



Bulletin of the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment

Number 24

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Welcome to the twenty-fourth Bulletin of the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment!

Visit us at: www.cnhhe-rcshe.ca

If you have new information that would be useful to others on any aspect of human health and the environment, please forward it to us for inclusion in the next Bulletin:

Louise.Steeves@nb.lung.ca. The deadline for the next Bulletin is **September 10, 2010**.

CONFERENCES

CNHE Conference Early Bird Registration Deadline Approaching

The August 27 Early Bird Registration deadline is approaching for the Canadian Nurses for Health and the Environment Conference, Linking our Knowledge through Diverse Interests (October 25-27, 2010 in Toronto, ON). For details, please visit: <http://anac.on.ca>.

GENERAL

Consultation on Proposed changes to the Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist

This consultation is open for comment starting August 16, 2010 until October 16, 2010 (60 calendar days). For more information on this consultation, please visit: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/legislation/consultation/cosmet/hotlist-liste_critique-cons-2010-eng.php.

Release of Draft Screening Assessment Report on Site-Restricted Low Boiling Point Naphthas Under the Chemicals Management Plan's Petroleum Sector Stream Approach

The draft screening assessment report for the site-restricted low boiling point naphthas (LBPNS) was released Saturday, August 14, 2010. A link to the Notice of Publication of the Draft Screening Assessment for Site-Restricted Low Boiling Point Naphthas can be viewed at: <http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/approach-approche/petrole-eng.php>.

Comments Now Accepted for Batch 8 of the CMP

Batch 8 final assessment was released to the public on July 31, 2010. Public submissions for this batch are due to the government by September 29, 2010. To view the documents, please visit: <http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/challenge-defi/batch-lot-8/index-eng.php>.

Health Canada Website Updates

The following have been updated on the “Food Additives” section of Health Canada website:

- A Summary of the Basis of Health Canada's Decision to allow the use of Caffeine in Carbonated Soft Drinks <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/caf/caf-ccsd-cbg-eng.php>.
- Caffeine and Carbonated Soft Drinks <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/caf/caf-ccsd-cbg-faq-eng.php>.

The following have been updated on the “Chemical Contaminants” section of Health Canada website:

- Summary of Comments Received on Health Canada's Proposed Maximum Limits for Ochratoxin A in Certain Foods - August 2008 to June 2009. <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/chem-chim/toxin-natur/summary-resume-eng.php>.
- 2010 Call for Data on Ochratoxin A <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/chem-chim/toxin-natur/call-demande-eng.php>.

Resources From Recent Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) Calls:

If you missed any of the following CHE calls, you may listen to MP3 recordings and find supporting materials at the following links:

- July 29, 2010 - [The Human Health Effects of the Gulf Coast Oil Spill: A Summary of the IOM Workshop](#)
- June 10, 2010 - [Nanotechnology: A New Chapter in Environmental Health Sciences](#)
- May 18, 2010 - [The President's Cancer Panel Report: "Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now"](#)
- May 11, 2010 - [The Information Age and EMF/RF Illness](#)
- May 4, 2010 - [CHE Cafe call with Annie Leonard, *The Story of Stuff*](#)

And of course, you can always explore our [archived resources](#)

Resource: Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) (Submitted by CNHHE Member Colin Soskolne)

Keep up with environmental health news coming from Europe with HEAL's resources. To access HEAL, please visit: <http://www.env-health.org>.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

ER Visits for Gastro Illnesses Spike After Heavy Rains, Study Finds

Heavy rainfall can lead to an 11 percent increase in children's emergency room visits for gastro illnesses, suggesting microbes from sewage may contaminate drinking water supplies. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/science/emergency-room-visits-for-gastro-up-after-rain>.

Barrie Area Parents Demand Schools Ditch Wireless Internet

A group of Barrie-area parents is demanding their children's schools turn off wireless Internet before they head back to school next month, fearing the technology is making the kids sick. The parents say their children are showing a host of symptoms ranging from headaches and dizziness to nausea and even racing heart rates. They believe the Wi-Fi setup in their kids' elementary

schools may be the problem. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/education/schoolsandresources/article/848181--barrie-area-parents-demand-schools-ditch-wireless-internet>.

Study: Troops Have Higher Rates of Some Cancers

After looking at 10 years' worth of cancer data, researchers at the American Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center found that service members tend to have higher rates of melanoma, brain, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, breast, prostate and testicular cancers than civilians. To read the full article, please visit:

http://www.armytimes.com/news/2010/07/military_cancer_rates_statistics_072010w.

The Story of Cosmetics

Watch The Story of Cosmetics, a film exposing the ugly truth about personal care products – brought to you by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, Annie Leonard's Story of Stuff Project and Free Range Studios. To see the free film, please visit: <http://storyofstuff.org/cosmetics>.

Socioeconomic Position and Health Status of People Who Live Near Busy Roads: The Rome Longitudinal Study (RoLS)

Subjects living close to high traffic roads (HTR) are more likely to suffer from air-pollution related morbidity and mortality. The issue has large public health consequences but few studies have described the main socio-demographic characteristics of people exposed to traffic. To read the full study, please visit: <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/9/1/41>.

