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# Who We Are

The **Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units** are a source of medical information and advice on environmental conditions that influence children's health.

PEHSUs are academically based, typically at university medical centers, and are located across the United States, in Canada and Mexico. These PEHSUs form a network that is capable of responding to requests for information throughout North America and offering advice on prevention, diagnosis, management, and treatment of environmentally related health effects in children.

Because children's environmental health covers a wide variety of issues, the PEHSU network has experts in pediatrics, allergy/immunology, neurodevelopment, toxicology, occupational and environmental medicine, nursing, and other specialized areas.




Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics  
PEHSU Program Manager  
1010 Vermont Avenue, NW #513  
Washington, DC 20005



## A NETWORK OF EXPERTS ON Children's Environmental Health





To properly grow, develop, and thrive, children need clean air to breathe; clean water to drink; safe food to eat; and healthy places to live, learn, and play. In many communities across North America, children's vulnerabilities are not fully understood, and children are exposed to environmental risks that can seriously harm their health. Most health care providers are not adequately trained to recognize environmentally related illnesses and injuries in children.

For more information about children's environmental health, please visit <http://www.pehsu.net>.

## What We Do

*PEHSUs offer advice and information on environmental exposures and children's health.*

PEHSUs work with health care professionals, parents, school and community groups, and others to provide information on protecting children from environmental hazards. They also work with Federal, State, and local agencies to address children's environmental health issues in homes, schools, and communities. The basic services of the PEHSU network are:

### Community Education and Outreach

- Raising awareness about environmental conditions that may harm children
- Guidance on preventing or reducing harmful environmental exposures in everyday situations
- Providing practical advice on helping children cope and recover during and after floods, wildfires, chemical spills and other crises

### Training Health Professionals

- Conducting seminars and conferences
- Publishing peer-reviewed articles that raise environmental health literacy

- Translating health care research into medical practice
- Providing on-line educational programs and case studies on environmental health issues

### Consultation and Referral

- Evaluating suspected toxic exposures
- Identifying and interpreting appropriate diagnostic tests
- Medical management
- Referral to specialty care

**Find Expert Help: Call 1-888-347-2632 or visit <http://www.pehsu.net>**



Environmental exposures of concern for children include biological, chemical, and radiological hazards, such as:

- Pesticides
- Lead
- Mercury
- Arsenic
- Allergens
- Carbon monoxide
- Solvents
- Diesel exhaust
- Sun exposure
- Second-hand tobacco smoke
- Drinking water contaminants
- Indoor and outdoor air pollutants



ATSDR and EPA support the PEHSU program: the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics manages it.

 **Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award**