

Children's Environmental Health International Initiatives

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

March/April 2018

WHO'S FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH

The Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 30 October - 1 November 2018 is the first-ever global event to focus on both Air Pollution and Health.

It will be organized at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, in collaboration with UN Environment, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Participants will include Ministers of Health and Environment and other national government representatives; representatives of intergovernmental agencies; health professionals, other sectors (e.g. transport, energy, etc.), as well as from research, academia and civil society.

Invitations will be issued during May 2018. Remote participation will be facilitated by webcasting and live-streaming of the sessions.

[Conference website](#)

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO THE ENJOYMENT OF A SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council has released a Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Press Releases

[World Hand Hygiene Day 2018](#)

World Hand Hygiene Day, marked globally on 5 May, highlights the importance of hand hygiene in health care. The slogan of this year's campaign is "It's in your hands – prevent sepsis in health care", illustrating the important relationship between good infection prevention and control practices, such as washing your hands, and preventing sepsis. The World Health Organization (WHO) calls on health facilities to prevent health care-associated sepsis through hand hygiene and action on infection prevention and control. WHO EMRO (3/5/2018)

[World Malaria Day 2018: We are ready to beat malaria](#)

On World Malaria Day 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners are calling on all concerned parties to be ready to end malaria - a disease which can be fatal and which affects millions of people, claiming many lives annually. This year's World Malaria Day coincides with activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of WHO. Over the last 7 decades, WHO has been providing support to countries to fight malaria. "Ready to beat malaria" is the theme of this year's day. The theme underscores the collective energy and commitment of the global malaria community in uniting around the common goal of achieving a malaria-free world. WHO EMRO (25/4/2018)

[Viet Nam ready to eliminate malaria](#)

Viet Nam has had remarkable success in malaria control, and is now ready to progress from a strategy of malaria control to malaria elimination according to a report of international malaria experts, which will be launched in Hanoi. On the

After reviewing the activities of the Special Rapporteur in 2017, the report focuses on the rights of children in relation to the environment, addressing the ways that environmental harm prevents children from enjoying their human rights and the obligations that States have to protect children from such harm.

Section II of the report reviews the increasing attention being paid to the relationship of the rights of children to environmental harm. Section III describes the severe effects of environmental harm on the rights of children. Section IV outlines the human rights obligations relating to children's rights in the environmental context. Section V addresses the relationship of future generations and children's rights. Section VI concludes with recommendations aimed at protecting the rights of children from environmental harm.

[Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.](#) Available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

[Draft child-friendly version](#)

[Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion dedicated to "Children's Rights and the Environment", 2016](#)

TOWARDS AN AMBITIOUS GLOBAL DEAL ON CHEMICALS

The unsound management of chemicals constitutes a major health risk. A global meeting on how countries across the globe can better handle chemicals and waste was hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden. During this meeting, health sector representatives discussed their lead role and launched the WHO Chemicals Road Map Workbook. It is hoped that use of the workbook will facilitate information sharing and contribute to the identification of shared priorities and collaboration both within the health sector and with external partners. In the lead up to the global meeting, on 12 March, the Minister of the Environment of Sweden, Karolina Skog hosted a high level dialogue to raise commitment and engagement on this crucial issue and ensure that a successful and ambitious decision will be taken that strengthens both the protection of human health and the environment and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

occasion of World Malaria Day 25 April, on 24 April, the World Health Organization in collaboration with the National Institute of Malaria, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE) of Viet Nam is organizing the Workshop on Strengthening Investment to Maintain Achievement and towards Elimination of Malaria in Viet Nam. WHO WPRO (25/4/2018)

[WHO scales up support to mitigate child malnutrition in Yemen](#)

Yemen continues facing the double burden of high acute and chronic malnutrition. As the conflict continues unabated, the situation worsens, causing the list of malnourished children to increase daily. Currently, more than 1.8 million children under the age of 5 are acutely malnourished, including 500 000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, requiring immediate admission into therapeutic nutrition programmes. Responding to rising malnutrition rates in Yemen, WHO is providing life-saving treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition and medical complications. In 2017 alone, more than 4430 children under the age of 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition with medical complications received treatment at WHO-supported stabilization centres. WHO EMRO (18/4/2018)

[An end to electronic waste: United Nations organisations highlight their commitment](#)

On Wednesday 21 March, 2018, organisations from the United Nations system, most active in addressing the global e-waste challenge, signed a Letter of Intent paving the way for coordination and collaboration on United Nations system-wide support for e-waste management. The signatories organisations included: UN Environment, the International Telecommunication Union, United Nations University, International Labour Organization, the Basel and Stockholm Convention, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. UNEP (26/3/2018)

[Health must be the number one priority for urban planners](#)

Today, more than half of the world's population live in cities. By 2050, this proportion is expected to grow to two-thirds. When cities are built using good planning principles, they can also be communities that foster health and well-being. Think of the cities or the neighborhoods that you

Development.

