

2016 WSPHA Annual Conference

Presentation Disclosure

No off label, experimental or investigational use of medications are discussed during this presentation.

I (we) have no interests of commercial services, products or support that requires disclosure

CHE-WA: Tackling Toxic Exposures to Our Children Through Collaboration

**WA State Public Health Association Conference
October 2016**





CHE

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment

An international collaborative...acts as a catalyst for civil discourse and collaborative initiatives among researchers, health professionals, health-affected groups and others concerned with social and environmental impacts on human health.



The Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA Chapter

CHE-WA

**The Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA
Chapter
(Children’s Environmental Health Working Group)**

<http://washington.chenw.org/>



Work collaboratively...

To eliminate toxic exposures to children...

In their most critical years: pre-conception to age 8.



Our Mission

History

2006: Idea from a CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute project

...create a stable Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Program in King County, WA which will be the intersection of assessment, policy creation and assurance delivery for CEH planning and action....



History – cont.

- **A comprehensive program did not happen.**
- **However, a 2007 needs assessment did. Results said: “Create a coalition.”**
- **Chose CHE-WA as our host organization**



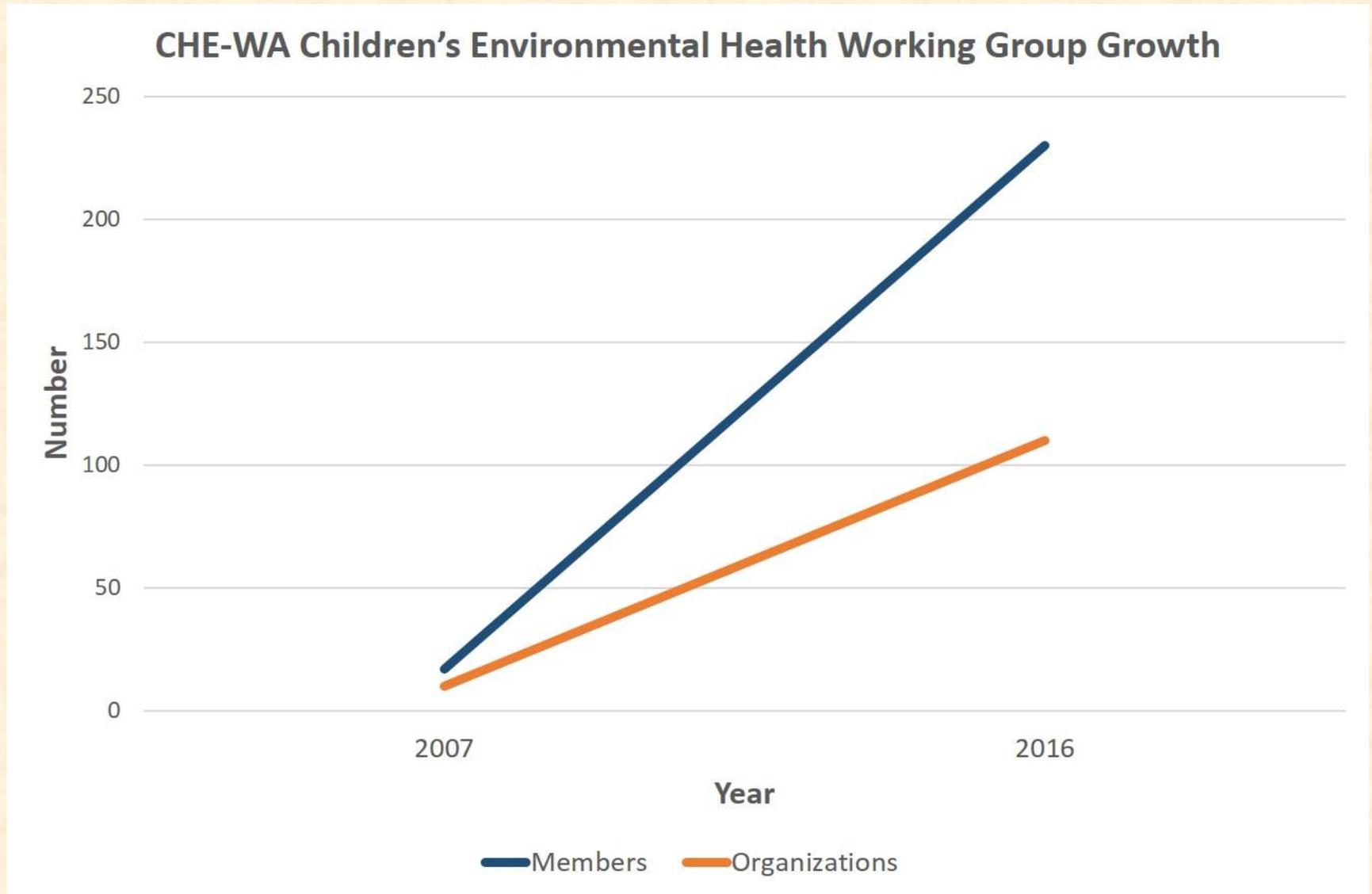


Created in 2007

9 years...

How have we met our goals?

Goal #1: Be **inclusive** of varied groups



Who collaborates? These frequent participants plus many others....

Government Agencies

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Community Health Investigations (ATSDR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UW Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UW Superfund Research Program |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Health – Seattle & King County | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WA State Dept. of Ecology |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US Environmental Protections Agency (EPA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WA State Dept. of Health |

Non-profit, business, other

- American Lung Association
- Change Your Food - Change Your Life™
- Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
- Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
- Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center
- WA Poison Center

Interested citizens

- Cleaning for Health – environmental health consultant/parent
- Evergreen State College – professor
- Health Equity Circle – graduate student/parent

Goal #1: Network and share.

(#1 benefit cited by members)

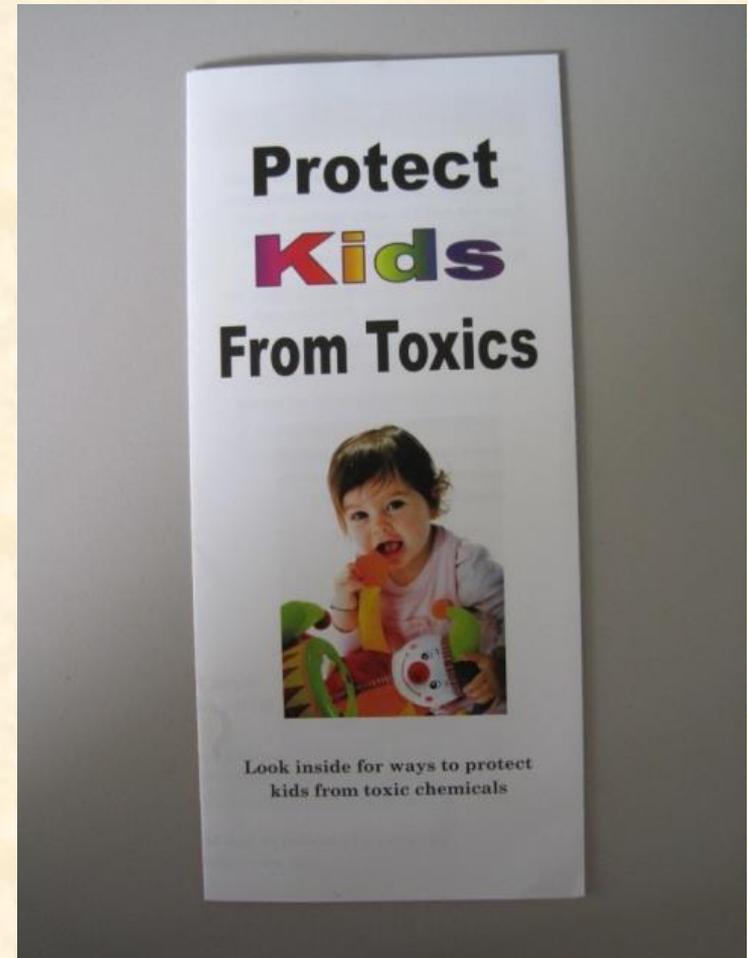


- Monthly meetings always include substantial networking time.
- Revived a regional children's environmental health listserv chewa@lists.healthandenvironment.org



Goal #3:
Identify most important
messages.

