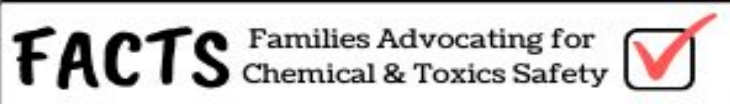


Children's Environmental Health Month Briefing for State Policymakers

October 12th, 2023
1-2 PM PST





Co-Sponsors

- Children Now;
- EWG, Environmental Working Group;
- FACTS, Families Advocating for Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Safety;
- RAMP, Regional Asthma Management and Prevention;
- UndauntedK12;
- Pesticide Action Network North America - California;
- Sierra Club, California;
- Western Center on Law & Poverty
- CleanEarth4Kids.org;
- California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice;
- American Academy of Pediatrics\California;
- American Nurses Association, California;
- Breast Cancer Over Time;
- Brighter Beginnings;
- Children's Specialty Care Coalition;
- Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health;
- California Nurses for Environmental Health & Justice;
- California School-Based Health Alliance;
- Center for Environmental Health;
- Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment;
- Central California Environmental Justice Network;
- Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy;
- Monterey Bay Central Labor Council;
- Pesticide Action Network;
- Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles;
- Re-Wild your Campus;
- Non-Toxic Neighborhoods;
- CalPIRG;
- Friends Committee on Legislation in California

Agenda:

- **Introduction (Children Now)**
- **Testimony from Youth Activist**, Aniya Butler, Youth vs. Apocalypse
- **Climate Change and Air Quality Panel**

Stephanie Seidmon, Program Director, UndauntedK12

Brandon Kitagawa, Senior Policy Associate, Regional Asthma Management and Prevention

- **Environmental Hazards and Toxins Panel**

Asha Sharma, Organizing Co-Director, Pesticide Action Network North America-California

Susan Little, California Government Affairs, Environmental Working Group

Scott Faber, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Environmental Working Group

Q&A and Wrap-Up

Aniya Butler, Youth vs. Apocalypse

Aniya Butler is a 17 year old, spoken word performer, published author, and community and cultural organizer from Oakland, California. She is a youth organizer with Youth Vs Apocalypse, where she directs the Hip Hop & Climate Justice Initiative and coordinates the No One Is Disposable action planning team. Aniya's work focuses on having an intersectional approach to the climate crisis and rebuilding a world with foundations of equity, sustainability, and love so that every living thing can truly thrive.

<https://www.youthvsapocalypse.org>





Stephanie Seidmon (she/her) is program director at UndauntedK12, where she works to advance national strategies to support schools and school systems to create healthy, decarbonized, climate-resilient schools. She's been a fierce advocate for climate justice throughout her decade-long career in public education. She started in the classroom as an environmental science teacher, where she launched the first school-wide recycling program in the district and founded a nutrition club and student garden while serving as a state teacher-leader and evangelist for culturally responsive and antiracist teaching practices.

Climate change's effects on children's health, wellbeing, and learning

Increased temperatures and high-heat days

- Heat stress and heat exhaustion is increasing
- Negative impacts on student learning in hot classrooms
- Inequities in schools with A/C and safe facilities

More wildfire smoke and "smoke days"

- Wildfire smoke is 10X more harmful to children than other forms of pollution
- Schools do not have the ventilation needed to filter air
- Wildfire pollution is linked to lower test scores
- School closures due to wildfire smoke is leading to learning loss

Climate anxiety and mental health impacts

- 50% of youth experience climate anxiety that affects their daily lives

What we need

Schools need HVAC.
Schools need resilience.
Schools need trees and shade.
Schools need to decarbonize.

What you can do

Increase funding opportunities for schools and districts to:

- Install or upgrade HVAC with electric heat pumps
- Maximize IRA incentives for solar, battery storage, electric school busses, and EV charging
- Make it easier for low-wealth and rural communities to access the capital needed for these big projects
- Provide technical assistance for district facilities managers to plan for decarbonization and climate resilience
- Access grant programs like CalFIRE's Green Schoolyards grants
- Plant trees and install shade



Brandon Kitagawa, is a Senior Policy Associate for RAMP. He leads RAMP's state level policy efforts and coordinates two statewide networks, Community Action to Fight Asthma (CAFA) and the California Healthy Housing Coalition (CHHC). Prior to joining RAMP, Brandon was a Community Organizer in Sacramento, CA working with local communities on youth development, neighborhood safety, and affordable housing.