The meeting took place from 13–15 March in Stockholm, Sweden.

[WHO Chemicals Road Map Workbook](#)

[Further information on the global meeting](#)

[Further information on the high-level dialogue](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Air Pollution

[Effects of ambient air pollution from municipal solid waste landfill on children's non-specific immunity and respiratory health](#)

This cross-sectional study investigated the association between air pollution (AP) and respiratory health of 951 children residing near a municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill in Northern China. Results showed that students in non-exposure areas had significantly higher levels of lysozyme, secretory immunoglobulin A (SIgA), and better lung capacity than students in exposure areas ($p < .05$). These results suggested that AP exposure was negatively associated with more lung function parameters in boys than in girls. In conclusion, these findings suggested that children living adjacent to landfill sites were more likely to have deficient non-specific immunity and impaired lung function.

Environmental Pollution

Chemicals

[Maternal Plasma per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Concentrations in Early Pregnancy and Maternal and Neonatal Thyroid Function in a Prospective Birth Cohort: Project Viva \(USA\)](#)

Prenatal exposure to some per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) may disrupt maternal and neonatal thyroid function, which is critical for normal growth and neurodevelopment. Authors examined associations of PFAS exposure during early pregnancy with maternal and neonatal thyroid hormone levels. In this study, prenatal exposure to some PFASs during early pregnancy was inversely associated with maternal FT4I and neonatal T4 in male infants. These results support the hypothesis that prenatal exposure to PFASs influences thyroid function in both mothers and infants.

Environmental Health Perspectives

have particularly enjoyed living in or visiting – and how such places looked, felt or even "smelt". It is likely that these cities were full of people and life, with broad sidewalks and cycle lanes for easy, safe movement, an accessible public transport system and plenty of parks and green spaces, where people of all ages could exercise. Unfortunately today, many rapidly growing cities are beset with heavy traffic, cramped slums and anonymous high-rise blocks that breed social alienation, noise and violence. All of these have a negative impact on our mental and physical health and well-being. WHO (21/3/2018)

[Safe drinking-water in Europe?](#)

Millions of people in the WHO European Region drink contaminated water, often without knowing it. WHO estimates that, every day, 14 people die of diarrhoeal disease due to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Clean and safe drinking-water at home is frequently unavailable, particularly for those living in rural areas. In the Region, 57 million people do not have piped water at home, and 21 million people still lack access to basic drinking-water services. These people use water from unprotected dug wells and springs, directly consume surface water, or need more than 30 minutes to collect water. About three quarters of people without access to basic drinking-water services live in rural areas. WHO EURO (20/3/2018)

[World leaders join new drive to beat noncommunicable diseases](#)

WHO is announcing today a new high-level commission, comprised of heads of state and ministers, leaders in health and development and entrepreneurs. The group will propose bold and innovative solutions to accelerate prevention and control of the leading killers on the planet – noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) like heart and lung disease, cancers, and diabetes. The WHO Independent High-level Commission on NCDs is co-chaired by President Tabaré Vázquez of Uruguay; President Maithripala Sirisena of Sri Lanka; President Sauli Niinistö of Finland; Veronika Skvortsova, Minister of Healthcare of the Russian Federation; and Sania Nishtar, former Federal Minister of Pakistan. WHO (1/3/2018)

[World Health Organization issues recommendations to tackle health impacts of air pollution in Mongolia](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) today released a set of long-, medium- and short-term

[Blood Lead Levels of Children in Flint, Michigan: 2006-2016](#)

Authors evaluated the increases in blood lead levels (BLLs) observed in young children in Flint, Michigan, during their exposure to corrosive Flint River water during the years 2014 and 2015 and compared their BLLs to those of Flint children measured during the years 2006-2013 and 2016. A significant decline in the percentages of BLLs ≥ 5.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ from 11.8% in 2006 to 3.2% in 2016 was observed ($P < .001$). GM \pm SE BLLs decreased from 2.33 ± 0.04 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in 2006 to 1.15 ± 0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in 2016 ($P < .001$). GM BLLs increased twice: from 1.75 ± 0.03 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ to 1.87 ± 0.03 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ (2010-2011) and from 1.19 ± 0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ to 1.30 ± 0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ (2014-2015). Overall, from 2006 to 2016, there was a 72.9% decrease in the percentage of children with BLLs ≥ 5.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and a 50.6% decrease in GM BLLs. These findings suggest that the 11 year trend of annual decreases in BLLs in children in Flint, Michigan, reversed to a degree consistent with random variation from 2010 to 2011, and again during the exposure to Flint River water in 2014-2015.