Collaborate to get them
out to the public .



Available in English, Russian, Spanish,
Vietnamese on the WA DOH website.

Goal #3: Provide education -- **conferences**

2009 conference
Over 300 people



... I think that your conference was one of the best- in terms of how it was developed, managed and results- that I have ever attended. Truly an effective team.

(From a U.S. Housing and Urban Development staff person.)

HUD Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids Pavilion





Ron Sims, then H.U.D.'s Deputy Secretary, opened the second day. His theme: *Your health should not depend on your zip code.*

2011 mini-conference

130 people



Welcome

**Northwest Children's
Environmental Health
Forum**

**Stepping It Up
Together**

Keynote Speaker:
Howard Frumkin, PhD, MD
Dean, School of Public Health
University of Washington

November 29, 2011
8:30am-12pm
Women's
University Club

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

2013

REGISTER NOW!

**Northwest
Children's
Environmental
Health Forum**

**Healthy Environments for
Healthy Babies**

**Preventing Harmful Environmental
Exposures Before and During Pregnancy**

December 4, 2013 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, WA

Concerned about the effects of environmental exposures before and during pregnancy on babies' health?

- Learn more from national experts
- Network with others who share your interest
- Leave with useful ideas and information

Who should attend
Healthcare and public health professionals, health educators, child and family advocates, infertility counselors, midwives, policy advisors, social service workers, current and future moms and dads

For more information, visit
<http://washington.chenw.org/CEHforum2013.html>

Organized by the Children's Environmental Health Working Group of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington

Provider approved by the California board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP 14441 for 7.5 contact hours. Karen R. Bowman, MN, RN, COHN-5 CEP Provider 14441 for this course.



Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle.

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- Sold out at 200 people
- 22% of attendees were nurses (CEU's provided) Produced with multi-group cooperation

CEH Forum Manual



Some spinoffs

- “How to Do a Forum” handbook
- Presentation for UW nursing students
- Counties shared info on child care programs
- Outreach materials shared

Goal #3:

Provide education -- **training for others**



Jointly with the
Washington State
Environmental Health
Association



<http://washington.chenw.org/CEHgroup.html#professionals>

Inspectors practice identifying sources of lead

Goal #3: Provide education – **Training for us**

Ex. PEHSU



<http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/>

Ex. Children's Safe Product Reporting Rule



Ex. Personal-care products and 3rd-party certification...



Over thirty presentations–

<http://www.washington.chenw.org/CEHgroup.html>

- Childhood lead poisoning
- Climate change in the Northwest
- Environmental Justice
- EPA data tools for community use
- Epigenetics
- Fluoridated water
- Healthy nail salons
- Marketing to moms
- Nanomaterials
- Near-road pollution impacts
- Tobacco
- And more....

Goal #4: Eliminate exposures by **consumer education**



For local community folks and health professionals, such as La Leche League members

A children's environmental health exhibit



For conference attendees

Lead-safe education booth



**Eco-Healthy
Child Care[®]**



**For childcare providers:
Assisted in Eco-Healthy Childcare[®] trainings**

Goal #5: Collaborate on research

**Helped fund a member to do a
small research project on least toxic
whiteboard markers**



What do members say about CHE-WA?

From a government employee member..... (WA Department of Health, lead prevention)

- extremely **useful** to me, given me the opportunity to see
 - how local programs are implemented
 - how I can **better serve** the local entities....[and]
 - **connect** with local health as well as other Federal and State agencies to partner to **maximize our efforts**.
- great form for **networking**-I have a name and number that I can connect with easily. The personal connections have been quite a bonus.
- **jazzes me up** since I am in a room with others who care as I do! 😊



From a non-profit member..... (Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides)

- ...broadened my network
- ...got a new WA board member who helped strengthen our organization and improve our reputation.
- Strengthened our work in schools
- Found a speaker for a conference we hosted
- On a personal note, I work from home, so it's one of few adult human interactions I have, and it's nice to be surrounded by people who understand what you are fighting for!



