Working Toward a Healthier, Equitable Future: Cancer Prevention

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Children’s Environmental Health Network (CEHN)
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Our Mission and Work

Our Mission:
To protect the developing child from environmental hazards and promote a healthy environment.

Our Work:
- Promote preventive research
- Translate, educate, and train
- Child protective policies

Celebrating 29 years!
Blueprint for Protecting Children’s Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action

- Blueprint and vision used to assist in making the economic, public health, and policy case for children.
  - Social determinants of health
  - Justice and equity
Blueprint for Protecting Children’s Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action

- Mobilizing society to take action on children’s environmental health -- placing a strong priority on children and families;
- Creating knowledge essential for effective action and making use of the knowledge we have;
- Marshaling the engine of the economy to achieve environments in which children can thrive and enjoy abundant opportunity for building a sustainable, economically secure future; and
- Building the political will in our institutions of government for child-centered policies.
Inequities Need to Lead Solutions

Traditional Approach to Environmental Health Laws/Regulations

- Harm to children's health must be proven before we can enact measures to protect children’s health.

- Waiting for evidence of harm means placing children at risk of life-long, irreversible -- yet preventable -- damage.
Cancer Free Economy Network

WORKING TOGETHER FOR EQUITABLE SYSTEMS CHANGE

COME LEARN WITH US!

https://www.cancerfreeeconomy.org/
Our Guiding Star

Within our generation, we will lift the burden of cancers and other diseases by driving a dramatic and equitable transition from toxic substances in our lives, communities, and economy to safe and healthy alternatives for all.
Connecting Teams Across the System

BUILDING POWER
Mobilize vulnerable, expos

HEALTH SCIENCE
Multidisciplinary research agenda, Evidence of impacts on health

SHIFTING MARKETS
Creating demand for and supply of healthy alternatives

COMMUNICATIONS
Building public awareness and demand for change

POLICY & LEGAL
Promote policies and legal strategies to protect everyone’s health
Reinforcing Actions Across Network

Impact the public narrative & acceptance of toxic chemicals = cancer, demand for upstream prevention.

Build more champions & mobilize communities, from “chemists to community organizers to cancer charities”

Coordinate Supply and Demand strategies to reinforce progress on healthy alternatives

Design inter-disciplinary research to accelerate solutions, upstream prevention
Advancing a Policy Agenda that Puts Those Most Impacted by Toxic Chemicals at the Front of the Line
“THERE IS A GREAT NEED TO FIX THE DAMAGE DONE TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. BUT THERE IS AN EVEN GREATER NEED TO GO BEYOND REPAIRS AND BUILD A REGULATORY STRUCTURE THAT FREES ALL PEOPLE FROM THE BURDEN OF TOXIC EXPOSURES THAT INCREASE CANCER RISKS.”

— Kathryn Alcantar, Co-Lead of CFE’s Policy and Legal group; Policy Director at the Center for Environmental Health
THE SAME GENERATIONS OF SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED IN BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY SUFFERING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ARE ALSO DRIVING THE STARK RACIAL INEQUITIES IN SEVERAL TYPES OF CANCER.
CHILDHOOD CANCER PREVENTION INITIATIVE

#PREVENTCHILDHOODCANCER
Aim of the Childhood Cancer Prevention Initiative

- Solidifies organizations both within the childhood cancer community advocates, health professionals, faith leaders, business investors, and researchers to create awareness of the environmental connection within the diagnosis of some forms of childhood cancer

- To make the business, economic case, and public health case

- To create actions including advocating for public policy to advance solutions
2021 CHILDHOOD CANCER PREVENTION INITIATIVE LEADING COLLABORATORS

Cancer Free Economy Network
American Sustainable Business Council
Children’s Environmental Health Network
Clean & Healthy New York
PREP4Gold

Lowell Center for Sustainable Production
University of Massachusetts
Cancer Rates Rising Since 1975

Trends in Childhood Cancer Incidence and Mortality

Declining childhood cancer deaths, but rising childhood cancer incidence

- Age-adjusted incidence rate per 100,000
- Age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000

Source: National Cancer Institute, Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program, 1975–2016
Exposures where there is compelling evidence of increased risk of childhood cancers

- Pesticides
- Near Traffic Air Pollution
- Paints and Solvents
Engagement of:
• Business organizations and companies
• Pediatric Cancer Foundations
• Legislators to advance policy
• Health & Science community
• Ongoing education of parents, communities and others
THE POLICY CASE

Systemic Change for Prevention
Public Policy Works

- Ideas once controversial, now expected, changed by laws:
  - Kids stuffed animals are made with fresh, clean fill instead of oily rags
  - Products made for babies and toddlers don’t include parts small enough to choke on
  - NYC doesn’t get smog like this photo
  - Car seat belt laws
Government Regulation Instrumental in Improving Children’s Blood Lead Levels

Following laws requiring removal of lead from paint, gasoline, and other products

- Lead Contamination Control Act 1988
  - Virtual elimination of lead in gasoline
- Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act 1971
- Phase-out of lead gasoline began 1973
- Ban on residential lead paint 1978
- Ban on lead in plumbing 1986
- Ban on lead solder in food cans 1995
- Lead dust and soil hazard standards 2001

Source: https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/138/i1/e20161493/F1.large.jpg?width=800&height=600&carousel=1
Exitng Progress is at Risk

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Governments Must Fulfill Their Obligation: To Prevent Cancers of Environmental Origin

This obligation to protect public health includes:

• Protecting existing and recent federal laws from rollbacks
• Holding the US Environmental Protection Agency accountable for enforcing existing regulations
• Expanding air quality and water protections
• Requiring the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
• Require use of safer materials in children’s products and our built environment - and eliminate toxics
Governments Must Fulfill Their Obligation: To Prevent Cancers of Environmental Origin

This obligation to protect public health includes:

- Using government and institutional dollars to purchase nontoxic options
- Ensure children’s spaces are sited safely
- Require transparent disclosure of chemicals of concern in children’s products and in areas intended for use by children, i.e. artificial turf
- Increase funding for research on cancer prevention
Bottom Line

- Government has a fundamental obligation to provide for the general well-being of the public and our shared environment, both of which are profoundly at risk due to the ways in which chemicals are manufactured, used, and released.

- Policies that restrict harmful chemicals and drive our economy toward safer solutions are essential if we are serious about preventing debilitating, deadly diseases like cancers.
Join the CEH Movement!

OCTOBER 14, 2021 IS:
CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY

www.cehday.org

Write your representatives  Get outside with a child  Join a virtual event

How will you celebrate?
Contact Information

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Visit:
www.cehn.org
www.cehday.org
www.cancerfreeeconomy.org

Thank you!!