The Journal of Pediatrics

[Prenatal Exposure to DDT and Pyrethroids for Malaria Control and Child Neurodevelopment: The VHEMBE Cohort, South Africa](#)

Although indoor residual spraying (IRS) with dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and pyrethroids effectively controls malaria, it potentially increases human exposure to these insecticides. Authors aimed to estimate the effects of maternal insecticide exposure and neurodevelopment of toddlers living in a malaria-endemic region currently using IRS. Prenatal exposure to pyrethroids may be associated at 1 y of age with poorer social-emotional development. At 2 y of age, poorer language development was observed with higher prenatal pyrethroid levels.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[The health risk levels of different age groups of residents living in the vicinity of municipal solid waste incinerator posed by PCDD/Fs in atmosphere and soil](#)

In this study, health risk levels of different age groups of residents living in the vicinity of a municipal solid waste incinerator (MSWI) posed by polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDD/Fs) in atmosphere and soil were evaluated. The carcinogenic risk (CR) values of PCDD/Fs in

recommendations for the Government of Mongolia to tackle air pollution. Air pollution causes more than 4000 deaths every year in this Central Asian lower-middle income country with a population of 3 million. WHO is urging the Government to keep air pollution as a top priority for policies and implementation throughout the year. WHO WPRO (28/2/2018)

WHO Factsheets

[Malaria](#) Updated April 2018

[Onchocerciasis](#) Updated March 2018

[Schistosomiasis](#) Updated March 2018

[Leishmaniasis](#) Updated March 2018

[Tobacco](#) Updated March 2018

[Drinking-water](#) Reviewed March 2018

In the Media

[Smothered by Smog, Polish Cities Rank Among Europe's Dirtiest](#)

Poland has some of the most polluted air in all of the European Union, and 33 of its 50 dirtiest cities. Not even mountain retreats are immune. The problem is largely a result of the country's love affair with coal. Like elsewhere in Poland, most of the homes in the villages below Zar Mountain are still heated by coal. Some 19 million people rely on coal for heat in winter. In all of the European Union, 80 percent of private homes using coal are in Poland. New York Times (22/4/2018)

[Children's health is disproportionately affected by climate change](#)

Frederica Perera is director of the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health. She says children are vulnerable because their immune systems are not mature. And, their rapidly growing bodies are more sensitive to damage from disease and environmental contaminants. In particular, children are more likely than adults to die from diarrheal disease, which is expected to become more common in some areas as the climate warms. And some children are at more risk than others. Yale Climate Connections (17/4/2018)

[More than 95% of world's population breathe](#)

surrounding atmosphere and soil for children, teens and adults were 1.24E-06, 9.06E-07 and 4.41E-06, respectively, suggesting that the potential cancer risk occurred but the risk was at acceptable levels for both children and adults (<1.00E-05), and the cancer risk for teens was negligible (<1.00E-06). The non-carcinogenic risk (non-CR) values of three age groups were lower than 1, indicating that no obvious non-carcinogenic effects occurred. Inhalation of air was the largest contributor of health risk (both CR and non-CR) for three age groups.

Sci Total Environ

[Prenatal Organophosphate Pesticide Exposure and Traits Related to Autism Spectrum Disorders in a Population Living in Proximity to Agriculture](#)

Prenatal exposure to organophosphate (OP) pesticides has been linked with poorer neurodevelopment and behaviors related to autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in previous studies, including in the Center for Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas (CHAMACOS) study, a birth cohort living in the agricultural Salinas Valley in California. Prenatal DAPs were associated with poorer parent and teacher reported social behavior [e.g., a 10-fold DAP increase was associated with a 2.7-point increase (95% confidence interval (CI): 0.9, 4.5) in parent-reported Social Responsiveness Scale, Version 2, T-scores at age 14]. Authors did not find clear evidence of associations between residential proximity to OP use during pregnancy and ASD-related traits. These findings contribute mixed evidence linking OP pesticide exposures with traits related to developmental disorders like ASD. Subtle pesticide-related effects on ASD-related traits among a population with ubiquitous exposure could result in a rise in cases of clinically diagnosed disorders like ASD.