From a private business owner (Change Your Food- Change Your Life™)

“[Gave me] access to resource networking –
A LIVE LIBRARY!”



CHE-WA's potential for change: One member's story

Concern: Overuse of disinfectants in school classroom routines

She asked:

How can we encourage safer alternatives for teachers who choose to clean in the classroom?



Answer: Collaboration. Leveraging CHE-WA resources

- » Created *Cleaning for Health in the Classroom* outreach
 - Presentation
 - Teacher's guide
 - Classroom cleaning kits
- » Funding and expertise from CHE partners
- » Utilizing nurse advocates
- » Trained 65 Seattle School District nurses
- » Outreach at 6 elementary schools



Model for Students

Cleaning for Health Lessons

- Teach how basic cleaning really works to remove dirt and most germs.
- Why fragrance-free matters:
 - cleaning products can impact the air we breathe
 - clean doesn't have a "lemon fresh" smell
- Importance of handwashing with plain soap and water.

Positive Feedback

From teachers and nurses:

“We have now made our school a fragrance-free environment due to the information we received that day.”

“We were given training AND MOST IMPORTANTLY supplies to make the change happen.”

“It would be wonderful to see these cleaning changes made in all SPS!”



Other Results

- The Seattle School District endorsed the *Cleaning for Health* guidelines; distributed to all principals.
- Seattle School District risk managers attended a CHE-WA meeting.
- WA Dept. of Health placed the *Cleaning for Health* guidelines on its website.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/ClassroomCleaning>



Continued Momentum

- CHE is a link – connecting other parents with these resources
- CHE colleagues-PTA leaders
 - WA State PTA Resolution proposal:
Mitigating Environmental Hazards and Contaminants in Schools
- Hear Rachel's story: <http://tinyurl.com/z2fd4rs>





**Collaborative on
Health and the
Environment**

Rachel Koller

Environmental Health Consultant
Community Advocate
CHE-WA Member

SWOT Analysis:

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Strength: One organization has provided dedicated staff time...



Strength: We are not political. This allows government agencies to participate.

Members may work on any policy issues they choose.

- **Crumb rubber playfields**
- **Aircraft noise pollution**
- **Electromagnetic radiation exposure**



Strength: We have a 501©3 status through a fiscal relationship with a WA-based nonprofit group.

- Allows us to accept philanthropic contributions/grants from agencies/foundations/individuals and offer tax deductibility.
- Most Forum funding came from grants.



Strength: CHE-WA, our parent organization, hosts and maintains a website for us.



THE COLLABORATIVE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT - WASHINGTON

A Partnership Network for Environmental Health
Established and Coordinated by the Institute for Children's Environmental Health

					
CHE National	CHE-NW	CHE-Washington	CHE-Oregon	CHE-Alaska	Calendar
CHE-WA Home	Meetings	Members' Information	Working Groups	Resources	Bulletins

search CHE-NW

Children's Environmental Health Working Group

Welcome to the home page for the Children's Environmental Health Working Group!

[Upcoming meeting information](#)

About Us

We are a working group of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington (CHE-WA). Over 100 members represent local, state and regional government agencies, research organizations, nonprofit environmental and children's health advocacy groups and business. We include health educators, researchers, health care providers, advocacy group members and laypeople. We welcome new members. For more information, and to receive meeting invitations, contact Gail Gensler at gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-1654.

Children's Environmental Health Working Group Fliers to Share or Print

Of Note

2013 Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum
Healthy Environments for Healthy Babies: Preventing Harmful Environmental Exposures Before and During Pregnancy



See presentations on the [Forum webpage](#).

Northwest Kids Environmental Health Group listserv

Join to read and post information, events and opportunities specifically regarding children's environmental health news in the Northwest. Go to www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html; scroll down to Environmental Education, click on Northwest Kids Environmental Health Group and follow the directions. You will need to sign up in order to post and receive messages.

