



Creating The Healthiest Nation: Children's Environmental Health

Exposure to environmental health hazards depends on where children live. Children of color are more likely to live in communities founded on residential segregation and other racial and environmental inequities and injustices.

Background information on the health of children and youth is essential for understanding the impact of environmental health hazards. The Environmental Health Research Institute (EHRI) has conducted a series of studies that have shown that children of color are more likely to live in communities with higher levels of environmental health hazards. This is due to a combination of factors, including residential segregation, income inequality, and historical injustices. The EHRI has also found that children of color are more likely to live in communities with higher levels of air pollution, lead in paint, and other environmental health hazards. This information is critical for developing strategies to reduce the burden of environmental health hazards on children of color.

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EQUITY

Equity is a fundamental principle of justice that requires that all people have the same access to the same opportunities and resources. In the context of environmental health, equity means that all children, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, should have the same access to clean air, water, and a safe environment. However, children of color and children from low-income families often face significant barriers to accessing these resources. This is due to a combination of factors, including residential segregation, income inequality, and historical injustices. Addressing these inequities is essential for creating a healthier and more just society for all children.

For example, in the United States, children of color are more likely to live in communities with higher levels of air pollution, lead in paint, and other environmental health hazards. This is due to a combination of factors, including residential segregation, income inequality, and historical injustices. The Environmental Health Research Institute (EHRI) has conducted a series of studies that have shown that children of color are more likely to live in communities with higher levels of environmental health hazards. This information is critical for developing strategies to reduce the burden of environmental health hazards on children of color.





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CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is a global environmental issue that has become a major focus of international policy. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, is a landmark treaty that aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels. This requires a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with developed countries taking the lead. The agreement also emphasizes the need for climate justice, ensuring that the most vulnerable countries receive the support they need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The United States has been a key player in the agreement, committing to significant emission reductions and providing financial support to developing nations. The agreement is a testament to the power of international cooperation in addressing a global challenge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Climate change is a global environmental issue that has become a major focus of international policy. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, is a landmark treaty that aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels. This requires a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with developed countries taking the lead. The agreement also emphasizes the need for climate justice, ensuring that the most vulnerable countries receive the support they need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The United States has been a key player in the agreement, committing to significant emission reductions and providing financial support to developing nations. The agreement is a testament to the power of international cooperation in addressing a global challenge.



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SUMMARY OF APHA'S REPORT ON CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH⁽¹⁾



In 2019, APHA released “Protecting the Health of Children: A National Snapshot of Environmental Health Services,” a report on the availability and accessibility of children’s environmental health services. A national scan of department of health and department of environmental quality websites was conducted for 48 states to gain insight on the information available to the public about environmental health services for children. To learn if the public was aware of and used the information available on state websites, APHA hosted forums and engaged with community members in Flint, Michigan, and Washington, D.C. Key challenges identified during the forum discussions: excessive formalities and the lack of coordination among different agencies providing services. The report recommended intentionally engaging with community members from the start to identify resources, needs and their environmental health priorities to determine and offer needed services.

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