


The intersection of Environmental Health and the Health Care System

Environmental Threats to Health

Based on the report
Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging

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Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility (www.psr.org/Boston)
and
The Science and Environmental Health Network (www.sehn.org)

How Environment Affects Health

- Environmental factors are key drivers of many common chronic diseases.
- Environmental factors alter key biological pathways leading to chronic disease.
- Important environmental determinants of health include:
 - Food system/nutrition and diet
 - Toxic chemicals
 - Built environment / physical activity
 - Psychological & socioeconomic stress
- There are personal & policy solutions for healthy people & a healthy environment.

For the complete monograph, contact:

www.agehealthy.org


For more information, contact:
www.healthandenvironment.org/initiatives/healthy_aging

The Price of POLLUTION

Cost Estimates of Environmentally-Related Disease in Oregon

Oregon spends at least **\$1.57 billion** per year on preventable disease caused by pollution.

The Price of Pollution study estimated how much money is spent in Oregon annually to pay for environmentally attributable diseases and disabilities, which are largely preventable.



The Price of POLLUTION


Cost Estimates of Environmentally-Related Disease in Oregon

Asthma: \$39.0 million
Cardiovascular disease: \$342.5 million
Cancer: \$131.0 million
Lead exposure: \$878.0 million
Birth defects: \$2.8 million
Neurobehavioral disorders: \$187.1 million

TOTAL: \$1.57 billion annually

Hospitalization, physician visits, lost earning potential, and lost work days are some of the direct and indirect costs reflected in the calculations.

1.18% of Oregon Gross State Product



Economic Costs of Environmental Diseases and Disabilities

Typically decision makers consider only the upfront costs of implementing environmental health protection measures designed to reduce pollution, ignoring the financial impacts of inaction.

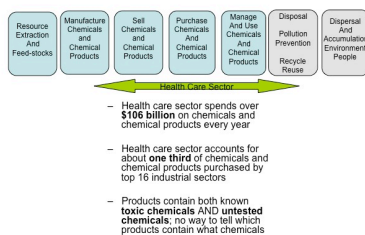
Health and related costs are born by society, unlike the costs of environmental protection measures

These costs are largely **preventable**, by eliminating and exposures to environmental exposures

Eliminating and reducing exposures to toxic chemicals makes good economic sense, as well as good sense from a public health perspective.



Health Care System Impacts on Environmental Health



Health Care Engagement in Chemicals Policy

- American Medical Association Resolution 404 on Chemicals Policy Reform, <http://www.globalhealthsafety.org/press/articles/>
- American Nurses Association Resolution on Nursing Practice, Chemical Exposure and Right-to-Know, <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/OccupationalandEnvironmental/environmentalhealth/PolicyIssues/ChemicalExposureandRighttoKnow.aspx>
- American Public Health Association Resolution Calling on the US Congress to Restructure the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=1350>

Many Policy Options Environmental Health and Health Care

2008-2009 Annual Report President's Cancer Panel

Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk

What We Can Do Now



http://deanfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/annualReports/pcp08-09rpt/PCP_Report_08-09_508.pdf



Additional Resources

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Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon Environmental Council safeguards what Oregonians love about Oregon – clean air and water, an unpolluted landscape and healthy food produced by local farmers. As a member-supported nonprofit more than 40 years, we've been a champion for solutions to protect the health of every Oregonian and the health of the place we call home. Our vision for Oregon includes solving global warming, protecting kids from toxics, cleaning up our rivers, building sustainable economies, and ensuring healthy food and local farms.

www.oeonline.org

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Chapter

Guided by the values and expertise of medicine and public health, Physicians for Social Responsibility works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival. PSR is the medical and public health voice working to prevent the use or spread of nuclear weapons and to slow, stop and reverse global warming and toxic degradation of the environment. Oregon PSR also addresses environmental threats to human survival, such as global warming, toxins that prevent healthy development, and chemicals in our foods.

<http://www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/>

Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition

Rachel's Friends is an Oregon advocacy organization dedicated to lowering the incidence of breast and other cancers by reducing our exposure to environmental carcinogens. We do this through education, legislative action, and organizing for change on behalf of Oregonians.

<http://www.rachelsfriends.org/>

Safer Chemicals, Health Families

The Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition represents more than 11 million individuals and includes parents, health professionals, advocates for people with learning and developmental disabilities, reproductive health advocates, environmentalists and businesses from across the nation.

Our coalition of diverse groups is united by their common concern about toxic chemicals in our homes, places of work, and products we use every day.

<http://www.saferchemicals.org/>

<http://saferchemicals.org/resources/safer-chemicals-good-for-health-good-for-health-care.html>

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE)

CHE is an international partnership committed to strengthening the scientific and public dialogue on the impact of environmental factors on human health and catalyzing initiatives to address these concerns. CHE has been instrumental in leveraging mainstream health-affected constituencies in the environmental health science revolution and engaging researchers, health professionals, and environmental health and justice advocates from diverse sectors. Founded in 2002, CHE is an international partnership of over 4,000 individuals and organizations in 45 countries and 48 states, including scientists, health professionals, health-affected groups, nongovernmental organizations and other concerned citizens, committed to improving human and ecological health.

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/>

Health Care Without Harm

"First Do No Harm" ... Together with our partners around the world, Health Care Without Harm shares a vision of a health care sector that does no harm, and instead promotes the health of people and the environment. To that end, we are working to implement ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to health care practices that pollute the environment and contribute to disease.

http://www.noharm.org/us_canada/issues/chemicals/