<http://www.chewa.org/CEHgroup.html>

Strength: Networking and making connections



Connections...

**get dialogue
moving...**

**and build
trust.**

Opportunity: Members continue to say that networking and participating adds value to their work.

Helped connect two huge organizations with joint interests in children's environmental health



**EPA Region 10
(Pacific Northwest)**



**U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services Health Resources and Services
Administration**

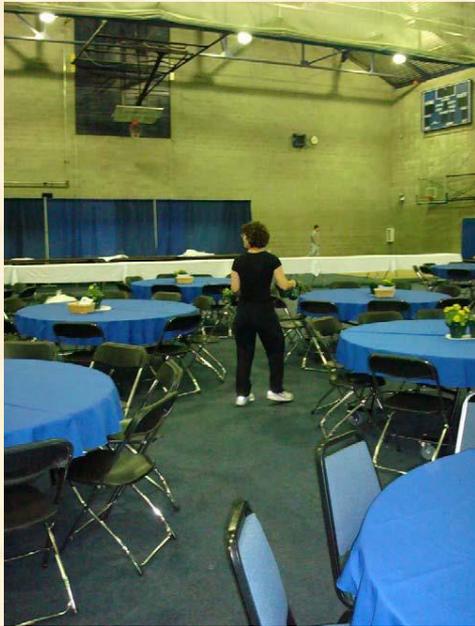
Strength: Participants are willing to share time, \$\$, decision making.



Strength: Members steer the direction...how often to meet, whether to have speakers, what topics to focus on.



Weakness/Threat: One organization has provided dedicated staff time...



Weakness/Threat:

**Not self-sustaining... no stable funding,
rely on volunteer work, harder for people
to get time away from their jobs**

Possible solutions:

- Grant money to hire a part-time facilitator
- Increase virtual access to meetings
- Regroup in a new format



Opportunities: Abound

- Grow statewide; leverage resources across Health Districts

- Train key community leaders



- Help share ACOG's opinion paper on Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents

<http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Exposure-to-Toxic-Environmental-Agents>)

Opportunities

- Create teaching kits for public use
- Host another Forum
- Host a Children's Environmental Health Film Festival
- Film a TED-talk
- And more....too many to list



Another benefit is the connection to CHE-National

What Our Partners Say about CHE



Wordle created from partner survey results



HealthandEnvironment.org

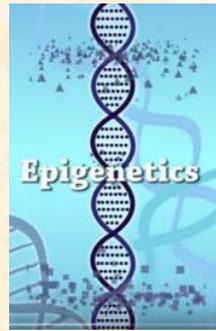
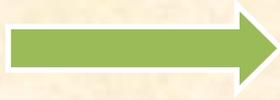
Lorelei Walker, PhD, MPH

Program and Administrative Manager

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Washington State Public Health Association

October 4, 2016 | Wenatchee, WA



THE COLLABORATIVE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT – WASHINGTON



Washington State Department of Health



Change Your Food · Change Your Life!

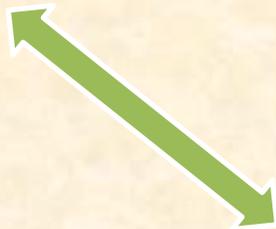


AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.



Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Washington

...Many Important Others



Our **diverse, dynamic science-based learning community** strengthens our collective capacity to **translate** the latest environmental health research into **health-promoting programs, policies and practices.**



CHE's Network

- 5,000 Partners
- 50 States
- 87 Countries

Discussion Topics

- 18 Topics
Asthma, autism....
- 6 Partnerships
CHE-WA, CHE-AK...

