

Samurai children suffered severe lead poisoning from cosmetics used by their mothers, Japanese archeologists report. USA Today (29/10/10)

[MoH report finds a lot of rural water not fit to drink](#)

The latest Ministry of Health report on drinking water quality says much of the water drunk in rural areas, particularly by school children, does not meet required standards. Gisborne Herald New Zealand (29/10/10)

[UK study shows H1N1 killed 70 children in 9 months](#)

Scientists studying swine flu have found that 70 children died from it in England in a 9 month period during the H1N1 pandemic and death rates were worst among ethnic minority children and those with other health problems. Reuters Health (28/10/10)

[Scientists find link between benzene emissions and the birth defect spina bifida.](#)

A new study found that mothers exposed to high levels of benzene, a chemical emitted by cars and oil refineries, are more likely to bear children with spina bifida. Fair Warning (28/10/10)

[Breathe carefully: air emissions of benzene may cause birth defects.](#)

Pregnant women living in Texas neighborhoods with higher air levels of benzene – a pollutant often released from oil refineries and traffic exhaust – are more likely to have babies with neural tube defects. Environmental Health News (26/10/10)

follow-up study, the authors used a cohort formed in the Faroe Islands during 1999–2001 to assess serum antibody concentrations in children at 5 years (before and after a booster vaccination) and at 7 years of age. Total PCB concentrations were measured in serum from the children (at 5 and 7 years and in a subset at 18 months) and in maternal serum during pregnancy and postpartum milk samples. At the 5-year age point, before the booster vaccination, antidiphtheria antibody concentrations were inversely associated with PCB concentrations in milk and serum PCBs at 18 months of age. Results also suggested that concentrations of antibodies against both diphtheria and tetanus toxoids at age 7 years were inversely associated with PCB concentrations at age 18 months. Mercury exposure parameters showed variable associations with the antibody concentrations with no clear pattern. The authors conclude that developmental PCB exposure is associated with immunotoxic effects that may alter the effectiveness of diphtheria and tetanus vaccinations.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Estrogen-Like Effects of Cadmium in Vivo Do Not Appear to be Mediated via the Classical Estrogen Receptor Transcriptional Pathway](#)

Several in vitro studies have suggested that estrogenic effects of cadmium, a common environmental contaminant, may be mediated via estrogen receptors (ERs). The authors conducted a study to clarify whether Cd-induced in vivo effects are mediated via classical ER signaling through estrogen-responsive element (ERE)-regulated genes or if other signaling pathways are involved. The authors studied estrogenic effects of in vivo exposure to cadmium chloride

[Do Flame Retardants Dampen Human Health?](#)

The ubiquitous chemicals added to furniture, electronics, and other products to keep them from going up in flames may have unsettling side effects, according to two recent studies. Discover (25/10/10)

[Hurricanes may raise fetal distress risk](#)

Exposure to hurricanes while still in the womb may increase risk of fetal distress, which can cause long-range health problems after birth, new research reveals. Health News Daily (24/10/10)

[Malaria deaths in India 10 times as many as thought](#)

Malaria has always been one of humanity's biggest killers, but it may be far bigger than we realised. An unprecedented survey of the disease suggests that it kills between 125,000 and 277,000 people per year in India alone. In contrast, the World Health Organization puts India's toll at just 16,000. New Scientist Health (23/10/10)

[Gold rush kills more children in northern Nigeria](#)

At least 400 children have died from poisoning caused by illegal gold mining since March because the ore being unearthed around their villages contains high concentrations of lead, contaminating the air, soil and water. Reuters (21/10/10)

[Fat fathers affect daughters' health](#)

Fathers eating a fatty diet can pass on health problems to their female offspring, according to a study in rats published in Nature. Nature News (21/10/10)

(CdCl₂) using a uterotrophic bioassay in transgenic ERE-luciferase reporter mice: Immature female mice were injected with CdCl₂ or 17 α -ethinylestradiol (EE₂) on 3 consecutive days. Uterine weight and histology, vaginal opening, body and organ weights, Cd tissue retention, activation of mitogen-activated protein kinase pathways, and ERE-dependent luciferase expression were measured. The authors conclude that Cd induces a limited spectrum of estrogenic responses in vivo and that some effects might not be mediated via classical ER signaling through ERE-regulated genes.

