



# Who We Are

The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs) are a source of medical information and advice on environmental conditions that influence human health at the vulnerable stages of reproduction and throughout pediatric development.

PEHSUs are typically based at university medical centers, and are located across the United States and in Canada. 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, obstetrics and gynecology, and other specialized areas.



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



American College of Medical Toxicology

Physicians Specializing in the Care of Poisoned Patients

## American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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# What We Do

*PEHSUs offer consultation and education on environmental exposures and children's health.*



To properly grow, develop, and thrive, pregnant women and 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, the vulnerabilities of pregnant women, children, and adolescents are not fully understood and they are exposed to environmental risks that can seriously harm their health. Most health care providers are not adequately trained to recognize environmentally-related risks or health problems in pregnant women, children, and adolescents.

PEHSUs work with health care professionals, parents, school and community groups, and others to provide information on protecting pregnant women, children, and adolescents from environmental hazards. They also work with Federal, State, and local agencies to address environmental health issues in homes, schools, and communities.

**Find Expert Help: Visit <http://www.pehsu.net>**

## Community Education and Outreach

- Raising awareness about environmental conditions that may harm women of reproductive age and children
- Offering guidance on preventing or reducing harmful environmental exposures in everyday situations
- Providing practical advice on helping children cope and recover during and after environmental crises

## Consultation and Referral

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

## Training Health Professionals

- Conducting seminars and conferences
- Providing patient education tools and patient care guidance
- Publishing peer-reviewed articles that raise environmental health literacy
- Translating health care research

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

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