Engage with Peers on Latest Science – Topic Based

- [18 topical ScienceServs](#) on newest science
- Latest scientific [presentations](#). Downloaded over 310,000 times
- A comprehensive [news feed](#)
- [Calendar](#) of Events
- Social media posts
- Upcoming **highly interconnected and interactive web site**



HealthandEnvironment.org: Visit Us in November

Environmental Relationship

Science Presentations

Related News

ScienceSers

Blogs

CHE Publications

Resources

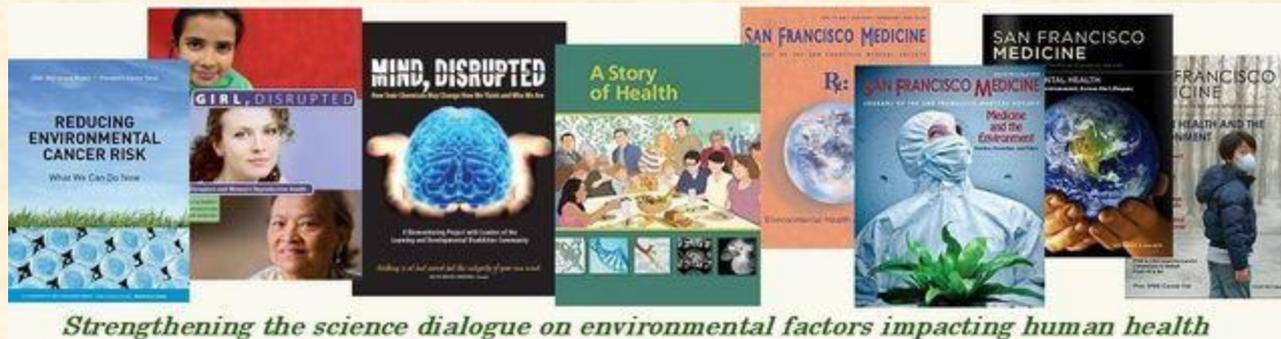
Become a [Partner](#) Now

The screenshot shows the website for the Collaborative on Health and the Environment. The main navigation bar includes 'What We Know', 'What We Do', 'Engage', 'About', and 'How to Donate'. A secondary navigation bar lists 'Overview', 'Health, Diseases & Disabilities', 'Environmental Contributors', 'Informing Change', and 'Social Context'. The main content area is titled 'Reproductive Health Research and Resources' and features a large image of a pregnant woman's belly. To the left, a 'Related CHE Calls' section is circled in red, listing several calls from July 2010 to May 2016. Below it, a 'Related News' section is also circled in red, listing news items from September 2016. To the right, a 'ScienceSers' section is circled in red, listing various services. Below that, a 'Blog Posts' section is circled in red, listing blog posts related to reproductive health. At the bottom right, a 'CHE Publications' section is circled in red, listing a publication about toxic chemicals. In the center, a table titled 'Associations of Adverse Reproductive Effects and Toxicants' is circled in red, showing the strength of evidence for various reproductive effects.

Reproductive Effects	Strong Evidence	Good Evidence
Abnormal sperm (morphology, motility, and count)	1,1-dichloroethane Ethylene glycol ethers	2-Bromopropane Carbon disulfide Electromagnetic radiation

Advancing the Science – CHE's Work

- Major partner in creating [1st major academic program](#) on reproductive health and the environment (UCSF)
- [Award-winning eBook](#) on multiple contributors (CEUs offer by CDC)
- Participated in [President's Cancer Panel](#) on links between toxic exposures and cancer
- [60+ publications](#); many more in development
- Facilitate scientific consensus statements ([TENDR](#))
- Next Generation Project



Next steps

Transition to a new administrative structure.

Hopefully continue to....

- **meet regularly**
- **support each other's organizations' work**
- **grow the organization, bringing in more diverse groups**
- **educate ourselves about children's environmental health**





Join us?

HEALTHY
KIDS
OFFER HOPE FOR A
HEALTHY
WORLD



Do you have an interest in children's health and the environment? Join over 100 researchers, policy makers, consultants, non-profits, businesses, government, care providers, doctors, nurses, scientists, educators, students, ministries, parents and stakeholders committed to share your mission.

WE ARE: CHE-WA

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment – Washington

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN SHARE

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

www.washington.chenw.org

Click on: Children's Environmental Health Working Group

Contact information

Lorelei Walker

lorelei@healthandenvironment.org 360-331-7904

Gail Gensler

gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-1654

CHE-WA

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