



Collaborative on Health and the Environment

OUR VISION

A world in which current and future generations are more capable than ever of reaching their full potential and living healthy, fulfilling, productive lives.

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) is committed to protecting the health of families, children and communities from pollution and other environmental factors that contribute to chronic disease and disability. By cultivating a diverse, dynamic, science-based learning community, CHE strengthens our collective capacity to translate the latest environmental health research into health-promoting programs, policies and practices.

Promoting Prevention

Since its founding in 2002, CHE has fostered numerous interdisciplinary collaborations that have advanced disease prevention and health promotion, resulting in:

- An award-winning multimedia eBook on multiple contributors to specific health problems entitled, *A Story of Health*, with continuing education credits hosted on the CDC's web site;
- Scientific consensus statements that have advanced research on environmental links to a wide range of diseases and disabilities;
- The first major academic program in the US on reproductive health and the environment (based at the University of California-San Francisco);
- A hard-hitting report from the President's Cancer Panel on links between hazardous exposures and cancer and the need to make reducing toxic chemicals a national priority;
- National learning and developmental disabilities organizations becoming influential voices in reducing exposures to toxic chemicals;
- Over 60 publications, for researchers, health professionals, decision-makers and consumers to better understand new research and to utilize in prevention-oriented actions;
- and much more....

Fostering a Vibrant Learning Community

CHE offers more than 5,000 partners in all 50 states and 87 countries a range of ways to learn about environmental health science and its implications. These include a variety of educational forums to engage researchers, health professionals, health-affected groups, social and environmental justice advocates and other concerned citizens and to encourage respectful discussions around emerging environmental health science. These forums include:

- Multiple monthly conference calls that feature leading researchers discussing the latest science and its import for the health of current and future generations. Audio-recordings of these have been downloaded over 310,000 times in the last 5 years;
- 20 topical ScienceSerts that promote informed conversations about environmental links to a range of diseases and disabilities and actions being taken to address these concerns;
- A highly interconnected and interactive web site, making it easy to find the most up-to-date research and analysis about critical environmental health issues;

- **A comprehensive news feed** for ensuring partners have the latest environmental health research, job postings and event announcements at their fingertips;
- **Regular social media posts** to highlight current studies on environmental contributors to disease and how they can affect health and wellness.

Using a Systems-Based Approach

To encourage a societal shift from a silo-oriented approach to a systems approach to solving today's most challenging problems, CHE employs an **ecological model of health** to demonstrate the complex network of exposures that spans **from the cellular level to the societal level** and influences our health across the lifespan. This dynamic model includes **interactions between chemical exposures, nutrition, toxic stress, socioeconomic status, the built environment, climate change** and other factors that can impact human health. CHE partners then use this information to design and support **prevention-oriented initiatives and press for more health-protective programs, policies and practices**. In addition, CHE effectively encourages professionals in different sectors to **reach across disciplines to generate innovative strategies and interventions** to better protect public health.



Cultivating the Next Generation

CHE invests in **educating and mentoring the next generation** of those concerned with environmental and social determinants of health. We launched a pilot project in 2016 offering **opportunities, such as practicums and internships, for college and graduate level students to learn more about environmental health topics in a systems-based context**. Through this program, CHE nurtures students' capacity to address the ever-increasing array of complex issues they will face in their careers. Our longer-term goal is to establish this program at multiple academic institutions across the country to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the field.

Creating a Healthier Tomorrow

As CHE prepares to celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2017, our vibrant learning community continues to create the basis and buy-in for developing and implementing prevention-oriented approaches to **improve individual and collective health for the long term**. Through our pioneering initiatives, we not only raise the level of dialogue on environmental health research, we also spur **creative, collaborative responses to some of the most critical health concerns today, towards a healthier tomorrow for all**.



A program of Commonwealth

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