Environmental Health Perspectives

E-waste

[Elevated biomarkers of sympatho-adrenomedullary activity linked to e-waste air pollutant exposure in preschool children](#)

Air pollution is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD), and cardiovascular regulatory changes in childhood contribute to the development and progression of cardiovascular events at older ages. The aim of the study was to investigate the effect of air pollutant exposure on the child sympatho-adrenomedullary (SAM) system, which plays a vital role in regulating and

[dangerous air, major study finds](#)

More than 95% of the world's population breathe unsafe air and the burden is falling hardest on the poorest communities, with the gap between the most polluted and least polluted countries rising rapidly, a comprehensive study of global air pollution has found. The report by the Health Effects Institute used new findings such as satellite data and better monitoring to estimate the numbers of people exposed to air polluted above the levels deemed safe by the World Health Organisation. This exposure has made air pollution the fourth highest cause of death globally, after high blood pressure, diet and smoking, and the greatest environmental health risk. The Guardian (17/4/2018)

[Brain-damaging lead found in tap water in hundreds of homes tested across Chicago, results show](#)

Amid renewed national attention to the dangers of lead poisoning, hundreds of Chicagoans have taken the city up on its offer of free testing kits to determine if they are drinking tap water contaminated with the brain-damaging metal. A Tribune analysis of the results shows lead was found in water drawn from nearly 70 percent of the 2,797 homes tested during the past two years. Tap water in 3 of every 10 homes sampled had lead concentrations above 5 parts per billion, the maximum allowed in bottled water by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Chicago Tribune (12/4/2018)

[Obesity among Asia-Pacific children is a growing health crisis - researchers](#)

Obesity rates among children in Asia-Pacific are rising at a rapid rate, and more action is needed to encourage healthier lifestyles and ease pressure on fledgling healthcare systems, researchers said. The number of overweight children under five rose 38 percent between 2000 and 2016 in the region, and the problem is growing, said Sridhar Dharmapuri, a food safety and nutrition officer at the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangkok. "The rate of growth in obesity in Asia-Pacific is higher than in many other countries," Dharmapuri told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Thomson Reuters Foundation News (9/4/2018)

[North China cities issue smog alerts as industry curbs end](#)

Beijing and 33 other northern Chinese cities have issued smog alerts for the next few days as

controlling the cardiovascular system. These results suggest that air pollution exposure in e-waste recycling areas could result in an increase in heart rate and plasma norepinephrine, implying e-waste air pollutant exposure impairs the SAM system in children.

Environ Int

[Hearing loss in children with e-waste lead and cadmium exposure](#)

Environmental chemical exposure can cause neurotoxicity and has been recently linked to hearing loss in general population, but data are limited in early life exposure to lead (Pb) and cadmium (Cd) especially for children. Authors aimed to evaluate the association of their exposure with pediatric hearing ability. A higher median blood Pb level was found in the exposed group (4.94 ± 0.20 vs $3.85 \pm 1.81 \mu\text{g/dL}$, $p < 0.001$), while no significance was found for creatinine-adjusted Cd. Compared with the reference group, the exposed group had a higher prevalence of hearing loss (28.8% vs 13.6%, $p < 0.001$). The PTA in the left, right and both ears, and hearing thresholds at average low and high frequency, and single frequency of 0.5, 1 and 2kHz were all increased in the exposed group. Positive correlations of child age and nail biting habit with Pb, and negative correlations of parent education level and child washing hands before dinner with Pb and Cd exposure were observed. Logistic regression analyses showed the adjusted OR of hearing loss for Pb exposure was 1.24 (95% CI: 1.029, 1.486). These data suggest that early childhood exposure to Pb may be an important risk factor for hearing loss, and the developmental auditory system might be affected in e-waste polluted areas.

