All children deserve and need a safe and healthy environment to grow and develop. They need clean air to breathe and safe water to drink, nutritious food to eat, and healthy places in which to live, learn, and play. Early exposure to harmful agents can lead to acute and chronic adverse outcomes. Infants and children are especially vulnerable to environmental exposures because they breathe, eat and drink more, in proportion to their body size, than do adults, and because their bodies and brains are still developing.

Children's environmental health indicators (CEHIs) are measures that can be used to assess environmental hazards, environmental exposures, and their resulting health outcomes in children. Below are some key CEHIs for Minnesota:

**Safe drinking water**
- 4% of public water utilities had drinking water violations (2018)
- National Average: 34%

**Air quality**
- 629,216 children under age 18 live in the 72 (out of 87 total) counties that do not monitor ozone pollution (2019)

**Warming temperatures**
- 2.7 degrees F warmer in 2018 than in 1970
- National Average: 2.5 degrees F warmer

**Toxic chemical releases**
- 23 million pounds of toxic chemicals were disposed of or released (2017)
- United States: 3.9 billion pounds

**Neurodevelopmental disorders**
- 8.5% of children age 3-17 have ADHD or ADD (2017)
- Nationwide: 8.8%
- 3.5% of children age 3-17 have Autism Spectrum Disorder (2017)
- Nationwide: 2.8%

**Asthma**
- 6.8% of children under age 18 have asthma (2017)
- Nationwide: 7.5%

**Pediatric cancer**
- 185.7 cases of pediatric cancer per 1 million population (2005-2015)
- Nationwide: 181.0 cases per 1 million

**Blood lead levels**
- 0.6% of tested children under age 6 have elevated blood lead levels (2017)
- Nationwide: 3.0%
FEDERAL SUPPORT
within past 5 years

CDC-funded Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
ATSDR State Cooperative Agreement Program
CDC National Asthma Control Program
CDC-funded Environmental Public Health Tracking Program
CDC State Biomonitoring Cooperative Agreement Program

MINNESOTA SPOTLIGHT
Current federal actions threaten drinking water across the country, including: rollbacks on pollution-reduction regulations; efforts to reduce which waterways can be protected from pollution; weakening of lead service line replacement timeline requirements; failure to lower the lead in drinking water standard; and the lack of drinking water standards for toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Thankfully, some states are taking decisive action to protect the health of their residents.

Children are our future—society has a moral obligation to protect them. Exposure to environmental hazards can and must be prevented. Prevention requires strong environmental regulations and fully funded and supportive public and environmental health programs and a robust workforce.

A Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action
www.cehn.org/blueprint

The Children’s Environmental Health Network set out to identify a set of CEHIs that can be used to provide an understanding of children’s environmental health at the state level. Through this process, CEHN found that robust, valid, and regularly updated state level data—that are comparable across most states—were not readily accessible. States need adequate funding and capacity to collect and make accessible reliable CEHI data in order to set goals and track progress towards improving children’s health.

For references and for more information, visit www.cehn.org/states/minnesota

www.cehn.org/states #ChildrenAtTheCenter