Environmental Health Perspectives

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Previous research found an association between decreased antibody response to diphtheria and tetanus toxoid in children and early postnatal exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In a follow-up study, the authors used a cohort formed in the Faroe Islands during 1999–2001 to assess serum antibody concentrations in children at 5 years (before and after a booster vaccination) and at 7 years of age. Total PCB concentrations were measured in serum from the children (at 5 and 7 years and in a subset at 18 months) and in maternal serum during pregnancy and postpartum milk samples. At the 5-year age point, before the booster vaccination, antidiphtheria antibody concentrations were inversely associated with PCB concentrations in milk and serum PCBs at 18 months of age. Results also suggested that concentrations of antibodies against both diphtheria and tetanus toxoids at age 7 years were inversely associated with PCB concentrations at age 18 months. Mercury

[Drinking water linked to IQ](#)

According to a recently released study, children whose drinking water contains high levels of manganese appear to have lower IQ scores, on average, than children who are not exposed to the metal. Langley Times (21/10/10)

[Children breathing fumes from water-based paints have high risk of asthma, allergies, new study says](#)

Children who sleep in bedrooms with fumes from water-based paints and solvents are two to four times more likely to suffer allergies or asthma, according to a new scientific study. Swedish and U.S. scientists measured the compounds – propylene glycol and glycol ethers – in the bedroom air of 400 toddlers and preschoolers, and discovered that the exposed children had substantially higher rates of asthma, stuffy noses and eczema. Environmental Health News (20/10/10)

[Chemicals in vinyl flooring and wallpaper raise worries](#)

Researchers from a nonprofit environmental group called the Ecology Center tested more than 2,000 wallpapers and floor coverings for toxic substances. Along with low levels of some heavy metals, such as cadmium and lead, the researchers discovered significant levels of phthalates, a hormone-like chemical. MSNBC (20/10/10)

[Special Report: The problem with phthalates](#)

A report published by a consortium of 140 environment groups shows that potentially risky chemicals are present in dozens of everyday plastic items for sale by European retailers. The study focused on a group of chemicals known

exposure parameters showed variable associations with the antibody concentrations with no clear pattern. The authors conclude that developmental PCB exposure is associated with immunotoxic effects that may alter the effectiveness of diphtheria and tetanus vaccinations.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Atrazine Binds to the Growth Hormone–Releasing Hormone Receptor and Affects Growth Hormone Gene Expression](#)

Atrazine (ATR) is a commonly used herbicide that is widely distributed in water and soil. ATR exposure has been associated with defects in sexual development in animals, but no cellular target has been identified in studies on mammalian systems. The authors conducted a study to identify a ligand-binding receptor for ATR in pituitary cells. The authors found that treatment of rat pituitary cells with environmentally relevant concentrations (1 ppb and 1 ppm) of ATR reduced growth hormone (GH) expression. This effect appeared to be dependent on the inhibition of GH gene transcription due to ATR binding of the growth-hormone-releasing hormone receptor (GHRHR). The identification of GHRHR as a target for ATR is consistent with the multitude of effects previously reported in mammalian systems. The authors conclude that these findings may lead to a better understanding of the hazards of environmental ATR contamination and inform efforts to develop guidelines for establishing safe levels in aquatic systems.

Environmental Health Perspectives

as phthalates, six of which have been virtually banned in toys in the European Union since 1999 over fears they can damage the sexual development of children. Reuters (18/10/10)

[Warning of threat to children posed by artificial grass](#)

Artificial grass can become contaminated after a few years' use with enough lead to poison children, scientists have warned. Glasgow Herald (17/10/10)

[BPA levels jump in moms-to-be](#)

Pregnant women who eat canned vegetables or work as cashiers show the highest levels of bisphenol A, the estrogen-mimicking chemical, according to a new study. Toronto Star (16/10/10)

[Cancer caused by modern man as it was virtually non-existent in ancient world](#)