Childhood Asthma In California

- 1.5 million children in CA have asthma
- 1 in 4 children with asthma miss school
- 2X Emergency department visits/3X hospitalizations
- Significant racial/ethnic inequities:

Compared to White children:

- **Black children** are more likely to have asthma and suffer from severe asthma



- **Hispanic or Latino children** are more likely to have asthma and suffer from severe asthma



Infographic from CDPH, California Breathing Program

More Than Access to Health Care

Outdoor Air Quality (OAQ)

- Ozone/Smog: 6 of top 10
- PM (year-round): 6 of top 10
- PM (short-term): 8 of top 10
- Freight corridors (ports, railyards, warehouses, truck routes)
- Pesticides
- Wildfire smoke
- Inequities

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

- Substandard housing (pests, mold)
- Pesticides
- Gas appliances
- Intrusion of outdoor pollutants, wildfire smoke
- Extreme heat
- Inequities

Policy Opportunities

OAQ

- Continue the rollout of clean air regulations, including the Advanced Clean Trucks and Advanced Clean Fleet rules
- Ensure strong implementation of key clean air programs, including various electrification incentive programs for passenger vehicles and freight transportation.
- Support ongoing efforts to build healthier communities with more active transportation and non-automotive transit.

IAQ

- Ensure strong enforcement of tenant protections against substandard housing conditions
- Expand the use of new Medi-Cal policies supporting home-based asthma services
- Create more health protective regulations for air cleaners/air purifiers
- Address extreme heat in rental housing
- Require warning labels on gas appliances

Asha Sharma, Organizing Co-Director, Pesticide Action Network North America-California



Asha has a decade of experience as an environmental and agricultural justice organizer and researcher. She is passionate about agroecology and supporting food-growing communities in building power. She received her M.S. in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis and her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Asha Sharma, Organizing Co-Director, Pesticide Action Network North America-California

The pesticide problem

- Pesticides = toxic chemicals designed to kill pests and diseases
- Applied in CA at a rate 4.5x the national average
- Health harms to children: brain tumors and other cancers, birth defects, neurodevelopmental disorders, respiratory disease, etc.
- Rural and Latinx children are most at risk

The solutions

- Improve school buffer zones
- Establish an environmental justice advisory committee at DPR
- Adopt meaningful targets to reduce overall pesticide use and toxicity
 - Ex) EU goal to reduce pesticide use by 50% by 2030
- Implement the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap
- Increase technical assistance and incentives to farmers to adopt agroecological practices



Questions? Email asha@panna.org

Susan Little, CA Government Affairs, Environmental Working Group



Susan Little works on children's environmental health, cosmetics, water and toxic chemicals policy in California. Before joining EWG, Little was a grassroots organizer, a district aide for a California state senator and several members of Congress, a legislative consultant for a California assembly member, and director of a unit that produced legislative analyses for bills reaching the Assembly floor. In these roles, Little has worked to expand parkland, enact environmental and toxics-related proposals, and direct legislative analysis.



40,000+ Chemicals

Actively used in the US market today

** Few have been assessed for safety by USEPA **

These 40,000 chemicals:

- Circulate in the air, water, soil, food
- And our bodies
- Some linked to serious health harms

Cancer

Hormone changes & early puberty

Infertility

Learning and behavioral difficulties

Weakened immunity

Thyroid disease





Chemicals affect children more than adults

- **Children breathe more air, drink more water, and eat more food per kilogram of body weight than adults.**
- **Children's bodies still growing & developing**

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

Historically not health
protective

2017 TSCA amends:
20 chemicals X
7-year reg deadline
5-year implementation

All unregulated chemicals won't
be reviewed for safety
“anytime soon”
(ProPublica)

