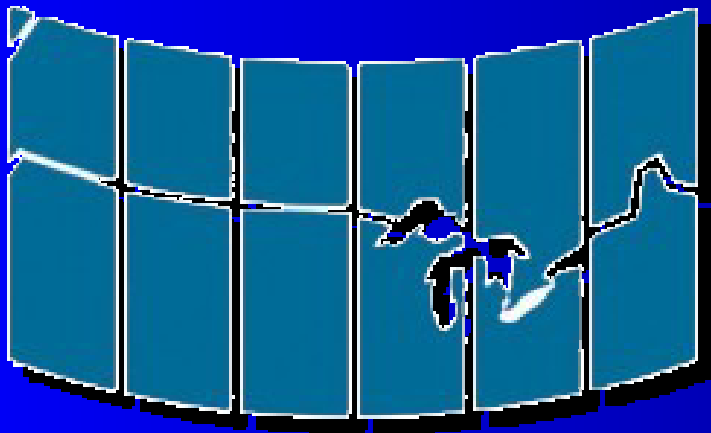


Children's Health and the Environment

Briefing to the CEC's Expert Advisory
Board on Children's Health by the IJC's
Health Professionals Task Force



Membership

Canadian Section

Dr. Alan Abelsohn

Dr. Brian Gibson

Dr. Marg Sanborn

Dr. Irena Buka

Dr. Pierre Gosselin

Dr. Anthony W. Myers

Dr. Morris Duhaime

U.S. Section

Dr. Peter Orris

Dr. Drew Brodtkin

Dr. Heraline Hicks

Dr. Judith Kaur

Dr. John Dellinger

Dr. Elwyn Grimes

Mary Foley

Secretary, Jim Houston

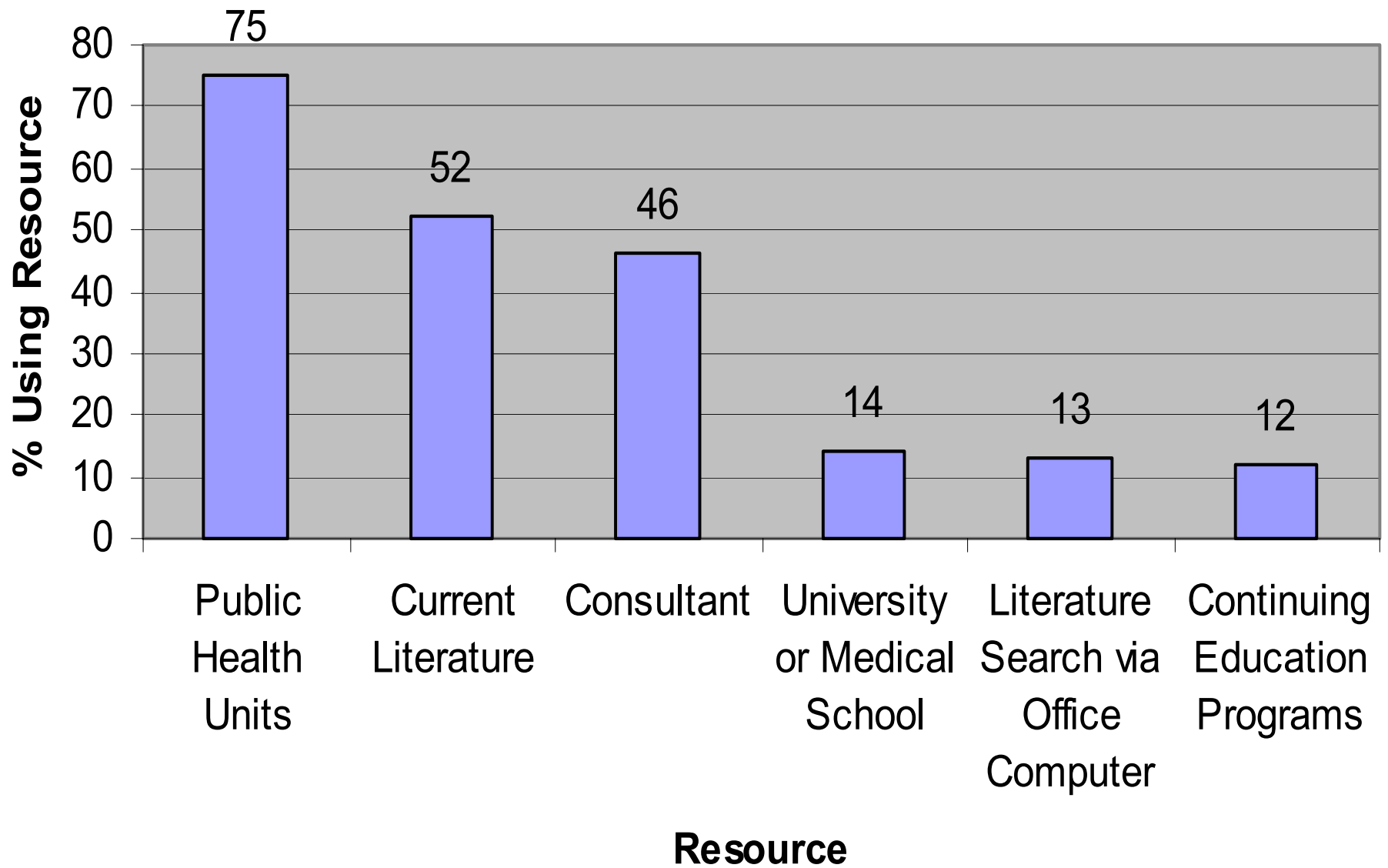
Liaison – U.S. Section, Kay Austin

HPTF Directive – June 2001

(abridged)

- to promote an exchange of information on environmental health issues between health professionals and organizations;
