



New York State **Children's**
Environmental Health Centers

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The New York State Children's Environmental Health Center (NY-SCEHC) was established to prevent, diagnose, and treat environmentally-related health effects during pregnancy and throughout childhood.

NYSCEHC services encompass:

- Clinical consultations and environmental health screenings
- Capacity building through education, training and consultations for health professionals and community members
- Promotion of programs and policies, together with community partners, that protect children's health

NYSCEHC sites are located in Albany, Buffalo, Long Island, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse, and Westchester. The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City serves as the coordinating center. Funding is provided through the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). This report describes the overall impact of the program, followed by examples of the work at each site.

“In our whole journey, that was the first day I felt reassured that my son would be ok. The clinic workers were such a source of comfort and reassurance. You feel so helpless. I felt confident that we had absolute experts on the topic who were intimately familiar with his case. I hope that parents know that this resource is available.”

-Nanci Pavlisko, mother of a 3 year old boy,
after coming to the Environmental
Pediatrics Clinic at Mount Sinai

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We educated



15,444 individuals
on environmental health concerns.

We served

2,752 families



through clinical environmental health consultations and screenings for environmental health concerns.

We taught

4,750 health care
professionals
and conducted



14 ECHO

telemonitoring sessions

building capacity in 32 New York counties.

We trained

100 healthcare
trainees



on how to incorporate environmental health into routine well child care.



CASE STUDIES

Multi-Center Collaboration: Mold in Schools (New York City, Hudson Valley, Long Island)

The NYC CEHC in partnership with the Long Island and Hudson Valley CEHCs fielded multiple calls from parents and local physicians concerned about mold found in four schools in the larger metropolitan area. NYSCEHC experts provided counseling to numerous families and pediatricians about evidence-based management of mold exposure.

Western NY and Finger Lakes Region: Lead Poisoning, Pregnancy, and Window Restoration

An obstetrician contacted NYSCEHC about a pregnant 32-year-old woman whose 3-year-old child had an elevated blood lead level. On further history, it was noted that her recent hobby was restoring old window frames and that she had just started working on her first window. Her child joined her as she scraped and refinished the wooden window frame at the dining room table. Western NY and Finger Lakes CEHC worked with the Lead Resource Program to share health messages to reduce lead exposures in the family.

Hudson Valley: Addressing Outdoor Air Pollution and Asthma at a Local School

A mother noticed that her son started returning from school with wheezing and coughing, initially thought to be due to a possible asthma trigger in his music class. The mother came for a consultation with the Hudson Valley CEHC. Our staff took a detailed history about possible exposures. The mother later discovered that 20 minutes before the end of the school day, a number of school buses were lined up immediately outside the music classroom windows, and were idling their engines. After NYSCEHC contacted the principal, the principal immediately instituted a policy prohibiting school buses from idling outside classrooms during class time. Within a week, this mother reported that her child was no longer coughing or wheezing and that she was able to reduce his asthma medications.

Albany: Ensuring Fire Safety in the Home

A 9 month-old baby boy seen in Albany Medical Center's Pediatric Resident Clinic was noted to live in an apartment without working smoke detectors or carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. His mother reported that their landlord refused to install them. The Center referred this family to the local NY State Department of Health's Healthy Neighborhoods Program, which performed an environmental health and safety evaluation of the home, and provided smoke detectors and CO detectors. The Healthy Neighborhood's environmental worker later thanked our Center staff repeatedly for making this referral. "We couldn't believe that they had NO smoke alarms in the entire home."

REGIONAL CENTERS



Albany Region
Children's
Environmental
Health Center



Western NY
Children's
Environmental
Health Center



Long Island
Children's
Environmental
Health Center at
Northwell



Long Island
Children's
Environmental
Health Center at
Stony Brook



New York City
Children's
Environmental
Health Center at
Mount Sinai



Finger Lakes
Children's
Environmental
Health Center



Upstate
Children's
Environmental
Health Center



Children's
Environmental
Health Center of
the Hudson Valley



NEWS

Children's Environmental Health Day

NYSCEHC celebrated our official launch on October 11, 2018, the date proclaimed the first Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day in NY State. NYSCEHC honored Mark Maddaloni (EPA-Retired), Peggy Shepard and Cecil Corbin-Mark (WE ACT for Environmental Justice), Kathy Curtis and Bobbi Wilding (Clean and Healthy NY), and Nanci Pavlisko (Parent Champion). With the assistance of our environmental health child champion, our team created a [special video message](#) about the aim of CEH Day.