“Could take centuries”
(PBS)



5th largest economy in the world



California





CalEPA
California Environmental
Protection Agency



OEHHA
SCIENCE FOR A HEALTHY CALIFORNIA



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

- SCP Established in 2008
- 7 Priority Products Adopted
- 4 Proposed



**SAFER
CONSUMER
PRODUCTS**

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Adopted	Proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Motor Vehicle Tires Containing 6PPD <small>Effective 10/1/23</small> > Nail Products Containing Toluene <small>Effective 3/1/23</small> > Treatments Containing PFASs for Use on Converted Textiles or Leathers <small>Effective 4/1/22</small> > Carpets and Rugs with Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) <small>Effective 7/1/21</small> > Paint or Varnish Strippers Containing Methylene Chloride <small>Effective 3/1/19</small> > Spray Polyurethane Foam with Unreacted MDI <small>Effective 7/1/18</small> > Children's Foam-Padded Sleeping Products with TDCPP or TCEP <small>Effective 7/1/17</small> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > *Laundry Detergents Containing the Surfactants Nonylphenol Ethoxylates (NPES) > *Nail Products Containing Methyl Methacrylate > *Motor Vehicle Tires Containing Zinc > *Paint and Varnish Strippers and Graffiti Removers Containing N-Methylpyrrolidone <p>*We have not yet initiated rulemaking to list these as Priority Products.</p>



DTSC
Department of Toxic
Substances Control



**PFAS: Forever chemicals
in 99% of Americans**



Found in many consumer products and commercial applications, including: non-stick pans, cleaning products, floor polishes, aerosol sprays, silly string, menstrual products, diapers, outerwear, upholstery, carpets, clothes, shoes, cosmetics, food packaging, paper plates, plastic, microwave popcorn, artificial turf, electronics, car waxes, firefighting foam, and machine and chemical manufacturing, and anything “waterproof.”



PFAS Health Effects

- Reproductive problems
- Weakened childhood immunity
- Low birth weight
- Endocrine (hormone) disruption
- Weight gain in children and adults



PFAS Health Effects

- Testicular, kidney, liver, and pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive problems
- Increased cholesterol
- Thyroid disease





- **More than 12,000 individual PFAS chemicals used in commerce**
- **Growing consensus that entire class of PFAS are hazardous**
- **Should be regulated together – as a class**
- **DTSC and state laws around the nation regulate PFAS as a class**



Lead

Why Lead?

- **Scientific Consensus – CDC says “No safe level of lead in Children”**
 - Lead is a carcinogen and harms organs
 - Lead damages the brains and central nervous systems of young children



- **LOW LEVELS OF LEAD IN CHILDREN CAUSE:**

- **LEARNING DISABILITIES**

- **IQ LOSS**

- **IMPAIRED HEARING**

- **BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS**

- **1 IN 5 CASES OF CHILDHOOD ADHD LINKED TO LEAD EXPOSURE.**





Damage from lead exposure is most severe during a child's first six years of life.