- to inform the Commission and its Boards concerning the credibility and adequacy of environmental health training and education being provided to health professionals;
- to inform the Commission and its Boards of developments in professional practice and public health policy; and
- to advise the Commission about emergent clinical and public health issues in the area of transboundary health.

Current Sources of Environmental Health Information



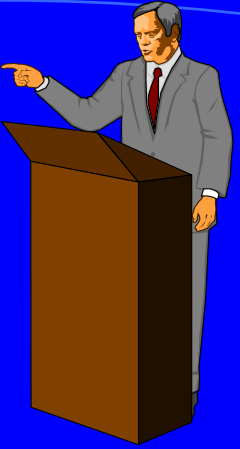
Physicians' Rating of How Well Informed They Feel About Environmental Exposures

EXPOSURE	SELF-RATING
	Scores: 1 – not all informed to 5 – very well informed.
Second-hand smoke	4.2
Sunlight	4.2
Lead	2.5
Pesticides	2.2
Mercury	2.2
Ground water contaminants	2.1
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	2.0
Radon	1.8
Cadmium	1.6

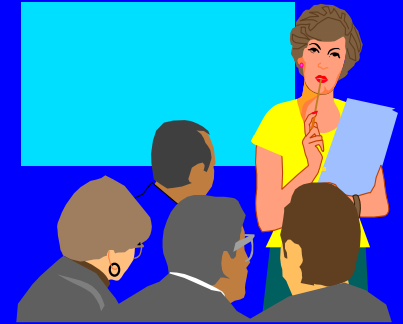
What is Effective CME?