Sci Total Environment

New Publications

[A Story of Health multimedia eBook](#)

A Story of Health multimedia eBook has released its newest chapter, focusing on environmental influences on infertility and reproductive health. Follow Reiko & Toshio as they explore aspects about how they live, eat, work and play that may be contributing to their infertility, and their options for interventions. The eBook uses illustrations, videos, infographics and articles by experts to convey concepts, and includes links to relevant additional resources and scientific references. The first three chapters of the eBook on asthma, developmental disabilities and

industrial output ramps up again after the end of winter restrictions, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment said on Sunday. The Chinese capital late on Saturday declared its third orange pollution alert of 2018 and the second this month. An orange alert is the second-highest warning behind red in China's four-tier system. The alert, which requires industrial factories to limit output by 30 percent to 50 percent, will be in operation for March 26-28. Reuters (25/3/2018)

[Nature's 'alarming' decline threatens food, water, energy: U.N.](#)

Human activities are causing an alarming decline in the variety of plant and animal life on Earth and jeopardizing food, clean water and energy supplies, a U.N.-backed study of biodiversity said on Friday. Climate change will become a steadily bigger threat to biodiversity by 2050, adding to damage from pollution and forest clearance to make way for agriculture, according to more than 550 experts in a set of reports approved by 129 governments. "Biodiversity, the essential variety of life-forms on earth, continues to decline in every region of the world," the authors wrote after talks in Colombia. "This alarming trend endangers the quality of life of people everywhere." Reuters (23/3/2018)

[Millions more hungry in 2017 amid famine, conflict, and numbers rising-report](#)

Conflicts and climate disasters, particularly drought, drove the number of people facing crisis levels of hunger up by about 15 percent last year and the situation is getting worse, a report said on Thursday. Last year 124 million people in 51 countries faced crisis levels of hunger compared to 108 million people in 48 countries in 2016 and 80 million in 2015, according to the Food Security Information Network (FSIN). The FSIN is a global project set up to strengthen food and nutrition security information systems that is sponsored by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme and the International Food Policy Research Institute. Thompson Reuters Foundation News (22/3/2018)

[The toll of the cobalt mining industry on health and the environment](#)

A CBS News investigation of child labor in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo has revealed that tens of thousands of children are growing up without a childhood today – two years after a damning Amnesty report about human

childhood leukemia are also available. A Story of Health is a collaboration among government agencies in the U.S. (ATSDR and California EPA) and nongovernmental organizations.

[Children and Environmental Toxins: What Everyone Needs to Know](#)

More than 80,000 new chemicals have been developed and released into the global environment during the last four decades. Today the World Health Organization attributes more than one-third of all childhood deaths to environmental causes, and as rates of childhood disease skyrocket - autism, asthma, ADHD, obesity, diabetes, and even birth defects - it raises serious, difficult questions around how the chemical environment is impacting children's health. Children and Environmental Toxins: What Everyone Needs to Know offers an accessible guide to understanding and identifying the potential sources of harm in a child's environment. Written by experts in pediatrics and environmental health and formatted in an easy to follow question-and-answer format, it offers parents, care providers, and activists a reliable introduction to a hotly debated topic.

[Epigenetic Applications in Adverse Outcome Pathways and Environmental Risk Evaluation](#)

The epigenome may be an important interface between environmental chemical exposures and human health. However, the links between epigenetic modifications and health outcomes are often correlative and do not distinguish between cause and effect or common-cause relationships. The Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) framework has the potential to demonstrate, by way of an inference- and science-based analysis, the causal relationship between chemical exposures, epigenome, and adverse health outcomes. Authors anticipate that epigenetic information organized into AOP frameworks can be consistently used to support biological plausibility and to identify data gaps that will accelerate the pace at which epigenetic information is applied in chemical evaluation and risk-assessment paradigms.

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Calculation of the disease burden associated with environmental chemical exposures: application of toxicological information in health economic estimation](#)

Calculation of costs and the Burden of Disease (BoD) is useful in developing resource allocation

rights abuses in the cobalt trade was published. The Amnesty report first revealed that cobalt mined by children was ending up in products from prominent tech companies including Apple, Microsoft, Tesla and Samsung. There's such sensitivity around cobalt mining in the DRC that a CBS News team traveling there recently was stopped every few hundred feet while moving along dirt roads and seeing children digging for cobalt. From as young as 4 years old, children can pick cobalt out of a pile, and even those too young to work spend much of the day breathing in toxic fumes. CBS News (6/3/3018)

[China beats 2017 coal-fired power capacity reduction target: Xinhua](#)

China eliminated or suspended 65 gigawatts (GW) of coal-fired power capacity in 2017, exceeding the national target of 50 GW, the state-owned Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday, citing the State Council. China, the world's biggest coal user, has vowed to improve its notorious air pollution and upgrade its fossil-fuel dominant energy structure by cutting coal consumption and boosting clean energy use. The country aims to eliminate or halt a total of 109 GW of coal-fired power capacity by the end of this decade while at the same time keeping its total installed coal-fired power capacity below 1,100 GW. Reuters (1/3/2018)