The brain is developing rapidly

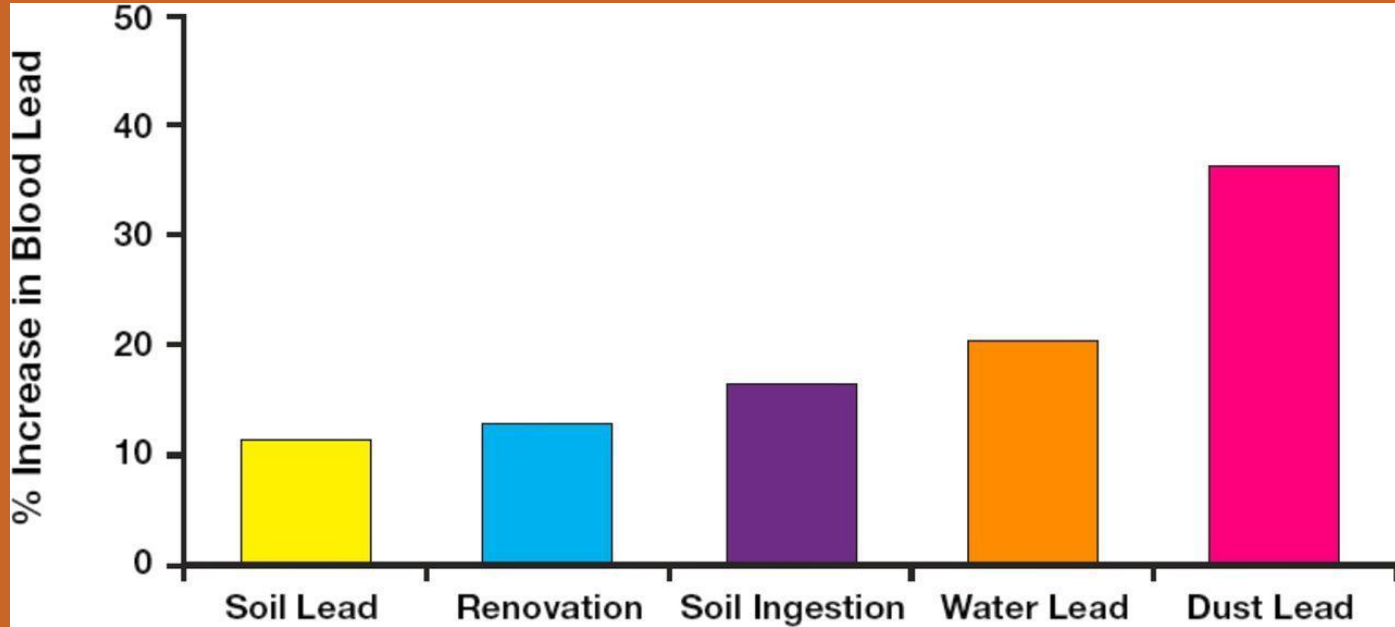


- CHILDREN ABSORB 50% OF THE LEAD THEY INGEST
- LOW-INCOME CHILDREN MOST AT RISK OF LEAD EXPOSURE
- 88% OF LEAD-POISONED CHILDREN ARE ON MEDICAL - CDPH



-
- **Infants and toddlers who drink only formula ingest as much as 60% of their lead uptake from lead in water.**

Contribution of lead exposure to children's blood lead concentrations.



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Pediatrics
2016;138:e20161493

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PEDIATRICS[®]

*Damage from
lead
exposure can
be permanent
– not
reversible*



But the harm is preventable



- AB 2370 Lead Testing of Water in Childcare Centers

- 1 in 4 Centers found high lead levels (2023)

	Lead (parts per billion)	Above action limit	Number of sites
Child care sites with at least one tap at or above	11,000	2200x	1
	1,000	200x	8
	100	20x	76
	50	10x	183
	>5		1,689
Total number of sites tested (out of 14,495 centers)			6,866

CDC: No safe level of lead exposure in children.

USEPA: Max contaminant level goal for water = 0 ppb



OEHHA: Public Health Goal for water = 0.2 ppb

AAP: Lead should be removed from child care facilities and school drinking water not exceed 1 ppb lead concentrations.

Lead & Galvanized Pipes

- Concern that California/utility management of lead contaminated lines has:
 - Jeopardized CA residents' health, especially in low income communities
 - Incomplete inventories
 - Partial replacements
 - Few health protections
 - Caused CA to lose over \$220 million in 2023
 - (\$28 million 2023, down from \$250 million 2022) federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law money



Scott Faber, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Environmental Working Group

Scott Faber leads EWG's government affairs efforts, in which capacity he has frequently testified before Congress on food, farm, energy, water and chemical policy issues. Faber is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

Faber is one of EWG's top spokespeople and is a frequent source for journalists with national and regional media outlets. Faber has appeared on network and cable news programs and in documentary films, and he is regularly quoted in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Associated Press*, *Politico* and *CNN.com*, among many others.



Questions?

For more information, please see the factsheets to be distributed following today's briefing.

Or, please contact:

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