**The effect of formal CME -
conferences, symposia,
rounds, meetings, lectures**

JAMA, 1999;282:867-74



Results



- *DIDACTIC*

- 3 studies: cholesterol, FP topics, screening
- none altered physician performance

- *INTERACTIVE & MIXED*

- 6 studies interactive, (4 pos. effect on physician perf.)
- 7 mixed (5 pos., on PP; 2/3 on HCO)

Results

● SINGLE

- 7 interventions
- 2-6 hrs in length
- 2 had positive effects on PP

● MULTIPLE

- 10 interventions in total
- 8 used two sessions; 2 used multiple
- 7 produced change in PP; 3/4 effected change in HCO

Environmental Health in Family Medicine

- Problem based
- Clinical cases
- Pediatric content
- Format
 - Cases
 - Teacher background
 - References
 - Exam questions

Six Curriculum Modules

- Lead
- Indoor Air
- Outdoor Air
- Pesticides
- Cluster (Water Quality)
- Persistent Organic Pollutants

Skill Sets

- Exposure history
- Exposure/risk assessment
- Environmental health epidemiology
- Lab utilization
- Toxicology
- Knowledge of resources
- Risk communication

Curriculum Modules

Distribution

- printed 100 copies, and available on IJC website and on CD
- to date ~ 2800 CD requests (majority of requests along bordering States and Provinces)

Canadian Medical Assoc. Journal

- Six articles in 2002
- Based on taking an exposure history
- Format CH²OPD²

Table 1: The CH²OPD² mnemonic for taking an environmental exposure history

Code	Category	Question
C	Community	Do you live near a hazardous waste site or any industrial facilities that give off chemical odours?
H	Home	Is your home more than 40 years old? Have you done renovations? Do you use pesticides in your home or on your garden or pets?
H	Hobbies	Do you work with stained glass or oil-based paints or varnishes?
O	Occupation	Describe your workplace air quality and what you do
P	Personal habits	Do you or family members smoke? What sort of personal care products do you use?
D	Diet	What is your source of drinking water? How often do you eat tuna or sportfish?
D	Drugs	Besides what I have prescribed, are you taking any over-the-counter or home remedies?

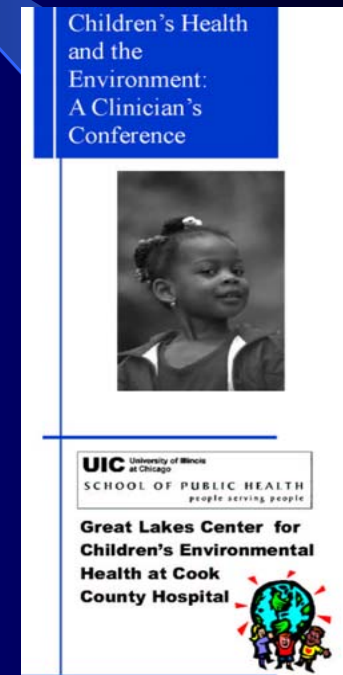
Environmental/Occupational Health Scholars

- Formerly known as the Great Lakes Environmental Scholar Program (GLESP)
 - U.S. and Canadian Health Professionals participating
 - To promote environmental and occupational health education and awareness in academic health settings (undergraduate, residency and continuing education)
 - IJC is committed to encouraging partnerships in this initiative
 - Presently five U.S. and 1 new Canadian Scholar

Conferences

Children's Health and the Environment: A Conference for Clinicians Environmental Health Conference, OCFP

- Conference held in Chicago, 2002
- Co-sponsored by the IJC and the Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health
- Organizing committee CEHN, ATSDR, EPA Region V, AAP, Health Canada, Environment Canada, ACFP, OCFP and others
- a clinical conference addressing environmental threats to children's health
- APRIL 11-13, 2003, Ontario College of Family Physicians, Environmental Health Conference



Health Effects Review Newsletter

- Issued quarterly, since 1995. Topics in 2001/2002

- ◆ Issue 1. Climate Change along the border
- ◆ Issue 2. PCBs and Thyroid Abnormalities
- ◆ Issue 3. Children and Autism
- ◆ Issue 4: Arboviral Encephalitides – West Nile Virus

In 2002/2003(in progress)

- ◆ Issue 1. Pharamceuticals in Drinking Water
- ◆ Issue 2. Revisiting Mercury

Peer Presenter Program

- To train community based family physicians
- 24 FPs trained
- Based on curriculum modules