Cancer is a modern man-made disease caused by the excesses of modern life, a new study suggests. The findings suggest that it is modern lifestyles and pollution levels caused by industry that are the main cause of the disease and that it is not a naturally occurring condition. The study showed the disease rate has risen dramatically since the Industrial Revolution, in particular childhood cancer – proving that the rise is not simply due to people living longer. London Daily Telegraph (15/10/10)

[Canada first to declare bisphenol A toxic](#)

Canada has become the first jurisdiction in the world to declare the everyday plastic-making compound bisphenol A to be toxic. The federal government formally added BPA, as it is commonly known, to its toxic substances list based

Water And Sanitation

[Association between Rainfall and Pediatric Emergency Department Visits](#)

Microbial water contamination after periods of heavy rainfall has been well documented, and there is concern that it may affect public health. The authors conducted a retrospective time-series analysis of pediatric emergency department (ED) visits for acute gastrointestinal illness (AGI) and daily rainfall totals during the study period (2002–2007). The authors report a significant association between rainfall and pediatric ED visits for AGI, suggesting a waterborne component of disease transmission in this population. The observed increase in ED visits for AGI occurred in the absence of any disease outbreaks reported to public health officials in the region, suggesting that rainfall-associated illness may be underestimated.

Environmental Health Perspectives

Global Change

[Global Climate Change and Children's Health: Threats and Strategies for Prevention](#)

The authors concluded that a need exists to further quantify the effects of climate change on children's health globally and also at regional and local levels through enhanced monitoring of children's environmental health and by tracking selected indicators. A need exists also to incorporate climate change preparedness strategies into public health programs.

Environmental Health Perspectives

on concern about possible risk to fetuses and babies. Toronto Globe and Mail (14/10/10)

[Raising awareness of the dangers of lead paint](#)

250,000 children, under the age of five, are poisoned by lead each year in the United States. This highly toxic metal is found in lead-based paints, in a dangerous dust form and in the soil outside of some of the state's older homes. Burlington WCAX TV (13/10/10)

[For teenagers, plain packets take gloss off cigarettes](#)

Plain packaging makes cigarettes much less appealing to teenagers, research shows. When 14- and 15-year-olds were shown cigarettes with plain packaging they became more aware of the graphic health warnings on the packets and had higher overall perceptions of the harm caused by smoking. Sydney Morning Herald (8/10/10)

[Prenatal arsenic exposure quintuples infant death risk](#)

Babies born to mothers with high levels of arsenic exposure are five times more likely to die before their first birthday than infants whose mothers had the least exposure to the toxic mineral, new research shows. Reuters Health (8/10/10)

[Dengue fever spreading in Asia](#)

In Asia, climate change may be contributing to a spread of Dengue fever, a mosquito-borne disease with no known treatment. Agence France-Press (7/10/10)

[Pesticide in womb may promote obesity, study finds](#)

One-quarter of babies born to women

Reproductive Health

[Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether \(PBDE\) Flame Retardants and Thyroid Hormone during Pregnancy](#)

Human exposure to polybrominated diphenylether (PBDE) flame retardants has increased significantly over the last three decades. Animal and human studies suggest that PBDEs may disrupt thyroid function; although thyroid hormone (TH) of maternal origin is essential to normal fetal brain development, human data regarding associations between exposure to PBDEs and maternal thyroid hormone levels during pregnancy are scarce. The authors measured the concentration of 10 PBDE congeners, free thyroxine (T4), total T4, and thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) in pregnant women around the 27th week of gestation. Serum concentrations of the individual PBDE congeners BDEs 28, 47, 99, 100, and 153 and their sum were inversely associated with TSH levels. Associations between PBDEs and free and total T4 were not statistically significant. The authors conclude that exposure to PBDEs is associated with lower TSH during pregnancy, which may have implications for maternal health and fetal development.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Bisphenol A exposure in Mexico City and risk of prematurity: a pilot nested case control study](#)

This study documents measurable levels of BPA in the urine of a population of Mexican women. It also provides preliminary evidence, based on a single spot urine sample collected during the third trimester, that pregnant women who delivered less than or equal to 37 weeks of

who had relatively high concentrations of a DDT-breakdown product in their blood grew unusually fast for at least the first year of life, a study finds. *Science News* (6/10/10)