Delphi's July Climate Change Policy Update

Delphi's July climate change policy update is now available. To read the full report, please visit: http://www.delphi.ca/documents/uploads/Climate_Change_Policy_Update_July_2010.pdf.

Coming Soon: A Corn-Based BPA Replacement

BPA, a toxic compound found in everything from store receipts to water bottles, has been a hot topic as of late. That's because most industries have been slow to adopt alternatives to the petroleum-based estrogenic compound, which is used in the plastic manufacturing process, among other things. Enter isosorbide, a corn-based industrial ingredient that the Archer Daniels Midland Company is touting as a safe, renewable alternative to BPA. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.fastcompany.com/1682423/coming-soon-a-corn-based-bpa-replacement>.

Feds to Designate Bisphenol A as Toxic by November

After a lengthy delay, the federal government on Tuesday said it is close to making good on its two-year old promise to designate bisphenol A as toxic under Canadian law. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/health/Feds%20designate%20bisphenol%20toxic%20November/3409291/story.html>.

Teens Carry 30 Percent More BPA Than Rest of Population

Teenagers may carry the highest levels of bisphenol A – about 30 per cent more than the rest of the population, according to the first national survey about the compound conducted by Statistics Canada, but exposure to the estrogen-mimicking chemical is widespread, with detectible levels in 91 per cent of Canadians. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/teens-carry-30-per-cent-more-bpa-than-rest-of-population/article1674153>.

Early Puberty: Another Sign of Our (Chemical) Times?

A major study released earlier this week in Pediatrics concluded that girls are starting puberty earlier than ever. To read the full study, please visit:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/peds.2009-3079v1>.

Delayed Reaction: The Fetal Basis of Adult Disease, with Deborah Cory-Slechta (Podcast)

New lines of research are now showing that prenatal exposures may also contribute to health problems that typically arise later in life—such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and Parkinson disease—via changes to DNA transcription and the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal axis. In this podcast, Deborah Cory-Slechta discusses the phenomenon known as the fetal basis of adult disease. To hear the podcast, please visit:

<http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/fetchArticle.action?articleURI=info%3Adoi%2F10.1289%2Fehp.trp070110>.

Advanced Wastewater Treatments Can Reduce the Endocrine Disrupting Effects of the Effluent on Fish

Some wastewater treatments are more effective than others at removing estrogens and minimizing reproductive effects on fish exposed to them in sewage effluent, according to a new study. All three of the treatments tested in the study did so, but each influenced different reproductive endpoints that were measured in the fish. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/fish-show-sewage-treatments-differ>.

Levels of Controversial Soap Chemical Rise

Last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published data on the levels of 212 chemicals in 2400 volunteers in the US. The average amount of triclosan, a chemical added to soaps and toothpastes to kill fungi and bacteria, had increased from 13 micrograms per litre of urine in 2003-4 to 18.5 µg/l in 2005-6. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20727733.000-levels-of-controversial-soap-chemical-rise.html>.

Online Release of North American Industrial Pollution Data Reveals Significant Reporting Gaps

Taking Stock Online, released today by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, provides the latest integrated North American data and most comprehensive picture of industrial pollution across North America, documenting reported releases and transfers of 5.7 billion kilograms of toxic pollutants in 2006 from industrial facilities in Canada, Mexico and the United States. To read the full article, please visit:

http://www.cec.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=2943&SiteNodeID=532&BL_ExpandID=&AA_SiteLanguageID=1.

Airborne Particulate Matter and Mitochondrial Damage: A Cross-Sectional Study

Oxidative stress generation is a primary mechanism mediating the effects of Particulate Matter (PM) on human health. Although mitochondria are both the major intracellular source and target of oxidative stress, the effect of PM on mitochondria has never been evaluated in exposed individuals. To read the full study, please visit: <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/9/1/48>.

Air Pollution Exposure During Critical Time Periods in Gestation and Alterations in Cord Blood Lymphocyte Distribution: A Cohort of Livebirths

Toxic exposures have been shown to influence maturation of the immune system during gestation. This study investigates the association between cord blood lymphocyte proportions and maternal exposure to air pollution during each gestational month. To read the full study, please visit: <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/9/1/46>.

Outdoor Particulate Matter and Childhood Asthma Admissions in Athens, Greece: A Time-Series Study

Particulate matter with diameter less than 10 micrometers (PM10) that originates from anthropogenic activities and natural sources may settle in the bronchi and cause adverse effects possibly via oxidative stress in susceptible individuals, such as asthmatic children. This study aimed to investigate the effect of outdoor PM10 concentrations on childhood asthma admissions (CAA) in Athens, Greece. To read the full study, please visit: <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/9/1/45>.

Ambient Air Pollution Exposure and Full-Term Birth Weight in California

Studies have identified relationships between air pollution and birth weight, but have been inconsistent in identifying individual pollutants inversely associated with birth weight or elucidating susceptibility of the fetus by trimester of exposure. We examined effects of prenatal ambient pollution exposure on average birth weight and risk of low birth weight in full-term births. To read the full study, please visit: <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/9/1/44>.