

2018 #CEHchat Summary and Insights

October 11, 2018

The 2018 #CEHchat theme was engaging youth voices in environmental health discussions. The goal was to learn what environmental health means to youth and the issues that are most important to them. This year's chat engagement doubled from last year's, with 82 Twitter accounts participating and sending 287 tweets in just one hour! Participants ranged from environmental justice, health, climate to youth led organizations and individuals bringing diverse perspectives to the conversation. Many shared their youth oriented initiatives with us during the chat:

- National Center for Healthy Housing [@NCHH](#) shared a project where kids use art to show what they have learned about lead exposure and how it impacts their health and communities.
- Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center [@SinaiCEHC](#) had students from PS 290 testify to stop the use of toxic pesticides in New York City parks.
- The American Lung Association [@LungAssociation](#) recruited youth volunteers to testify at Environmental Protection Agency hearings, sharing personal stories about their asthma.
- National Institute of Environmental Health Services Center [@NIEHS](#) for Environmental Research and Children's Health at UC Berkeley created a youth council for its [CHAMACOS](#) project and engages youth in participatory research.

Some of the common themes that came out of the #CEHchat include youth engagement in projects, how willing and able youth are to make a difference in the environmental health movement, and ways youth and organizations need to work together to hold governments accountable for health protections. Some notable tweets from the #CEHchat:

The measure of a nation is how it treats its most vulnerable. Children can't make decisions about the health of their environments, but they potentially bear the greatest burden of exposures. -

American Public Health Association Environmental Health

When youth engage in the climate change discussion we show that we are here, we are concerned, and we are watching. We are very interested and we will not back down. By being invested we show our government how important it is to prioritize children's wellbeing. - Zero Hour

Pediatricians know that the environment is a factor for child health. The state of the environment not only affects the lives of children now, it has everything to do with their future. Children deserve policies that ensure a safe environment and promote clean air. - American Academy of Pediatrics

Children are disproportionately impacted by the increasing effects of [#ClimateChange](#). Their own stories & visions for the future should be the narrative leading policy change, as they are the ones most affected and will inherit this Earth. [#ClimateChangesHealth](#) - ecoAmerica Climate for Health

Challenges to engagement stem from a lack of understanding about what environmental health is. The solution? Talk to kids about the basics—like the importance of ensuring clean air, safe food, and proper housing for all. [#CEHchat #ChildrenAtTheCenter](#) - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

“Health doesn’t have a race or a gender – if we want to face our current and future problems, embracing diversity is really important”.— Axel Arroyo Tarraza, author of [A Youth Perspective on the Importance of MCH Engagement](#) - Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Engaging diverse perspectives and ensuring they all, including the youth themselves, are included in the environmental health conversation is crucial to the movement’s success. The #CEHchat aimed to bring diverse voices to the conversation about how environmental health impacts the day to day lives of youth and how we can work toward youth-informed and child-centered solutions. Because [children’s health matters](#).

Thank you to all who participated in the 2018 #CEHchat! View some resources that participants shared below and check out the [Twitter Chat story](#) for more lessons learned!

#CEHchat Resources

[MotherToBaby Parent Fact Sheets](#)

Check out [HomeFree](#) for selecting healthy building products

CDC [Educational Mercury Game / Video](#)

Mobilize your community for a [soilSHOP event](#)

[Engaging Youth in Environmental Public Health](#)

[Talking points](#) for climate change and children’s health

[“A Day in the Life”](#) - Los Angeles high school students monitor the air in their neighborhood