[Gender bending chemicals in plastics 'raises risk of prostate cancer'](#)

A gender-bending chemical found in babies' bottles may raise their odds of prostate cancer in later life, scientists have warned. In experiments, newborn rats fed bisphenol A, a building-block of many commonly-used plastics, were more likely to develop pre-cancerous cells as they aged. *London Daily Mail* (6/10/10)

[Nigeria lead poisoning death toll 'doubles'](#)

At least 400 children have died from lead poisoning in northern Nigeria this year. *BBC News Africa* (6/10/10)

[Pollution worsens asthma symptoms in kids](#)

A joint study by researchers at Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley has found that exposure to dirty air is linked to decreased function of a gene that appears to increase the severity of asthma in children. *New Delhi Times of India* (6/10/10)

[Malaria threatens 2 million in Pakistan as floodwaters turn stagnant](#)

Pools of standing water in Pakistan's southern Sindh province are potentially home to disease-carrying mosquitoes that breed and hatch in the pools. More than 250,000 cases of suspected malaria, have been reported. *London Guardian* (4/10/10)

[The Dangers of a Food Chemical: New](#)

gestation and prematurely (<37 weeks) had higher urinary concentrations of BPA compared to women delivering after 37 weeks. *Environmental Health*

[Maternal Low-Level Lead Exposure and Fetal Growth](#)

Despite the banning of lead in gasoline, the general population continues to be exposed to this metal. Lead in pregnant women can readily cross the placenta and enter fetal blood circulation, making the fetus susceptible to lead poisoning. Evidence for an association between relatively low-level maternal blood lead (PbB) levels (< 10 µg/dL) and fetal growth has been inconclusive. The authors linked New York State Heavy Metals Registry records of women having PbB measurements with birth certificates to identify mother–infant pairs in a retrospective cohort study. The authors found no significant association between PbB and preterm birth or small-for-gestational age measures. However, among pregnant women with PbB levels < 10 µg/dL, PbB was inversely associated with birth weight, with little evidence of a threshold. These results are important because pregnant women continue to be exposed to relatively low levels of lead and because of the continued controversy regarding the recommended action level for maternal blood lead.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Evidence Against BPA](#)

Bisphenol A, America's most demonized food-packaging chemical, nationally debated and being considered for a federal ban under an amendment of the food safety bill, S. 510, may be even worse than anyone imagined, a new peer-reviewed study finds. *Atlantic Monthly* (4/10/10)

[Neurobehavioral Effects of Artificial Food Dyes, with Bernard Weiss](#)

In the past several decades there has been a sharp increase in the amount of artificial dyes and flavorings children encounter daily in foods, beverages, medicines, and toiletries such as toothpaste. Over the same period there has been a marked increase in the number of diagnoses of neurobehavioral disorders such as attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder. *Environmental Health Perspectives* (2/10/10)

[Brain imaging measures effects of lead on development](#)

As children, they swallowed or breathed in high levels of lead. Now they are adults, and sophisticated forms of brain imaging are allowing scientists to see how that early exposure damaged the wiring of their brains in significant, permanent ways. *Toronto Globe and Mail* (1/10/10)

[Imperial Tobacco loses bid to stop Scottish cigarette ad ban](#)

Imperial Tobacco has lost its attempt to overturn a ban on over-the-counter cigarette displays and tobacco vending machines by the Scottish government. Lord Bracadale threw out the company's legal challenge and said Scottish ministers were within their legislative rights to restrict tobacco sales to

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Healthy Children Healthy Spaces](#)

Every child's healthy development, well being and quality of life are intricately determined by the natural spaces around them.

14-16 November 2010, Ottawa, Canada

[6th World Environmental Education Congress](#)

19 – 23 July 2011. Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

safeguard public health, particularly among teenagers and young adults. London Guardian (1/10/10)

[Permeable Boundaries: How Mothers' Meds Affect a Fetus](#)

A new book explores the many ways in which common chemicals--and other outside influences--encountered in the womb can impact lifelong development. Scientific American (1/10/10)

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