Building Clinical Capacity and Public Health Partnerships

NYSCEHC was featured in the January 2019 issue of the American Journal of Public Health. The article, led by Dr. Philip Landrigan, describes the launch of the NYSCEHCs, the 1st statewide network of children's environmental health centers in the country, modelled after the national network of Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units.

Our NYSCEHC partners in Syracuse started a new clinical service – "Targeting Triggers for High-Risk Asthmatics" – in Upstate University Hospital's General Pediatrics Clinic. The program is a partnership with Home Headquarters along with Onondaga County Healthy Neighborhoods program, leveraging a grant from the Central New York Care Collaborative. NYSCEHC serves as a clinical partner to identify children with severe asthma who would benefit from community resources and includes a nurse-educator who conducts home visits to reduce asthma triggers in the home. The goals are to improve asthma control and reduce healthcare costs (e.g., ED visits and hospital admissions) for the 100 highest-risk children with asthma who come to the clinic.

New Resources

NYSCEHC, together with partners, leveraging a grant through the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, created "Prescriptions for Prevention" that provide information about how New York families can address common environmental health hazards such as lead, secondhand smoke, mold, and radon. They include evidence-based key messages for families, and point families to local resources to address these issues. The prescriptions are available [online](#), and will be integrated into routine clinical care.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

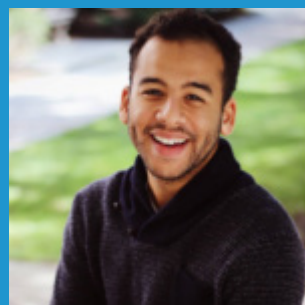
NYSCEHC trains college students, medical students, residents and others about the evidence-based management of environmentally-related illness, risk communication, and screening high-risk patients for environmental exposures, reaching 100 trainees in Year 1. One student reported: *"I now feel more confident screening patients and families for environmental health concerns, answering their questions, and connecting them to appropriate resources."*

"I learned how to formulate healthcare messages in an effective way, how to work within government to enact change, and how to work alongside communities to protect children's health," Keven Cabrera, MD Student, Class of 2019, Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.



"I had a great experience during this internship and am so glad I was able to get involved. I learned a lot that I think I might never have learned in school and I think it will greatly influence how I practice medicine in the future when I am a physician." Taylor Lindsay, MD Student, Class of 2021, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Clean Sweep was great because it really allowed me to understand the severity of the lead issue in Buffalo. You walk around and you see these broken down houses and the kids running around them and it makes you realize how important this issue is." Eitan Sheena, MD Student, Class of 2021, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



"For the first time since starting medical school I feel like I started to see how as a future pediatrician, I could use my voice to enact real change in the community I serve," Desmond Green, MD, MPH Student, Class of 2021, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

NYSCEHC launched an Environmental Health Scholars Training Program to ensure a pipeline of future leaders in children's environmental health. Scholars are based at Finger Lakes, Hudson Valley, LI, NYC and Western NY CEHCs. One scholar stated, *"I feel so fortunate to be a part of this program and for the opportunity to learn from a room filled with tremendous expertise and passion for the field of children's environmental health,"* -Dr. Amy Brown, CEHCHV.

Genesis Abreu serves as a Community Organizer, for WE ACT for Environmental Justice in NYC.



Georgia Bancheri works with the LI CEHC and Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition.

Amy Brown, MD, MBe, is a Pediatric Pulmonologist working with Hudson Valley CEHC.



Sandra H. Jee, MD, MPH, is a General Pediatrician working with Finger Lakes CEHC.

Lissette Palestro, MPH, is the Coordinator of the Western New York CEHC.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Madonna Heights is an educational facility for adolescent girls confronting a variety of challenges. The Long Island CEHC guidance allowed students to create a policy change at their school to eliminate Styrofoam products from the cafeteria. Environmental health content produced by the participants will be shared on the NYSCEHC website.



Clean and Healthy New York, Inc. (CHNY) was founded in 2006 by Kathy Curtis and Bobbi Wilding, a partnership of two seasoned environmental health advocates. CHNY is working together with NYSCEHC to provide expertise in policy analysis, environmental health marketing, and education.



Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning (CPLP) provides guidance and practical advice to ensure that all structures where children spend time are safe from lead and other environmental health hazards, including homes, schools and child care sites. CPLP is working with NYSCEHC to eliminate new cases of childhood lead poisoning through community advocacy and education on the importance of early detection and prevention.