

Environmental Health

Dedicated to the advancement of the environmental health professional

Volume 68, No. 8 April 2006



About the Cover:

Research on asthma has traditionally focused on children, but asthma in adults is a public health issue of increasing concern. Our cover highlights the issue: Against a backdrop swirling with exhaust, it shows the inflamed airways of an adult asthma sufferer. Studies of asthma in children have found an association between urban environments and the prevalence of the disease. But this month's feature article, "Community Urbanization and Hospitalization of Adults for Asthma," which looks at rates of asthma hospitalizations among adults in six Pennsylvania counties, reports some unexpected findings: While in some counties urbanization was associated with increased rates of hospitalization, in other counties—those with depressed socio-economic conditions—hospitalization rates actually increased as urbanization decreased.

(See story on page 26)

COMING UP...

in the Journal of Environmental Health

- Environmental Transmission of SARS
- EH Problem-Based Learning Exercises
- Five-Year Surveillance of West Nile Virus

FEATURES

Community Urbanization and Hospitalization of Adults for Asthma..... 26
Rosemarie G. Ramos, Ph.D., M.P.H., Evelyn O. Talbott, Dr.PH., M.P.H., Ada Youk, Ph.D., M.S., and Meryl H. Karol, Ph.D.

Simple and Rapid Method for Detection of Bacterial Spores in Powder Useful for First Responders 34
Jungwon Min, M.S., JiYoung Lee, M.S., Ph.D., and Rolf A. Deininger, M.S., Ph.D.

Evaluation of a Model Training Program for Respiratory-Protection Preparedness at Local Health Departments..... 38
Edie Alfano-Sobsey, Ph.D., Bobby Kennedy, Ph.D., Frank Beck, M.S.E.H., Brian Combs, Wendy Kady, C.I.H., Steven Ramsey, R.S., Allison Stockweather, and Will Service, M.S.PH.

COLUMNS

President's Message: *The History You Know* 4

NEW! Direct from CDC's Environmental Health Services Branch: *CDC and HUD to Release an Updated Housing Inspection Manual—The Healthy Housing Reference Manual*..... 48

Legal Briefs: *The Legal Implications of "Toxic" Mold Exposure* 50

Managing Editor's Desk: *NEHA Communicates Its Views to Congress*..... 66

DEPARTMENTS

Practical Stuff! 44

Library Corner 45

Technical Briefs 52

Advertisers Index 53

EH Update..... 53

Products & Services..... 55

NEHA News..... 56

Special NEHA Members..... 57

Special Listing..... 58

Career Opportunities 60

Calendar..... 61

Cover photo: © Andrew Ward/Life File/Photodisc Green/Getty Images.