[Africa 'very, very far away' from meeting global target to end child malnutrition](#)

No African country is expected to reach the UN target of ending childhood malnutrition by 2030, according to a new study. The research, comprised of two papers published in the science journal Nature, is the first of its kind to identify local hotspots for poor child nutrition and low education levels across 51 African countries. By using maps of local health and education data, in 5x5 sq km across the whole continent, researchers identified variations at state and county level missed from previous comparisons. Simon Hay, senior author of the papers and director of geospatial science at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, said the UN global goal of ending childhood malnutrition was always quoted as an "aspirational" target. The Guardian (1/3/2018)

[German court rules cities can ban diesel cars to tackle pollution](#)

Millions of heavily polluting vehicles could eventually disappear from roads across Germany

and prioritization strategies in public and environmental health. While useful, the Disability-Adjusted Life Year (DALY) metric disregards subclinical dysfunctions, adheres to stringent causal criteria, and is hampered by gaps in environmental exposure data, especially from industrializing countries. For these reasons, a recently calculated environmental BoD of 5.18% of the total DALYs is likely underestimated. Authors combined and extended cost calculations for exposures to environmental chemicals, including neurotoxicants, air pollution, and endocrine disrupting chemicals, where sufficient data were available to determine dose-dependent adverse effects.

Environmental Health

UPCOMING EVENTS

[ICEHR 2018: 20th International Conference on Environmental Health and Remediation](#)

24-25 May 2018, Prague, Czechia

[International Conference on Fetal Programming and Developmental Toxicity \(PPTOX\) VI Conference](#)

28-30 May 2018, Torshavn, Faroe Islands

[9th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment \(INCHES\). Saving the Children at Risk, Shaping the Future Sustainability](#)

27-29 June 2018, Seoul, Republic of Korea

[WHO's First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health](#)

30 October - 1 November 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

International Childhood Cancer Cohort Consortium (I4C) Annual Meeting

13-14 Nov 2018, Tokyo, Japan

[Excellence in Pediatrics Conference](#)

6-8 December 2018, Prague, Czechia

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

[WHO Children's environmental Health training modules translated into Japanese](#)

Three modules from the WHO Training Package for Health Care Providers "Why children?", "Children are not little adults" and "unsound

after its top administrative court ruled that cities have the right to ban diesel motors in an effort to improve deadly air quality levels. Tuesday's historic decision potentially affects an estimated 12m vehicles and has delivered a heavy blow to Europe's largest car market, while being celebrated by environmental campaigners. The Guardian (27/2/2018)

[Most UK parents back air pollution exclusion zones around schools](#)

The majority of UK parents back the introduction of "pollution exclusion zones" outside schools amid growing concern that illegal levels of air pollution are doing long term damage to hundreds of thousands of young people. A new study published on Monday by environmental law organisation ClientEarth reveals that 60% of parents want traffic diverted away from school gates at the beginning and end of the school day, with just 13% opposed. The Guardian (26/2/2018)

[Brussels to make public transport free on high air pollution days](#)

Brussels has moved to make the city's public transport and bike share system free on the smoggiest days in a bid to drive down pollution levels and meet EU air quality directives. After two consecutive days of high particulate matter (PM) levels – defined as surpassing an average of 51-70 micrograms per cubic metre of air – buses, trams and metros would have to open their doors completely free, under new city council rules. Speed limits for cars would be also cut by about a third and wood burning for stoves would be banned under the law, which was forwarded for judicial review last week. The Guardian (26/2/2018)

[Rome to ban diesel cars from city centre by 2024](#)

Rome, one of Europe's most traffic-clogged cities and home to thousands of ancient outdoor monuments threatened by pollution, plans to ban diesel cars from the centre by 2024, its mayor has said. Virginia Raggi announced the decision on her Facebook page on Tuesday, saying: "If we want to intervene seriously, we have to have the courage to adopt strong measures". Her comments followed a court ruling in Germany that cities there can ban the most heavily polluting diesel cars from their streets. About two-thirds of the 1.8m new cars sold in Italy last year were diesel, according to industry figures. Rome has no major industries, so nearly all of the air pollution in the Italian capital is caused by motor vehicles. The

management of chemicals” are now available in Japanese. Guardian (26/2/2018)

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Collated and distributed with the cooperation of the [Children's Health and the Environment Program, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia](#)

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